



New affidavit to protect patients from medical errors



Palestinian refugee thrives at Britain's poshest school



Banksy stresses Jobs' Syria link with migrant oeuvres



Giroud and Ramsey send Arsenal to summit



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DEATH SENTENCE UPHELD OVER MOSQUE BOMBING

TURAJI QUESTIONS BUSINESSMAN'S CITIZENSHIP



Min 12°
Max 23°
High Tide 00:23 & 14:44
Low Tide 08:05 & 19:53

19 WOMEN WIN IN HISTORIC SAUDI VOTE

RIYADH: At least 19 women won municipal council seats in Saudi Arabia's first ever election open to female voters and candidates, officials said yesterday, in a milestone for the ultra-conservative Muslim kingdom. "Even if it was only one woman, we're really proud of that. Honestly, we weren't expecting anyone to win," said Sahar Hassan Nasief, a women's rights activist in the Red Sea city of Jeddah.

But with 2,106 seats up for election, the 19 women would comprise less than one percent of Saudi Arabia's elected council membership. "We need more," said Aljazi Al-Hossaini, who was defeated in Diriyah on the edge of Riyadh, where three women won seats, according to Saudi news channel Al-Ekhabria. She hoped women would be included among the one third of council seats which are appointed by the municipal affairs ministry.

Sabq.org, a news website affiliated with the kingdom's interior ministry, reported that a total of 19 women had been elected in various parts of the country. In the first announcement of a woman winner, Salma bint Hizab Al-Oteibi was elected in the holy city of Makkah, the official SPA news agency reported. Huda Al-Jeraisi, who as the daughter of a former head of the chamber of commerce in the conservative central part of the kingdom was seen by some Saudis as imparting an official stamp of approval on women's candidature, won a seat in Riyadh.

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RIYADH: Saudi electoral workers prepare to count ballots after the country's municipal elections in the capital late Saturday. (Inset) Lama Al-Sulaiman won from Jeddah. — AP/AFP

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: The appeals court yesterday upheld the death sentence against the man who drove a Saudi bomber to a Shiite mosque, but reduced the capital penalty against the alleged leader of the Islamic State group in Kuwait. The court did not look into the cases of five other men who were sentenced to death by the criminal court in September for their roles in the June suicide bombing at the Imam Al-Sadeq Mosque that left 26 people dead and 227 others wounded.

The court also acquitted one of the five women who received jail terms by the criminal court and left the other sentences almost unchanged. The court convicted the main defendant Abdulrahman Sabah Eidan Saud who dropped the Saudi bomber to the mosque site and who also brought the explosives belt from near the Saudi border. Saud, a stateless Arab, had confessed to the charges in the criminal court but denied them in the appeals court. He did not make any move after he heard from his cage the judge read out the verdict.

The court reduced the death sentence against Farraj Muhareb, the alleged leader of the Islamic State in Kuwait, to 15 years in jail. The court also acquitted a woman who was handed a two-year term by the criminal court. Based on the appeals verdict, one suspect is sentenced to death, eight received jail terms from two to 15 years and 15 people were acquitted. The remaining five who were handed the death penalty in absentia had their cases stopped by the court until they appear. Under Kuwaiti law, sentences issued in absentia cannot be appealed until the people concerned appear.

The sentences are still not final as they must be reviewed by the court of cassation, whose rulings are final.

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MANILA: A Filipino boy passes by a placard during a rally yesterday to criticize the agreement reached during the United Nations conference on climate change in Paris. — AP

NOW COMES THE TOUGH PART: WORLD'S CARBON DIET STARTS

PARIS: The world is about to go on a carbon diet. It won't be easy - or cheap. Nearly 200 nations across the world on Saturday approved a first-of-its-kind universal agreement to wean Earth off fossil fuels and slow global warming, patting themselves on the back for showing such resolve. Yesterday morning, like for many first day dieters, the reality sets in. The numbers - like calorie limits and hours needed in the gym - are daunting.

How daunting? Try more than 7.04 billion tons. That's how much carbon dioxide needs to stay in the ground instead of being spewed into the atmosphere for those reductions to happen, even if you take the easier of two goals mentioned in Saturday's deal. To get to the harder goal, it's even larger numbers. In the pact, the countries pledged to limit global warming to about another degree Celsius from now - and if they can, only half that.

Another, more vague, goal is that by sometime in the second half of the century, man-made greenhouse gas emissions - which includes methane and other heat-trapping gases as well as carbon dioxide - won't exceed the amount that nature absorbs. Earth's carbon cycle, which is complex and ever-changing, would have to get back to balance. In practice, that means the world has to emit close to zero greenhouse gases by 2070 to reach the easier goal, or by 2050 to reach the harder one, said John Schellnhuber, director of the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research in Germany.

Oh and by the way, the harder goal - limit warming by another half a degree Celsius - is probably already impossible, said Joeri Rogelj at the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis in Austria. Most likely the best the world can hope for is overshooting that temperature by a few tenths of a degree and then somehow slowly - over decades if not centuries - come back to the target temperature.

That may involve something called negative emissions. That's when the world - technology and nature combined - take out more carbon dioxide from the air than humanity puts in. Nearly 90 percent of scenarios of how to establish a safer temperature in the world involves going backward on emissions, but it is also so far not very realistic, said Kevin Anderson, deputy director of the Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research in Britain.

Negative emissions involve more forests, maybe seeding the oceans, and possibly technology that sucks carbon out of the air and stores it underground somehow. More biomass or forests require enormous land areas and direct capture of carbon from air is expensive, but with a serious sustained research effort costs can probably be brought below \$100 per metric ton, said engineering and policy professor Granger Morgan of Carnegie Mellon University.

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News

in brief

Russian destroyer fires shots near Turkish boat

MOSCOW: A Russian destroyer in the Aegean Sea yesterday opened fire to avoid a collision with a Turkish fishing boat, the defense ministry said, as a bitter dispute over the shooting down of a Russian warplane raged on. "The crew of the Russian patrol ship Smeltly which was located 22 km from the Greek island of Lemnos in the northern part of the Aegean Sea avoided collision with a Turkish seiner," the ministry said, adding the crew had to fire small arms in the direction of the boat at "a guaranteed survivability distance" when the two vessels were about 600 m apart "to prevent the collision of the ships." Deputy defence minister Anatoly Antonov summoned a Turkish military attaché, Ahmet Hakam Gunes, after the incident. He warned him against the "negative consequences of any thoughtless action by Ankara against a Russian military contingent" deployed in Syria, the ministry said.

Trump name restored at Dubai golf complex

DUBAI: A Dubai real estate firm has restored Donald Trump's name on a \$6 billion golf complex it is building with the US businessman and presidential hopeful, days after taking it down following his proposal to ban Muslims from entering the United States. Trump prompted an uproar when he made his comments in response to deadly shootings in California by two Muslims who authorities said were radicalized. Gold letters spelling out "Trump International Golf Club," affixed to a landscaped stone wall at the entrance to the golf complex being built by DAMAC Properties, were removed on Thursday. Two days later they had been restored. DAMAC declined to comment yesterday on the brief removal.

Gambia president declares country an 'Islamic state'

BANJUL, Gambia: President Yahya Jammeh has declared the Gambia "an Islamic state", but stressed that the rights of the Christian minority in the small west African country would be respected and that women would not be held to a dress code. The announcement came as the president addressed supporters in the coastal town of Brufut on Thursday, and the comments were later broadcast on state television and repeated on his website. "Gambia's destiny is in the hands of the Almighty Allah. As from today, Gambia is an Islamic state. We will be an Islamic state that will respect the rights of the citizens," he was quoted as saying on the presidential website.



Yahya Jammeh

NO STOPPAGE OF VISA TRANSFERS THIS YEAR

NO PROJECT-TO-PRIVATE TRANSFER

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: Well-informed sources at the manpower authority said the authority will not suspend visa transfers this year in view of the automated system currently being used that can provide statistics about visa transfers to other sponsors. Notably, transfers were suspended every year in the last week of December for inventory purposes. "The new system

used for the first time since the authority was established is part of a plan to develop its performance," explained the sources.

Meanwhile, the manpower authority said that expats who came to Kuwait on work permits to work in small projects cannot transfer their visas to work in the private sector at all. The authority added that these workers could only transfer to other small projects for the same job.



OUARZAZATE, Morocco: A picture taken on Oct 17, 2015 shows a view of the Noor 1 Concentrated Solar Power (CSP) plant, some 20 km outside this central Moroccan town. — AFP

VAST DESERT SUN FARM TO HELP LIGHT UP MOROCCO

OUARZAZATE, Morocco: On the edge of the Sahara desert, engineers make final checks to a sea of metal mirrors turned towards the sun, preparing for the launch of Morocco's first solar power plant. The ambitious project is part of the North African country's goal of boosting its clean energy output with what it says will eventually be the world's largest solar power production facility. Morocco has scarce oil and gas reserves, and is the biggest importer of energy in the Middle East and North Africa.

The plant is part of a vision to move beyond this heavy dependency and raise renewable energy production to 42 percent of its total power needs by 2020. About 20 km outside Ouarzazate, half a million U-shaped mirrors - called "parabolic troughs" - stretch out in 800 rows, slowly following the sun as it moves across the sky. Spread over an area equivalent to more than 600 football pitches, they store thermal energy from the sun's rays and use it to activate steam turbines that produce electricity.

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His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah receives a letter from Tunisian President Beji Caid Essebsi, presented by Tunisian Foreign Minister Al-Tayeb Al-Bakoush.



KUWAIT: Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and Acting Oil Minister Anas Al-Saleh and Kyrgyz Foreign Minister Erlan Abdyldeev sign an agreement in the presence of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Kyrgyz President Almazbek Atambayev, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah and First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Sabah.



National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem meets Kyrgyz President Almazbek Atambayev. — Amiri Diwan photos

KUWAIT, KYRGYZSTAN SIGN COOPERATION AGREEMENTS AMIR RECEIVES KYRGYZ PRESIDENT, TUNISIAN FM

KUWAIT: Kuwait and Kyrgyzstan yesterday signed a host of bilateral agreements and a memorandum of understanding (MoU), covering various fields of cooperation. The signing ceremony took place at Bayan Palace, and was attended by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the visiting Kyrgyz President Almazbek Atambayev, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

The first agreement on exemption of entry visas for holders of diplomatic, service and special passports, was signed by First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and Kyrgyz Foreign Minister Erlan Abdyldeev. Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled and Abdyldeev also signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for bilateral consultations between the foreign ministries in both countries.

Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and Acting Oil Minister Anas Khaled Al-Saleh and Abdyldeev signed an agreement between the governments of both countries to avoid double taxation and evasion of income and capital taxes. The two ministers inked another agreement for

encouragement and mutual protection of investments, and a third one for economic and technical cooperation. Meanwhile, President of Kuwait's Civil Aviation Fawaz Abdulazeez Al-Farah and the Kyrgyz Foreign Minister Erlan Abdyldeev signed an agreement for air services cooperation.

Earlier, His Highness the Amir received the visiting Kyrgyz President along with the accompanying delegation, with attendance of His Highness the Crown Prince, on the occasion of his official visit to the country. Official talks were held between the Kuwaiti and Kyrgyz sides.

The Kuwaiti side was headed by His Highness the Amir, His Highness the Crown Prince, His Highness the Prime Minister, Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled and senior State officials. President Atambayev headed his country's delegation at the top-level talks. Deputy Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Ali Jarrah Al-Sabah said the talks dealt with means of boosting bilateral ties and mutual cooperation, adding the discussions were held in a cordial atmosphere. His Highness the Amir also held a luncheon banquet in honor of the visiting Kyrgyz President and his accompanying delegation.

Meanwhile, Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled received Atambayev, and the two sides dis-

cussed mutual coordination at various levels, regional and international issues of common concern. The meeting was attended by the Amiri Diwan Adviser, Mohammad Abdullah Abulhassan, Kuwait Ambassador to China Mohammed Saleh Al-Thuwaiikh, Assistant Foreign Minister for Asian Affairs Musaed Al-Thuwaiikh and other ranking ministry officials.

Tunisian FM

In other news, His Highness the Amir received Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled and Tunisian Foreign Minister Al-Tayeb Al-Bakoush, who handed His Highness the Amir a letter from the President of Tunisia, Beji Caid Essebsi. The letter tackled bilateral relations between both countries and means of enhancing these relations in all fields. Later, National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem met the visiting Tunisian Foreign Minister, and they discussed bilateral relations between both nations and the latest regional and international developments.

Early yesterday, His Highness the Amir received His Highness Sheikh Nawaf, Ghanem, His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak, Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled, and Chairman of the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) Ali



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah meets Chairman of the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) Ali Mohammad Thunayan Al-Ghanem

Mohammad Thunayan Al-Ghanem. Meanwhile, His Highness the Crown Prince received Speaker Ghanem, Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak, Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Interior Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Deputy Prime Minister of Defense Sheikh

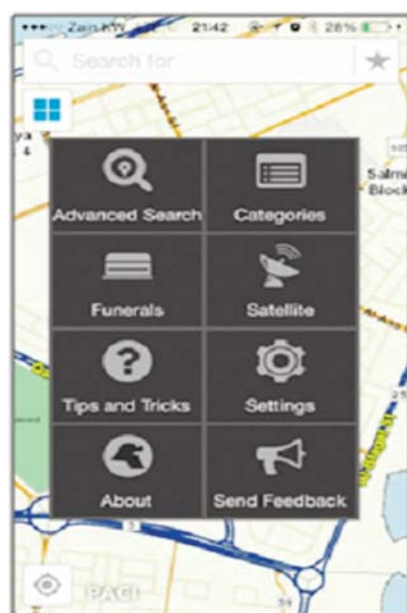
Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah, Minister of Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah, and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs, and Acting Minister of Electricity and Water Mohammad Al-Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah. — KUNA

PACI RELEASES NEW VERSION OF KUWAIT FINDER

KUWAIT: The Public Authority for Civil Information (PACI) released the Android version of Kuwait Finder after the release of the iOS based version in March 2015. Kuwait Finder was installed by more than 350,000 users since it was released back in 2013, this installation base created a user community which PACI is looking after.

PACI, during the last Kuwait Finder version has collected, analyzed, and evaluated the community feedback, and interaction with Kuwait Finder, and used this collected information to support the decision of what functionality should be added, enhanced, and/or removed. The new version of Kuwait Finder has come with a brand new interface, design, and many other functions and features:

- Arabic/English interface, expanding the Kuwait Finder community to non-Arabic speakers.
 - Satellite image view allows the user to see the results in top of satellite images.
 - Hierarchical Search, allows the user to search by the normal descriptive address information with ease in address navigation.
 - Funeral information, allows the user to list, and search for condolences location in case he has to go for the event.
 - Search Category, gives the user a chance to search by establishment categories, and locate establishments by their economic and commercial activity.
 - Favorites, gives the user the opportunity to store, and access his favorites from different devices and web interfaces using his Twitter, Facebook, and Google plus credentials.
 - Turn-by-Turn voice guidance and navigation, allows the user to navigate to the search address and/or establishment with voice guidance. PACI included the same navigation engine used by most of car navigation systems.
- The new version of Kuwait Finder was updated by more than 250,000 users and more than 200 users are updating daily



with more new users are installing the application. Since 2013, Kuwait Finder has been awarded many local, regional and international awards. It even bagged the first place in best GIS based mobile application in Esri User Conference in USA, and Excellence in Enterprise GIS implementation award in GISWorx in UAE, Dubai, 2015.

The Public Authority for Civil Information (PACI) has proved that GIS can be an added value for any government organization by utilizing GIS as an IT enabler. PACI experience has been showcased in many international conferences, including the esri Middle East and Africa user conference, held before 1000 specialists in Abu Dhabi in November 2015.

PACI showcased the use of Big Data and Geoanalytics and how these tools can be of great benefit for creating more informative decisions by utilizing to analyze the massive amount of socio-economic data, and how to use these tools to create a localized traffic map for State of Kuwait.

WARBA BANK PARTICIPATES IN THE KFAS INNOVATION CHALLENGE 2016

SPONSORED BY KFAS IN COLLABORATION WITH CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY

KUWAIT: Warba Bank participates in the 'KFAS Innovation Challenge 2016' sponsored by Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences in collaboration with the Cambridge Judge Business School Executive Education at Cambridge University from November 2015 to May 2016. This is a key executive applied educational program giving Kuwaiti private sector institutions the opportunity to enhance their innovation capabilities.

Warba Bank's team of four managers, amongst 10 teams, has qualified to take part in this challenge, for which hundreds of Kuwaiti companies have applied, after successfully meeting the required participation criteria. Warba Bank's participation comes in line with its care for innovation which is a key value adopted by the Bank in delivering its business and services to the customers. The Bank also cares for supporting its employees and continuously seeks to develop their skills and capabilities for innovation to give the Bank a complete advantage and lasting motivation for growth and leading the Islamic banking sector.

Warba Bank's Team members participating in the "Innovation Challenge 2016" seek to get the utmost benefit from these training

programs combining academic education and practical application under the leadership of a world-class academic institution. Additionally, Warba Bank's team will endeavor to acquire new experience through exposure to global mega institutions.

On this occasion, the Deputy CEO for Investment and Treasury Shaheen Hamad Al-Ghanim said: "Warba Bank's participation in this unique event organized by Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences is of great importance as it comes in line with the Bank's objectives, for developing its employees skills and enhancing their efficiencies and expertise in the field of management and leadership. At the Bank, we strongly believe in the importance of innovation for achieving the Bank's goals and giving it cutting edge competitive advantage in the Kuwaiti market through introducing new skills and practices to the business."

Ghanim added: "Warba Bank considers innovation as a vital value adopted for enhancing the Bank's position in the sector. Through innovation, the Bank continues to apply the state of the art banking technologies satisfying customers' needs and exceeds their expectations, giving advan-

tages to all stakeholders including employees who innovate solutions and render creative ideas that facilitate customers' fulfillment of their requirements and enable Warba Bank to have a prominent mark in the Islamic banking market."

Tailored programs

Ghanim added: "Warba Bank prioritizes employees training and provides them with the latest tailored programs designed at the highest international standards to match the latest developments and expertise worldwide. For this end, Warba Bank designed special training courses for its staff. The Bank is proud to participate in this challenge, the first of its kind in Kuwait and the Middle East, which will develop the academic and innovation skills of the participants. Participants will undergo intensive courses for six months and will participate by presenting workshops and projects of their own design under the orientation and support of the educational team at Cambridge University. This will result in an innovative initiative with true added - value to companies aiming to improve participant's scientific capabilities. The initiative will be presented to the Assessment Panel then Champions



Shaheen Al-Ghanim

of the Innovation Challenge will have Achievement and Innovation Certificates from the Cambridge University.

Under its strategy, Warba Bank continues to attract national calibers, develop their potentials, support the process of qualifying national caliber in the banking sector and provide them with opportunities for learning core skills. Such skills will enable them to innovate new practices while fostering the innovation culture for achieving and driving the Bank's sustainable development and help national calibers to become the future leaders of the banking sector in general and Islamic banking in particular.



KUWAIT: Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Suleiman Al-Jarallah opened yesterday a preparatory technical committee for Kuwaiti-Iraqi ministerial supreme committee meetings that will be held on December 21-22. Jarallah said that these meetings will promote bilateral ties in all domains, stressing the importance of establishing coordination between Kuwait and Iraq. The technical committee consists of senior government officials from both countries. — KUNA

'KUWAIT, NATO SHARE DEEP TIES'

KUWAIT: Kuwait National Security Apparatus Chief Sheikh Thamer Al-Ali Al-Sabah stressed on the importance of the strong ties between Kuwait and the NATO Defense College since 2010. The official's remarks were made during a dinner banquet he held in the honor of the college's Vison of the Commandant Major General Janusz Bojarski late Saturday, during his visit to Kuwait.

Sheikh Thamer expressed his pride over having the first Kuwaiti representative in NATO's Senior Course, held for the second time in four years, and the acceptance of a second Kuwaiti participant for the upcoming

training course 'Senior course 128'.

Meanwhile, he said that the opening of the NATO-ICI Center in Kuwait set for 2016, will further strengthen the relationship and cooperation between the two sides. The center will be the first of its kind in the Middle East region, Sheikh Thamer added.

The launching of the NATO's center comes in time where the region is facing many security challenges including the political developments in Libya, Egypt and Yemen, the humanitarian crisis in Syria and the growing terrorist role of the so-called Islamic State (ISIL), the Chief noted. — KUNA



Environment police inspect a diesel truck during a recent campaign.

THREE KILLED IN ACCIDENTS

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: An elderly woman, a young man and an Ethiopian maid were killed, while a citizen and a driver were injured in two accidents reported yesterday. Policemen received a call about a collision on Nuwaiseeb Road between a car driven by an Indian man and another driven by a citizen, which led to the deaths of the old woman and the maid. The other accident took place on Wafra road, killing a young man and injuring another.

Fake maids' office

Residency Affairs Detectives arrested eight members of a gang, all Asians, for running a bogus maid office and trading in absconding domestic helpers. The gang agreed with the maids to escape from their sponsors' houses and return to the gang's premises. All those arrested were found wanted, so they were arrested and sent to concerned authorities.

Environmental campaign

Environment police carried out a campaign against diesel trucks in the customs area, resulting in referring several suspects and vehicles in violation to concerned authorities.

Stabbing

Policemen are investigating the stabbing of a bedoon man who was abducted by two men. The bedoon was kidnapped from his car following a fight between him and another man in Jahra. The reason behind the fight was not immediately known due to the bad condition of the victim and the culprits' escape.

Training course

The combat support unit at the protection command of the Kuwait National Guard organized a course on defusing explosives for several defense ministry members. Commander of Protection Brigade Col Hamad Salem said the course is part of cooperation and expertise exchange with the army.



Eight people arrested yesterday for running a fake domestic helpers' recruitment office.

AL-JAHRA MINISTRIES COMPLEX TO BE OFFERED TO BIDDERS SOON

KUWAIT: The Al-Jahra Ministries Complex Project will be offered for bidders by the end of December as planned, a Ministry of Public Works official said yesterday. The press statement by the ministry's Assistant Undersecretary for Planning and Development Abdulmohsen Al-Enezi quashed social media reports on a delay of the project. He said that the ministry realizes well how the project is of prior importance to the people in Al-Jahra Governorate and is working hard to uphold the principle of equal opportunity among all contractors to bid for the project.—KUNA

ANTI-GRAFT AGENCY SEEKS CLOSER COOPERATION WITH IACA: MINISTER

VIENNA: Kuwaiti Minister of Justice and Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Yaqoub Al-Sane met with Dean and Executive Secretary of the International Anti-Corruption Academy (IACA) Martin Kreutner yesterday.

The meeting, hosted by Kuwait Embassy, gathered also Chairman of Kuwait Anti-Corruption Authority (KACA) Justice Abdulrahman Al-Nemash and Kuwait Ambassador to Austria and Permanent Delegate to the United Nations Office in Vienna (UNOV) Sadeq Marafi. Speaking to KUNA following the meeting, the Kuwaiti minister said he has congratulated Kreutner on the success of the fourth session of IACA's Assembly of Parties which came to a close earlier today.

"We have explored the possibilities of benefiting from IACA's training programs through holding joint courses for personnel and workshops," he said, noting that IACA's dean is expected to visit Kuwait soon. "Kuwait is always interested in promoting the fruitful cooperation and experience sharing with the UN agencies," the minister affirmed.

Meanwhile, Nemash said Kuwait has been keen on joining since last May the membership of IACA - a global institution based Laxenburg, Austria, and dedicated to overcoming the shortcomings in knowledge and practice in the field of anti-corruption.—KUNA

MINISTER OF HEALTH WARNS VIOLATORS OF STATE LAND

KUWAIT: Minister of Health Ali Al-Obaidi stressed yesterday that the ministry is having zero tolerance and imposing laws on all companies, bodies and public societies exploiting state-owned lands surrounding governmental hospitals and clinics, besides any facilities of the Ministry without legal document.

He added in press statement that in protection of the states' rights and public money, the ministry adopted a number of legal measures to face such violations of exploiting lands affiliated to the Ministry facilities.

The ministry officially addressed such bodies last October indicating that exploiting any lands affiliated to the Ministry should be followed after offering a bid according to the conditions and criteria of legal, administrative, and technical and health terms, instructed by the Ministry of Finance. The revenues of using any such lands should only go to the state's income as such facilities are considered public properties, according to the legal measures followed in the country, he said. — KUNA



Minister of Health Dr Ali Al-Obaidi

NEW AFFIDAVIT FORM TO 'PROTECT PATIENTS FROM MEDICAL ERRORS' MP DENIES HUMAN TRAFFICKING ACCUSATIONS

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: Minister of Health Dr Ali Al-Obaidi has approved a new patients' affidavit form that would protect patients' rights and safety as well as protect them from medical errors, Assistant Undersecretary For Legal Affairs Dr Mahmoud Abdul Hadi said. Abdul Hadi added that according to the new decisions, doctors will be mandated to brief patients about medical protocols and options concerning each case before having them sign written affidavits to show their approval prior to any surgery or non-surgical medical and treatment procedure, including the use of medicines with possible side effects. He added that the decision also mandated all public hospitals and clinics as well as private medical facilities to list procedures that require patients' or their legal representatives' written approval.

Jaber Stadium

Meanwhile, the Health Ministry's Undersecretary Dr Khaled Al-Sahlawi stressed that all medical facilities were ready for the reopening of Jaber Stadium on Friday. "Preparations include providing 22 ambulances around the stadium, a fully equipped

and staffed field clinic, four supply vehicles, eight immediate intervention clinics and airborne ambulances," he explained, noting that 12 doctors, a medical team and over 100 paramedics and preventive medicine teams would be ready for VIP fans. In addition, Sahlawi said that six ATVs and four scooters would also be ready to provide first aid services in record time in case of overcrowding. "Farwaniya Hospital will be on full alert and others will be ready on standby," he added.

On Saturday, the Interior Ministry's Relations and Security Media Department's Director Brigadier Adel Al-Hashash said that the stadium's gates would be open for audience from 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm on Friday, December 18, 2015. He added that a special parking space is allocated in an open yard opposite to the stadium, as well as the parking lot of the boys' commercial studies' college near Farwaniya Hospital, in addition to four other parking spaces behind the girls' commercial studies' college. He added that 220 patrols would be present to organize traffic as well as organize entrance to the stadium and exit after the ceremony. Hashash also noted that the stadium could be reached through the fifth and sixth ring roads,

Mohammad Bin Al-Qassim, Ardhya main and Mohammad Al-Mo'sseb streets. "One hundred and sixty buses will be available at parking spaces to carry the audience to the stadium," he added.

Human trafficking

MP Majed Moussa strongly denied having any relations to visa trafficking, saying that he heard that some lawmakers intend to submit inquiries regarding his or his close relatives' alleged involvement in human trafficking in 2009. "I am only responsible for myself," he underlined and pled to his colleagues to file the inquiries to the relevant authorities. Moussa dared MPs to prove that he had had any transactions with the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor or the Ministry of Commerce, either individually or through a company.

Insanity plea

In a second case of its kind, an Egyptian man being prosecuted for slandering His Highness the Amir on Twitter pled insanity before court yesterday. After the judge asked him if had come to Kuwait to work or to insult people, the accused man said: "Satan controlled me and I do not know what happened to me that day."

TEMPERATURES TO DROP AGAIN TOMORROW

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: Kuwait will be affected by a low pressure front blowing from Sudan, leading to the weather becoming partly cloudy with moderate to fresh southeasterly to westerly winds with speeds of 20-45 km/h, a local meteorologist said. The strong winds would cause rising dust with a chance of rain that might be thundery at times during daytime, said Sami Al-Othman, Acting Director of Kuwait Meteorology Center. Othman added that clouds would decrease

gradually with light to moderate westerly to northwesterly winds with speeds of 15-38 km/h by night and that temperatures would start dropping again tomorrow because of northwesterly winds.

Manpower authority's e-mail

The Manpower Public Authority's Acting Manpower Ahmad Al-Moussa said that the authority's hotline received about 50 complaints and inquiries in November and December of 2015. Moussa added that a special email account has been set up to

receive complaints and inquiries, that can now be filed through the WhatsApp hotline number 69009600 or the e-mail pam.kw@outlook.com.

Entertainment City expansion

The Cabinet yesterday instructed Kuwait Municipality to complete the needed procedures to allocate an area of 1,650,000 square meters adjacent to the Entertainment City known as Sheikh Zayed Park to the Touristic Enterprises Company (TEC) in order to start expanding and developing the city.

KUWAIT BOURSE COMPANY TO MANAGE KSE IN APRIL

KUWAIT: Kuwait Bourse Company will begin managing the Kuwait Stock Exchange (KSE) as of April 25, Executive Director of the Capital Markets Authority (CMA) Dr Nayef Al-Hajraf announced yesterday. In a press conference, Al-Hajraf said that the CMA met with the KSE committee in the presence of Minister of Commerce and Industry Dr Yousef Al-Ali.

The meeting reviewed plans of the Kuwait Bourse Company's transition to take over the KSE, and outlined the company's agenda in line with announced dates where the KSE committee will conclude operations on April 24, 2016.

The CMA chief noted that the Kuwait Bourse Company's transition to the helm of the KSE will occur through four different phases, concluding in December 2016. Al-Hajraf said that the CMA's international consultants have asked for more details on the new company. The new company's ownership shares are divided where 50 percent would go to nationals while 6% is government-owned and 44% belongs to the global operator, Hajraf said.

"The transfer of power to the Kuwait Bourse Company was very time consuming but it is the CMA's obligation to ensure a safe transition of power," Hajraf said. Kuwait Bourse

Company General Manager Khaled Al-Khaled affirmed the company's priority of promoting KSE development while seeking greater liquidity and smoother transactions. Khaled also highlighted company plans to bring a new boost to the KSE.

The company, in conjunction with international partners, has issued new standards to ensure a seamless takeover of KSE managerial duties, the Kuwait Bourse Company General Manager said. Al-Khaled asserted that Kuwait Bourse company is ready to manage the KSE on the announced date, saying the company is determined to handle due obligations. —KUNA



KUWAIT: Executive Director of the Capital Markets Authority (CMA) Dr Nayef Al-Hajraf (center) speaks during the press conference. —Photo by Fouad Al-Shaikh

Legalese

HOW TO HANDLE HARASSMENT AT WORK

By Fajer Ahmed

Office politics are not always pleasant and can be very stressful at times, especially when sexual, emotional or physical abuse is involved. Thankfully, the law has put regulations, restrictions and punishments to avoid uncomfortable situations especially in order to protect the weaker party.

Kuwait Penal Law and Kuwait Labor Law have multiple articles that protect the parties involved in such situations, yet it is not always easy to take legal steps as they are 'corrective' instead of 'preventive' and may require 'proactive' measures that might put the weaker side at risk of losing their job. There is no right and wrong answer for such situations but I chose this topic as I think it is important to discuss harassment issues not just legally, but socially and logically. I have kept the entire story, and not just the questions emailed, as I also think it is important for us to share our experiences to let other people know that they aren't the only ones and that there is something you can do about it.

Correspondence from a reader:

Dear Fajer,

I read your articles in Kuwait Times and I am reaching out to you, hoping that you can help me with my situation. I am a young single woman, who just recently got a job that I deserve. When I first started working my boss sent me Whatsapp messages on multiple occasions saying inappropriate things like how he wants to have sexual intercourse with me and so on. He will then apologize the next day, making me feel very uncomfortable and dreading to go to work. I forgave him and left it at the apology as I did not know what I can do, what would you advise I should have done in such a situation? Can I use Whatsapp conversations at court?

Answer: Like I said, there is no right and wrong answer and with situations like this we need to think logically and not just legally. My advice to anyone being abused to work is to take extreme measures right away, because people that abuse, from my experience, will see how far they can go. They will test you starting with one word here and one word there, to see what they can get away with, and it will not stop at that. If they are doing it to you, they could possibly be doing it to someone else. I have dealt with harassment myself at work when I first started working and I know how it feels, you just do not know what to do. It is especially hard if no else heard the conversation, but in your case you had Whatsapp messages and although Whatsapp messages are usually not used as proof in court, the judge can still take them into account when considering the case.

Now for cases like this, you should go straight to the police station and file a criminal case. Go to the police station closest to you.

Correspondence:

A few months later he repeated his behavior, and not knowing what to do, I spoke to him and told him to behave, and that is when he started to threaten me saying he will fire me. I also did not know what to do, could he really fire me? What can I do to prevent such a situation?

Answer: Yes he can fire you, you can be fired at any time, but if you can prove that it was unrightfully done, you can get compensated with three months' notice, full indemnity and compensation. So you might not be working there anymore, but at least you will be compensated accordingly. In this situation it's lose-win.

Correspondence:

I went to the Kuwaiti partner of the company that I work for and complained and said, I am going to file a formal complaint with police. But he asked me not to do that, stating that my boss has family here and all that and so I did not want to ruin his relationship with his family, so I left it at that. After that, though my boss started to abuse me emotionally by saying I am not working up to the company's standards, not knowing what to do, I submitted my resignation providing the company with three months' notice as per Kuwait labor law.

A few days later he called me in for a meeting to discuss my resignation with two other employees present at the discussion. I was honest at the discussion saying the sexual and emotional abuse. This caused him to be angry and he then physically abused me by throwing a heavy object at me. I left the office. The hit my right arm causing it to swell and bruise for more than a week. I reached out again to the Kuwaiti sponsor, and showed him the picture of my leg and said I am going to police. He again requested me not to and I haven't till now. Can I go to police with the picture of my leg and file a case? If yes, how do I go about this?

Answer: If anyone is being physically abused they need to go to a doctor within 24 hours and ask for a medical report. The doctors will give you the report which you then go with to the police. Pictures a few months later are not considered official proof, even though the judge might take them into account. I suggest you always go to the closest doctor and ask for a report even if you do not plan to file a case.

Also generally speaking, I advise people put in such situations not to feel bad for the consequences, if you are being sexually abused at work, then do not feel bad or ashamed and do not feel sorry for the person abusing you, considering their family. You need to face the issue and how his family reacts is not your fault! So always speak up. If you are afraid, contact other non-profit organizations that provide support. I know not everyone can afford a lawyer, but we live in a civic society and there are plenty of people out there that have experience in such situations and can assist you.

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ZAIN SUCCESSFULLY CONCLUDES 'HEALTH WEEK' INITIATIVE

KUWAIT: Zain, the leading telecommunications company in Kuwait, announced the successful conclusion of 'Health Week', an annual internal initiative that was recently held at the company's main headquarter-

ters. The weeklong event aimed at spreading general health awareness among Zain employees, who excitedly participated in the event's activities. Health Week's rich program wit-

nessed many health and sport activities with the aim to provide a healthy work environment and encourage Zain employees to undergo regular checkups. Many of Zain's medical and health partners were also pres-

ent to offer their exclusive promotions and services to the company's employees.

During Health Week, Zain employees took part in a daily group walking activity, where they were encouraged to take a 30-minute walk alongside their colleagues within the company's headquarters to refresh their bodies and get active. Employees were also encouraged to use their smartphones to set up a step counter app and count their daily steps and keep an eye on their daily progress. Additionally, several yoga sessions were held to help employees release work-stress and improve productivity.

The program also included several important medical checkups such as assessing blood pressure levels, blood sugar levels, complete blood count (CBC) levels, as well as BMI tests to ensure healthy body weights. Many doctors and specialists in several medical fields were also present to offer employees free medical consultations.

Health Week's program not only focused on physical activities, but also included several informative seminars to provide Zain employees with health and medical tips. Seminars included "Fitness as a lifestyle" delivered by coach Ahmad Al Najjar and Dr. Ali Jada, "Women's Power: Physically and Mentally" delivered by coach Fatima Hussain and martial arts expert Maali Salmee, and "Eating Healthy During Working Hours" delivered by dietitian Qout Al Mukhled.

As a leading and responsible telecommunications company, Zain reaffirms its commitment to the wellbeing of its own human resources. Zain has been at the forefront of companies in supporting and launching health-oriented initiatives all year round, both internally and externally, including employee blood donation campaigns to promote a culture of giving and volunteerism among its human resources and the society alike.



A group photo for representatives from KALD and Gulf Bank.



Amal Al-Sayer, KALD's Chairwoman, explaining the organization's work.



Omar Al-Essa, Member of KALD's Board of Trustees, welcomes representatives from Gulf Bank.

GULF BANK SUPPORTS LEARNING DIFFERENCES ASSOCIATION

KUWAIT: Gulf Bank celebrated the International Day of Persons with Disabilities by contributing to the Kuwaiti Association for Learning Differences (KALD). KALD is a social welfare organization, established in 2007, that works collaboratively to help all individuals, especially students, who have learning differences and/or Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD).

The contribution is in support of KALD's long-term comprehensive plan which aims to assist in preparing more specialized programs for students and their families, in addition to raising awareness activities.

KALD chose to use the term 'learning differences' as opposed to 'learning difficulties' because of the belief that the only difference between those they help and other students is the way the learn is different. They set up awareness programs, training courses; conduct media outreach information campaigns, and other educational activities. KALD also guides families of students with learning differences on how to better engage with their children. They also set up workshops for teachers, social workers, and psychologists who work with students who have learning differences.

KALD also honors outstanding teachers with the KALD 'Distinguished Teacher Award'. They also work in cooperation with local, regional, and international institutions, as well as publishing various publications on the subject.

The International Day of Persons with Disabilities was proclaimed by the United Nations in 1992 and is celebrated on 3 December annually. The theme for this year is "Inclusion Matters: Access and Empowerment for People of All Abilities". The day aims to promote an understanding of disability issues and to mobilize support for the dignity and well-being of persons with disabilities. It also seeks to increase awareness of the value and importance of integration of persons with disabilities in every aspect of life - social, political, economic and cultural.

Gulf Bank's support for the Kuwaiti Association for Learning Differences is part of its corporate social responsibility program. To learn more about Gulf Bank's corporate social responsibility program and other initiatives, please visit its website at www.e-gulfbank.com.kw or its social media accounts on Instagram, Twitter, YouTube, and Facebook.

ARWA GULF TRADING COMPANY JOINS HORECA KUWAIT 2016

KUWAIT: Preparations for the Horeca Kuwait 2016 exhibition are steadily progressing, and the event is attracting more companies to take part since it provides a golden opportunity to exchange expertise that meets the local market's needs and future expansion plans.

In this regard, Arwa Gulf Trading Company's Operations Manager Tareq Al-Saleh announced his company's intention to take part in the exhibition with its Aqua Cool Drinking water. "Arwa is a leading local pure water bottling company," he said, noting that, since its establishment in 1992 and due to its commitment to international quality specifications, Aqua Cool managed to make a wide scope of consumers, including oil companies, banks, telecom companies, many contracting companies, KSE-listed companies and thousands of houses all over Kuwait.

Saleh added that Arwa's new factory in Sulaibiya industrial area includes the latest pure water bottling technologies, adding that the company was keen on developing

the factory's technical technological capabilities in such a short span of time. "The factory also won the ISO 22000 award", he underlined.

Meanwhile, Arwa's Horeca div-

sion manager Mohammed Serajuddin added that Arwa Gulf was the main distributor of the Italian LAVAZZA coffee and supplier of ground coffee, coffee beans and WEGA machines for coffee shops and restaurants. "LAVAZZA products include various types of coffee that suit various tastes like Robusta, Arabica, American, decaffeinated coffee in addition to coffee capsules coffee machines for houses and offices," he explained.

Horeca Kuwait 2016 is due to be organized by Leaders Group in collaboration with Hospitality Services Company at Badriya Ballroom, Jumeirah Messilah Beach Hotel and Spa in the period of January 18-20, 2016. The opening ceremony takes place under the patronage of Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah.



Tareq Al-Saleh



Mohammed Serajuddin

TEC TO HOLD ANNUAL FISHING COMPETITION

KUWAIT: The Touristic Enterprises Company (TEC) announced that it will hold a 'Narrow-Barred Spanish Marlin Fishing Competition'. The event takes place on December 19, 2015 at the Fahaheel Marine Club, said TEC's Public Relations and Media Manager Sager Al-Bader. He added that the competition starts on 6:00 am and ends on 9:00 pm.

Bader accordingly invited all fishing enthusiasts in Kuwait, including citizens and expatriates, to take part in the competition. "Applicants can obtain participation forms and the competition's terms and con-

ditions by visiting the Fahaheel Marine Club," he said, adding that 110 teams, each including four to six members, have so far applied to participate in the competition.

Furthermore, Bader explained that valuable prizes had been allocated for the top three winners, including KD 2,000 for first place, KD 1,500 for second place and KD 1,000 for third place, in addition to a KD 300 special prize for the largest fish caught. "A special meeting will be held on December 15 with all participants to brief them about the competition's conditions," he concluded.



Sager Al-Bader



KUWAIT: Classic sports cars collectors in Kuwait showcased their rare collection of vehicles Saturday at one of the parking lots near the Gulf beach. —KUNA

KUWAIT, JAPAN ENJOY STRONG INVESTMENT TIES: KDIPA CHIEF

DUBAI: Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA) Director General Sheikh Dr Meshaal Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah said that Kuwaiti-Japanese relations in the fields of investment and economy are 'strong.' The remark was made during a meeting held on Sunday between officials from KDIPA and Japan Foreign Trade Council (JFTC) in Dubai.

The meeting followed a previous meeting that was held in the Japanese capital earlier in March, Sheikh Meshaal said. The meeting tackled Kuwait's investment laws, investment opportunities and benefits provided for foreign companies, most importantly: the exemption of corporate income tax and the exemption of customs tariff.

In addition, the meeting shed light on investment opportunities in the State of Kuwait, giving example of foreign companies that have been successful in the country. The meeting was attended by Kuwait Consul General in Dubai and UAE's Northern Emirates Theyab Al-Rashidi, KDIPA Assistant Director General for Business Mohamed Yousef Yaqoub, KDIPA Head of Licensing and Investment Registry Sheikh Abdullah Sabah Humoud Al-Sabah and KDIPA Head of Investment Promotion Bader Al-Jeddi.

KDIPA Conference
Meanwhile, Sheikh Meshaal said that the first conference of the Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion



DUBAI: KDIPA Director General Sheikh Dr Meshaal Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah (center) is pictured with attendants on the sideline of the meeting. —KUNA

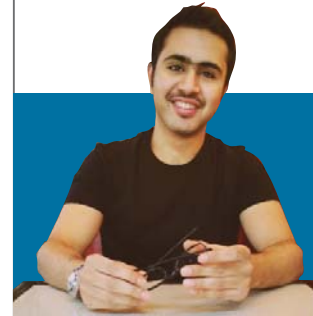
Authority (KDIPA), slated for March 2016, will be a joint national effort. KDIPA is hard at work to guarantee success for the conference, to be held under "Kuwait Forum: Investment Climate and Opportunities", through cooperation with all relevant government bodies, especially those with investment opportunities and projects that need to be promoted among local and foreign investors, Sheikh Dr Meshaal told KUNA by phone.

He added that KDIPA will seek to transfer technology, gain quantum expertise and follow the best practices and procedures that are likely to enhance Kuwait as a promising investment destination.

Sheikh Dr Meshaal pointed to cooperation with the private sector, represented by the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI), other chambers, senior officials and specialists. He called for joining efforts to build an economic identity for Kuwait to reflect its competitive advantages, for a diversified economy and a prosperous future. The March event is part of KDIPA's major role, namely promoting investment in Kuwait as an attractive destination for capital, shedding light on available opportunities in the country as well as relevant advantages and incentives. —KUNA

kuwait digest

THE SOCIAL CONSEQUENCES OF INEQUALITY



By Badar Al-Dehani

local@kuwaittimes.net

There is a slowly growing social resistance to neoliberalism across the world. I could sense it as I have seen - and read about - it. Not only have we all read about the social demonstrations that took place in London a few months and years back, but I have recently witnessed an incidence worth writing about - and analyzing. I was with a number of friends at an outdoor cafe in one of London's most luxurious hotels when we, all of a sudden, were showered with mud by two anarchic-looking individuals. After cleaning and tidying, still at the outdoor cafe in the luxurious hotel, and after multiple apologies by the kind staff, my friends and I started analyzing what happened. "Drunk," one friend quickly shouted; the other bluntly said: "drugs, it must be drugs!" Maybe, I thought to myself, but it may also be deeper. I mean, why would two hopeless-looking yet not-so-old individuals do such thing under innumerable CCTVs - surveillance cameras - and simply run away? They must have been trying to send a message, as did those a few weeks back at Brick Lane in East London or those of 2011 throughout this highly (wealth and income) unequal city. As I have written in my last article for the Kuwait Times two weeks ago, inequality is an important issue that will shape the world of tomorrow.

The gap between the higher classes and those of lower, working, proletariat classes is widening. That is, the 'middle class' is arguably shrinking. Well, maybe not entirely shrinking but the higher classes, those who constitute the biggest chunk of wealth of one state, is growing faster than the rest - including the overall economies of most (Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development) states, as Professor Thomas Piketty argues in 'Capital in the Twenty First Century'. Yes I know, with terms like 'classes' and the 'proletariat', I may sound like a communist here but I am absolutely not; in fact, I may be the total opposite and this will become clearer through time. But, nevertheless, we have an issue worth dissecting: If we do not respond to inequality, if the current status quo remains unchanged, the global social resistance will solidify and potentially expand. The globalization of resistance to neoliberal and unregulated market economies may unfold and flourish. What could be done, I could hear you ask. Well, a global taxation system and global regulation terms perhaps? Challenging the causes of inequality, however, is not the purpose of this particular article.

Small-scale incidents like the one I witnessed last week or large-scale ones like Occupy Wall Street may increase as the rich quickly gets richer. The only way to halt or at least calm social, anti-neoliberal movements is to challenge the status quo; that is, look inequality in the eye and confront it! Confronting inequality would require the implementation of certain interventionist policies. Would interventionism enrich the economy of one state or oppress it? You, dear reader, judge. Before attempting to challenge inequality, we should all at least acknowledge the importance of the issue and not underestimate its social consequences.



BEIRUT: Relief aid is distributed to Syrian refugees as part of the first GCC relief project in Lebanon. —KUNA



GAZA: A KRCs worker distributes humanitarian aid to a patient at Al-Wafa Center for Aged Care in Gaza, Palestine.

FIRST GCC RELIEF PROJECT LAUNCHED FOR SYRIAN REFUGEES IN LEBANON

BEIRUT/GAZA: The first GCC joint relief project aiming to help Syrian refugees in Lebanon was launched in Beirut yesterday under the auspices of the General Secretariat of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). Kuwait Red Crescent Society's (KRCs) envoy to Lebanon Dr MUSAED AL-ENEZY said to KUNA that the project is to provide winter aid in cooperation with the Qatar Red Crescent Society and the Lebanese Red Cross Society. He added that the project was launched today by distributing medicines among 13 health centers serving Syrian refugees in Al-Beqaa Governorate. He noted that next week they will distribute covers and blankets in addition to rehabilitate the camps to face cold winter

weather, along with a project to produce 50,000 liters of drinking water to serve 4000 Syrian families.

Meanwhile, medical coordinator of the Qatar Red Crescent Society Dr Fadi Al-Halabi noted that the Red Crescent Societies in GCC countries are contributing to many important relief projects. Halabi praised the role of the Kuwait Red Crescent Society in supporting and helping Syrian refugees since the beginning of the Syrian crisis.

Elderly center

In other news, KRCs representatives in Gaza Strip distributed here on Sunday a batch of humanitarian aid to Al-

Wafa Center for Aged Care, affiliated to Al-Wafa Hospital. The Center's Executive Director Dr Basman Al-Ashi said that the society distributed around 40 blankets to tens of old Palestinians residing in the center. The hospital is in need for such assistance including medical equipment and drugs.

Ashi expressed deep gratitude to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and the Kuwaiti people, as well as the KRCs for all the humanitarian relief they offer to Gazans who have been suffering from the Israeli siege of the enclave. Al-Wafa Center is the only one in the Strip that cares for the elderly Palestinians. —KUNA

US EMBASSY MESSAGE

KUWAIT: The US Embassy in Kuwait sent the following message to US citizens living in the country concerning the elimination of US passport extra pages:

Effective January 1, 2016, the Department of State will eliminate the addition of supplemental visa pages for passports. To mitigate the impact of this change, applicants for new passports have started receiving 52-page passports as of October 1, 2014. Please note that requests for extra pages on Form DS-4085 will only be accepted for current passports until Wednesday, December 30, 2015.

Starting January 1, 2016, applicants who need more blank pages will need to apply to renew their

passports and be issued the standard 52-page book.

As the US holiday travel season approaches, you should consider applying for extra pages while they are still available or applying to renew your passport to ensure you have enough blank pages for visa stamps from other countries. See travel.state.gov for more information on entry, exit, and foreign visa requirements.

For more information about how to apply for extra visa pages and to make an appointment with American Citizens Services, please visit <http://kuwait.usembassy.gov/passports/additional-visa-pages.html>.

FINANCE CONTROLLERS 'HIGHLY PROFESSIONAL' AUDITING APPARATUS

KUWAIT: Kuwait's chief finance controller said that a highly subjective and professional auditing strategy would be launched in line with modern international auditing systems. Abdulaziz Al-Dakhlil, the chief of the finance controllers body, made the remarks in a press statement to KUNA, adding that his agency was established in accordance to law number 23/2015.

It was the product of the legislative and executive authorities and it aimed at protecting public funds through pre-control mechanisms of govern-

ment and institution of independent budgets, Dakhlil pointed out. He added that, this independent apparatus, will raise awareness of conscious spending of these public institutes and bodies through a comprehensive problems solving processes.

This agency is not new, he pointed out, it is the extension of an existing auditing system created under decrees 31, 33, 34, and 51 of 1978, which they all stipulate auditing public funds by designating independent finance controllers.

KD 41.24 million cases

In other news, the Kuwait Commercial Arbitration Center (KCAC) announced Saturday that the value of cases submitted to the center in 2015 amounted to about KD 41.24 million (\$136 million). It said the number of companies using arbitration clauses as a safe alternative for speed and security in resolving commercial disputes has been growing.

The center has an important role in spreading the culture of arbitration, Abdulwahab Mohammad Al-Wazzan, KCAC's Chairman, said in a press statement, confirming the center's aspiration towards economic openness and faith in business nature, which requires speed and flexibility in achieving transactions and resolving disputes.

KCAC's board of directors has held its second meeting this year at Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry's (KCCI) headquarters last Wednesday, during which the members reviewed several subjects and achievements since the beginning of 2015, Wazzan noted. The meeting also reviewed a number of details regarding cases submitted to the center, in addition to other subjects on the board's agenda, he said, adding that the board also reviewed KCAC's training courses on preparing a distinctive generation of arbitrators, in which participants were given a number of lectures on most basic issues in arbitration. —KUNA

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- Purpose of the loan and supporting documents for end usage of the loan. (In line with Loan purpose)

Type of Loan Facilities & guidelines:

Consumer Loans:

- Medium term personal loan.
- Max Tenor: 60 months
- Max Amount: KD 15,000
- Purpose of Loan
 - Education
 - Treatment Expenses
 - Personal consumables and durables
- Debt Burden Ratio
 - Employed Customer(s): 40% of the net monthly salary (after deductions) - or continuous monthly income
 - Retired Customer(s): 30% of the net monthly salary (after deductions) - or continuous monthly income

Installments Loans:

- Long term personal loan.
- Max Tenor: 180 months
- Max Amount: KD 70,000
- Purpose of Loan
 - Purchase of a private house.
 - Refurbishment of private house.
- Debt Burden Ratio
 - Employed Customer(s): 40% of the net monthly salary (after deductions) - or continuous monthly income
 - Retired Customer(s): 30% of the net monthly salary (after deductions) - or continuous monthly income



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Crime

Report

Man arrested for robbing 11 cars

KUWAIT: Mubarak Al-Kabeer detectives arrested a citizen in his twenties, who broke into cars and stole their contents. He was found involved in 11 theft cases and is being questioned. Investigations led detectives to suspect the citizen, so they obtained a warrant and arrested him in front of his house in Qusour. He was taken to Mubarak Al-Kabeer detectives' office.

KD 6,000 debt

A citizen wanted for a KD 6,000 debt was arrested in Sharq and sent to the civil sentences implementation department.

Traffic ticket

A citizen was surprised by a traffic ticket registered on Arabian Gulf Road during a period when he had left it for repairs at a Shuwaikh garage. The citizen accused a Syrian mechanic of driving the car without his knowledge. Shuwaikh detectives are investigating.

Nervous breakdown

A female citizen suffered a nervous breakdown when she hit a cement barrier in Fintas and had to be taken to hospital for treatment. Police said that the woman was using her phone while driving, which eventually caused her to lose control over her vehicle and crash into the barrier.

Hashish possession

A citizen and a Saudi man were arrested with 18 hashish packs, rolling paper and 15 illicit tablets. Both were sent to the Drugs Control General Department (DCGD). The arrest was made by the special missions patrol in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh.

Financial dispute

A citizen accused his friend of forcing him to sign a financial document at knifepoint, and lodged a complaint at Ardiya police station. The citizen told police that a financial dispute occurred with his friend, so he forced him to sign a promissory note before escaping. Investigations are underway. —Al-Rai

EMPLOYEES OF 116 NATIONALITIES WORK IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR

KUWAIT: Relying on two contradicting statistics, government bodies sounded an alarm on the inflated number of expatriates in their departments, while the number of those waiting for a job at the Civil Service Commission reached nearly 18,000 citizens. The first figures, issued by the central statistics department, showed the number of employees in the government sector until March 31 reached 368,745, representing 116 nationalities including Kuwaitis.

The second set of figures from the same department showed that expats aged 30 until over 60 surpass citizens as far as the percentage is concerned, while citizens surpass them in the age group between 15 to 29 years.

It said that the number of Kuwaiti employees in the government reached 277,297 citizens, and form 75 percent of the total number, while the number of expats reached 91,457 employees. Egyptians were in second place behind citizens with 41,730 employees, 11 percent of the total expat workforce (45 percent of the total number of expats working in government). Indians were in third place at 23,148, which is 6 percent of the total number (25 percent of expats in the government).

The top 10 countries with nationals in the government sector:

- 1- Kuwait (277,000)
- 2- Egypt (41,000)
- 3- India (23,000)
- 4- Syria (4,787)
- 5- Saudi Arabia (3,583)
- 6- Philippines (2,926)
- 7- Bangladesh (2,608)
- 8- Pakistan (1,738)
- 9- Unknown (1,095)
- 10- Lebanon (832) — Al-Qabas

LAW PUTS NGOS UNDER MINISTRY'S CONTROL

KUWAIT: In what has been described as a 'flagrant government interference that will kill nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) and place them in a mold that can be easily controlled,' the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor completed a proposed law for NGOs that places total control over them and takes away their independence.

The most notable content of the proposed law is the cancellation of the list system for the elections of board of directors of NGOs and replacing it with the one-vote system as the case is for the National Assembly and cooperative elections, while allowing the ministry to make direct appointments on NGO boards without regard to article 43 of the constitution which guarantees the freedom of forming societies and labor unions.

The government interference went further by limiting the term of board members to one term, and they cannot run for a second one, while the term is set for three years. The law maintains the ban on NGOs interfering in political affairs, while limiting membership to Kuwaitis only, which is a possible constitutional violation, because it discriminates against individuals based on their nationality. —Al-Jarida



Al-Jarida

القلم

Al-Qabas

LAW, FREEDOM AND JUSTICE

By Abdelrazaq Abdallah

Columnist Ahmad Al-Sarraf wrote a fantastic column in Al-Qabas recently about the importance of respecting law, freedom and justice. He said "buildings, airports, concrete structures, infrastructure, social environment, economy and public liberties are all fantastic matters, but the human being does not live with them only - rather he is in need of feeling safe and stable in addition to the freedom of speech, movement and behavior.

He added: "In Kuwait we sleep without worry, and do not think much about what we say. We work with confidence that there is a judiciary, and work while we are sure that an influential person will not encroach on our companies and agencies." Then he rang the danger bell by saying: "We are on the road of losing what we were proud of, and what distinguished us from our surroundings, and we started to slide into a country that is getting farther from the law every day."

It is a bitter fact with regret, what Sarraf said. George Washington, the first president of the United States said: "Managing justice is the strongest pillar in government." So there is no life and no state without justice and respect of law, and it is a natural result for corruption to increase and people brag about 'wasta' and connections.

It was said before that whoever felt safe from punishment will misbehave. Commitment to applying the law on all is one of the most notable signs of civilization, and advanced countries reached this level of prosperity only through implementation of the law and providing vast areas of freedom and security and accepting other opinions. The state will not recover its economic, architecture and development status unless it restores its status of providing freedom, justice, equality and respect of law - you are right Ahmad Al-Sarraf.

Commitment to applying the law on all is one of the most notable signs of civilization

—Translated by Kuwait Times

NO FUEL SUBSIDIES FOR EXPATS, DESERVING CITIZENS EXEMPTED

KUWAIT: The government's expected decision to lift fuel subsidies after several studies in this regard is expected to have negative impacts on the private sector by increasing its production costs, and thus increase the prices of various goods and services.

Commenting on this controversial issue, official government sources stressed that energy and product subsidies would not be lifted from 'deserving' citizens with low and medium incomes. The sources added that a special mechanism was being currently prepared to determine which citizens deserve subsidies and which do not by using the smart civil ID that is to be used to get petrol at the current prices while non-deserving citizens and expats would pay the new prices that are expected to double by the beginning of the new year, jumping from 65 to 100 fils per liter. "This will save the state budget around KD 500 million," stressed the sources.

Further, the sources explained that the new system would be applied in collaboration with PACI, K-Net and fuel companies, where deserving citizens'

civil IDs would be automatically programmed. Petrol will be the starting point towards using further applications in the process of linking civil IDs to various daily transactions as well as getting subsidized goods.

Moreover, the sources expected the new system to be launched by the national anniversaries in February following a special awareness campaign on how to use civil IDs for payment

and how to check the balance after each transaction. The sources highlighted that the idea to use smart civil IDs was adopted for several reasons, including avoiding issuing special cards for gasoline as the current smart IDs are already ready to receive purchase data, saving fortunes that would need to be spent issuing new cards and the high security levels the new ID cards have. —Al-Anbaa

EDUCATION, HEALTH MINISTRIES ACT AGAINST CHILD ABUSE

KUWAIT: A mother pours hot water on her daughter, and another burns her daughter's body with cigarettes, while a third child cannot sit properly because her back has burns all-over due to injuries caused by her own parent. These cases are real and have been documented by Ministry of Education staff members, prompting officials to form a joint committee between the education and health ministries in order to stop those violations, maintain children's rights and protect them against domestic violence. Education Ministry's Undersecretary Dr Haitham Al-Athari formed the committee and gave it the duty of collecting stats related to violence against children, and prepare an integrated database about violence cases. This helps examine the cases and present rules and basics of awareness campaigns and preventive programs for schools with regards to child protection. —Al-Rai



KUWAIT: The Commercial Bank of Kuwait (CBK) participated in the 4th Childhood Festival, which took place recently at the Kuwait International Fairground in Mishref under the patronage of Minister of Education and Minister of Higher Education Dr Bader Al-Essa.

النبا

Al-Anbaa

HUMAN PANTING

By Salah Al-Sayer

Our ancestors have known millstones, two round, rough stones used to grind wheat at homes, for long. However, after a period of using a millstone, its grinding surfaces usually got smoother with friction and had to be serviced by a special technician known in Kuwait as 'nikkas', who used to go door to door offering his services of hammering new holes in softened millstone surfaces to make them rough again. Well, by time, people stopped grinding their own wheat and thus stopped using millstones, and consequently the nikkas profession vanished along with many other professions that are no longer needed.

Mankind has known many professions and tools that have now vanished because man no longer needs or uses them. More of these tools and devices are expected to vanish in the near future such as calculators, cameras, watches and alarm clocks because they are all built in as special applications in smartphones nowadays. The world is panting behind racing technology. Modern inventions' lifespans are becoming shorter. The best example of this is WhatsApp, which is fiercely competing with emails that were recently introduced during the age of the Internet.

Some stores are also starting to vanish such as photography studios, photocopy centers, tourism and travel agents and the many services provided at airports will soon vanish because of the growing number of services that can be done online. We can now use our mobile phones to book and purchase a flight ticket, select onboard meals and seats, check in at the airport and book hotel rooms.

Modern inventions are strange and have put an end to so many professions such that of a translator and alienated the role of libraries because e-books are now available and easily accessible. They might even annul the role of judges in the near future and people might litigate electronically using a special application named 'Court' for instance, which would hear the case brief, listen to witnesses than send the accused a written note that might read: "You have been sentenced to one year in prison. Kindly head to the nearest jail to execute the verdict!" —Translated by Kuwait Times

النبا

Al-Anbaa

LIBERALS SWEEP EGYPT ELECTIONS

By Sami Al-Nisf

Egypt has always acted as a 'compass' to orient. When the monarchy opted for constitutional democracy, general and media liberties after 1923, Iraq, Syria and Libya followed in its steps. The same happened when Egypt shifted to a revolutionary regime in 1952 and opted for leftism, made allies with the East and prioritized national Arab causes, like Arab unity and liberating Palestine, to domestic ones, and it was also followed by Iraq, Syria, Yemen, Libya and Sudan and everybody used slogans about social justice, communism, heavy industries and agricultural reform but never achieved any.

In a meeting held months ago with the Egyptian president, Abdul Fattah Al-Sisi, we told him that the only experience Egypt could benefit from in its future political practices was that of Kuwait's, because it is the only country known in political history where a cabinet does not have to be formed from a parliamentary majority - an experience Egypt had never gone through as all the cabinets formed under monarchy or the republican regimes had a supporting parliamentary majority.

Kuwait's previous experiences seem to foretell the future of the new Egyptian parliament in view of the absence of a majority party. That may be why the 'For the Love of Egypt' party, led by General Sameh Saifelyazal, is trying to create a large coalition that would support the regime and its cabinet.

Weeks ago, I met ambassador Amr Moussa, the head of the new constitution founding committee that gave the parliament more powers than those given to the president, and he justified this by a wish to stop creating any more pharaohs (tyrants) like those created after the 1952 revolution. He told me that the committee wanted both the political leadership and the people's representatives to share the process of decision making, which is theoretically nice but might hinder the state's swift action and operation.

Therefore, the current constitution seems to be a 'disposable' one that will have to be changed by the coming parliament, though I doubt it will even complete its tenure and will be dissolved because of the many predicted and unprecedented economic and political problems.

Generally speaking, liberals and secularists used to boycott the elections to the benefit of conservatives and Islamist powers who are more flexible, pragmatic and ready to make allies with various powers to win parliamentary or even presidential elections. Well, things are completely the opposite in the recent elections where conservative, Islamist and leftist powers subsided allowing liberals, including former NDP remnants, to sweep the elections.

—Translated by Kuwait Times

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Christian female militia take fight to IS

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ROME: (From left) US Secretary of State John Kerry, Italian Foreign Minister Paolo Gentiloni and Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Libya Martin Kobler wait for the start of a conference on Libya at the Italian Foreign Ministry headquarters. — AP

ITALY HOSTS LIBYA UNITY TALKS

WORLD, ARAB POWERS PRESS DIVIDED FACTIONS

ROME: Major powers and regional players yesterday pressed Libya's divided political factions to back a UN peace plan based on the formation of a national unity government. US Secretary of State John Kerry was among ministers from 20 countries at a Rome conference aimed at maximizing the pressure to end the chaos that has engulfed the North African state since the 2011 overthrow of Moamer Kadhafi.

"Conflict and instability in Libya have gone on for too long. Broad participation here reflects international support for unified, secure and stable Libya," Kerry said, in a tweet from inside the meeting. "We need to lay groundwork for a unified government in Libya to bring the country together and respect rights, interests of all Libyans."

The ministers were joined in the afternoon by 15 Libyan officials representing political factions in the country's rival parliaments, an internationally-recognized one based in Tobruk and an Islamist-backed assembly in the capital Tripoli. The Libyan delegates included at least four members of the Tripoli-based parliament and three from its Tobruk rival, along with other political figures.

Representatives of both assemblies have tentatively agreed to sign the UN plan in Morocco on Wednesday but there are doubts about whether they can carry

their supporters with them. The accelerated diplomacy reflects fears in Western capitals that instability in Libya will allow the Islamic State group to expand its presence beyond a small section of coastline it currently controls around the city of Sirte.

Anarchy in Libya has also given people traffickers a free hand to use the country as a launch pad from which hundreds of thousands of migrants have been sent to Europe in the last two years. European governments want that route closed off amid fears a looming humanitarian crisis in Libya could accelerate the flux.

"Today the international community is unanimously demanding a national unity government in Libya," France's representative at the talks, Harlem Desir, told reporters. "We cannot accept a situation of political chaos where terrorism thrives. It is a threat to the security of the region and to Europe."

'An irresponsible bet'

Italian Foreign Minister Paolo Gentiloni had billed the Rome talks in similar terms, describing an urgent need to "demonstrate that the action of governments and diplomacy can be faster and more effective than the threat of terrorism." But there is pessimism among many Libya-watchers about the prospects of a new administration leading to sustainable peace.

Former Italian foreign minister Emma Bonino and the head of International Crisis Group Jean-Marie Guehenno called the rush towards a Wednesday signing "an irresponsible bet." Writing in Politico, the pair said it is "wishful thinking" to believe a majority of Libyans will back a foreign-backed sole national authority.

Under current security conditions it is unlikely, they argue, that such a government could even enter Tripoli safely. "This means they will have no control over state administration, including the pivotal central bank," they wrote. "It could trigger renewed fighting for control of the capital."

And any attempt, whether failed or successful, to restore authority to Tripoli could feed separatist rumblings in eastern Libya, they warn. Alison Pargeter, of Britain's Royal United Services Institute, said: "It is difficult to be optimistic. The country needs a proper reconciliation process. At the moment the largest tribes are outside the process. Because they were pro-Kadhafi, they are completely on the sidelines."

Protests against accord

Saleh El-Makhzoum, a member of the parliamentary body based in Tripoli, said Friday that an agreement establishing a Government of National Accord would be signed on December 16. And an official of

the rival but internationally-recognized parliament, Mohammed Choueib, said "we have decided to move beyond this difficult period and ask everyone to join us." But neither man could promise their colleagues in Tripoli or Tobruk would ratify the deal, under which Libya would be governed by a nine-member presidential council.

Hundreds of protesters gathered in Tripoli's main square on Friday afternoon, waving Libyan flags and holding signs calling for a rejection of the UN deal. Libya has had rival administrations since August 2014, when an Islamist-backed militia alliance overran Tripoli, forcing the government to take refuge in the east.

US and European sources say the aim is to form a unity government within 40 days of Wednesday's signature, after which UN sanctions could be imposed to force an accord. If the deal sticks, it would enable Libya to better govern itself and to fight the IS fighters that have seized territory around Kadhafi's hometown Sirte. It would also allow a UN-recognized administration to request arms shipments and even foreign military intervention to help rid itself of the insurgents. Italian premier Matteo Renzi has said Rome would command a military mission should the UN agree, and there have been reports France and Britain are ready to take part. — AFP

MODI: CLIMATE JUSTICE WON IN PARIS ACCORD

NEW DELHI: Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi yesterday hailed the adoption of a landmark climate accord in Paris, saying it pointed the world towards a greener future. "Outcome of Paris agreement has no winners or losers. Climate justice has won & we are all working towards a greener future," Modi posted on Twitter. "Climate change remains a challenge but Paris agreement demonstrates how every nation rose to the challenge, working towards a solution," he added.

In Paris, Modi had argued that India—the world's third biggest carbon-emitting country—needed to continue burning cheap and plentiful coal to rise out of poverty, arguing that richer nations should make deeper and faster cuts in their own emissions. He applauded joint global efforts toward the climate pact yesterday. "Deliberations at COP21 & Paris agreement demonstrates the collective wisdom of world leaders to mitigate climate change," the leader said on Twitter.

Developing nations, including India, had insisted rich countries must shoulder the lion's share of responsibility for tackling climate change as they emitted most of the greenhouse gases since the Industrial Revolution. These issues have sparked tension over the years with the United States and other developed nations in the UN climate forum. —AFP

HEAVY WEAPONS FIRE ERUPTS C AFRICA VOTE

BANGUI: Heavy weapons fire broke out yesterday in the Muslim district of Bangui, the Central African Republic capital, during a referendum aimed at ending years of bloody sectarian strife, an AFP reporter said. Fire from heavy machine-guns and rocket launchers erupted around a school where voters were waiting to cast their votes, prompting UN peacekeepers to move in to protect residents of Bangui's PK5 Muslim district. A Red Cross staffer said six people were hurt.

Yesterday's vote was seen as a test run for presidential and parliamentary elections due to take place December 27 to end more than two years of conflict between mainly Muslim and mainly Christian militias. Five other people were hurt, two of them seriously, in the volatile Muslim-majority district earlier yesterday.

Another three were injured amid gunfire and grenade blasts in the district of Gobongo, a stronghold of the Christian "anti-balaka" militia, a security source said. Several incidents were also reported in the country's north and east,

said an unnamed source in the UN peacekeeping force, MINUSCA, sent in to quell fighting that has forced 10 percent of the population to flee the country.

If adopted, the constitution would usher in the country's sixth republic since independence from France in 1960 but mark its 13th political regime in as many years—underlining the chronic instability undermining the country. The proposed constitution would limit presidential tenure to two terms, aims to fight institutional corruption and crimp the power of armed militias, blamed for years of chaos and terror. The ballot comes two weeks after Pope Francis appealed to Muslims and Christians to live as "brothers and sisters".

Despite the presence of 11,000 UN and French peacekeepers, part of the impoverished country remains out of bounds, under the control of either rebel chieftains or bandits. The widespread chaos hampered organization of the ballot by the country's interim authorities, with few election posters visible on the streets just 48

hours beforehand. Only 15,000 copies of the new constitution have been printed, meaning that few voters were fully aware of its contents. Almost two million Central Africans have registered to vote in a population of 4.8 million—spurring hopes the election will be the first step in a return to peace and normalcy. UN chief Ban Ki-moon appealed on the eve of the vote to ensure "that the referendum is conducted in a peaceful and credible manner" and called it a "significant milestone towards the end of the transition in the Central African Republic".

Many of the 5,600 polling stations are located in remote areas accessible only by dirt roads. And of the 460,000 people displaced by the unrest living in camps across Central African Republic's borders—many of them Muslims—only 26 percent have been able to register. The country was plunged into its worst crisis since independence after longtime Christian leader Francois Bozize was ousted by rebels from the Seleka force in March 2013, triggering a wave of violence with "anti-balaka" militias.—AFP



BANGUI: A Senegalese soldier from the MINUSCA, the United Nations mission in Central African Republic, takes position to respond to heavy gunfire directed towards the Baya Dombia school where voters gathered for the Constitutional Referendum.— AFP

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BUSH KEEPS POLICY FOCUS, DESPITE FADE IN 2016 RACE

LONDONDERRY: Jeb Bush stared across the Londonderry Senior Center in disbelief. A voter at his town hall had just told him she'd read the candidate's 3,000-word tax plan. "The fact that you read it makes me feel so pleased - even if you didn't like it," Bush said, unsuccessfully holding back a grin.

It was the sort of moment Bush surely dreamed about when he announced his 2016 bid six months ago. Soon, the two were deep in the weeds of his proposals for capital gains taxes on estates, when Bush paused. "We're having a real work-a-thon right now," he said gleefully. It was also a moment all too rare for Bush, a former front-runner stubbornly sticking to a sober-minded approach to his campaign despite months of evidence that Republican voters aren't much interested in what he's selling.

The portion of Republican registered voters who think Bush could win the general election, should he win his party's nomination, has dropped to 40 percent in a new Associated Press-GfK poll, down from 60 percent in October. Republicans are now no more likely than Democrats to see Bush as a potential

general election winner, and 39 percent say they view Bush unfavorably - almost the same percentage as billionaire front-runner and frequent Bush foil Donald Trump.

Perhaps even more troubling for Bush, given his insistence on talking about policy and his ability to govern, the poll found that GOP voters view Trump, the real estate mogul and reality TV star, as more competent than the two-term governor of Florida. After setbacks in October, including deep campaign spending cuts and a widely criticized debate performance, Bush sought to reassure donors who have contributed more than \$100 million to his campaign and a separate pro-Bush organization by resetting his effort with the auspicious slogan:

'Jeb Can Fix It'

Part of the shift in strategy was redoubling Bush's emphasis on New Hampshire, where aides said the candidate's serious style and affinity for one-on-one policy engagement was a close fit with New Englanders, who also typically hold themselves as independent of

the national story line. Since then, Bush has held nearly 20 town hall-style meetings in the state, each with about 100 voters attending, including in places most other candidates have not visited.

But the content of Bush's town halls remains the same, with the brother and son of former presidents passing on Trump's flash and penchant for bombast to remain centered on telling the story of his time as governor and his detailed plans for the nation's economy and military.

He has faith - and some good-natured bullheadedness - that voters will eventually come around. In answering immigration lawyer Marisa DiFranco's question about what to do with the millions of immigrants in the United States illegally at an event this week, Bush mentioned the immigration policy book he co-authored, explained the economic criteria he would use to increase legal immigration, and then paused.

"Being able to complete that sentence - about what I'm for, in the political environment I'm now in, is an extraordinary opportunity," Bush said dryly, "and I

thank you for it." On Thursday in Milford, Bush said after being asked about the federal debt, Social Security, Medicare and taxes: "I'm the only person running for president that has details on any of this stuff, just to remind you."

He went on, needing in a friendly way the voters he was trying to win over. "I'm not running for entertainer or anything like this. I hope you want a candidate who has actually thought it through, who actually has plans." That's what he's focused on. He has largely abandoned his tentative and poorly reviewed attacks on Florida Sen Marco Rubio. Gone, too, are his campaign's early tussles with Trump on social media.

Self-proclaimed introvert

"It is refreshing isn't it? To have a conversation rather than have 140 characters drive a campaign," Bush told reporters this week. Even when given the chance to connect with voters on a personal level, the self-proclaimed introvert who says he's more comfortable reading a book than planning a party struggles to campaign in a way that, in his words, gives "people a full measure

of a person."

Take this week's "The Life of the Party" events at Manchester's St Anselm College. Forceful Trump critic and fellow policy wonk John Kasich, the governor of Ohio, made the most of the not-so-serious questions posed by the gathering of students and young professionals. In a lengthy answer about his favorite music, Kasich listed Pearl Jam, Linkin Park and Foo Fighters. "The problem with traditional radio, if you listen to it, you hear a lot of things that you like, but they never tell you who the band is," Kasich said.

Asked what music he would play and what food he would serve at a hypothetical White House party, Bush said, "I don't know," and suggested he didn't like the line of questioning. "It might have to be something more serious, I apologize." The students were undeterred, and pressed on by asking Bush what celebrity he'd like to meet. "I don't know," Bush said, again. "I really don't believe in celebritydom. I find it superficial. I'd rather be with people who have done things." — AP

PALESTINIAN REFUGEE THRIVES AT BRITAIN'S POSHEST SCHOOL

ETON: Wearing a white tie and coat tails, Ammar Mustapha sits near the manicured grounds of Britain's most prestigious school, a world away from the Palestinian refugee camps he grew up in Syria and Lebanon. Shy and softly spoken, Mustapha, 18, was plucked from among millions of refugee children to attend Britain's exclusive Eton College, alma mater of prime ministers, business leaders and members of the royal family.

"It was a life-changing opportunity," said Mustapha, who was offered a scholarship by a charity due to his outstanding academic ability. He insists it wasn't all bad in Syria's Yarmuk camp, which his family fled in 2012 before it became infamous for its skeletal children and apocalyptic landscape. Just south of central Damascus, the camp was set up in the 1950s for Palestinian refugees, but in recent years it has been brutalised and besieged in a pitiless war between anti-government forces and the Syrian military.

Born in Libya, Mustapha and his family moved to the densely packed district in 1999 so that his father could take up a job as an electrician. "In fact it was fun to live in Yarmuk. When we say camp, that doesn't mean tents and anything like that," he said, recalling a happy childhood there. "Something that was really good about being in Yarmuk is that it was really safe so you could go to shops at midnight."

Gifted children

Days before bombs began to rain down on Yarmuk three years ago, Mustapha's family fled to Lebanon, joining millions of other refugees in the tiny country. That was where he was spotted by Eton physics teacher Peter Mann, who for the last two years has travelled to Lebanon in December to interview children to find those gifted enough to study at his school.

"We are usually happy with about four of the 40" pre-selected, Mann said. "Ammar turned out to be very shy, quiet but with outstanding student academics. He was a bit different," he added, noting that unlike other students Mustapha had wanted to study interior design. After tests in his school in Tyre in southern Lebanon and a week of examinations at Eton, Mustapha,

then aged 16, was chosen for a scholarship to live and study with the children of Britain's elite.

The \$50,000 (45,000 euro) bursary covers fees and expenses, and was provided by the Cogito Scholarship Foundation, which aims to improve the Middle East by sending gifted underprivileged children to the world's best schools. "At first I was really nervous about it... but I have always wanted to come to Europe and see the differences in culture, in languages and in the education system," Mustapha said. "My parents were really happy and proud about this but also sad because I had to leave them. It was the first time I had to leave my family."

Broadening outlooks

Mustapha needn't have worried. "I have never heard any other boys comment on him which is a sign he's doing really well. His English improved so quickly and so well," Mann said. He tried new sports, including rowing, squash, and tennis, and took up photography. He also adapted to Western methods of teaching, far removed from the rote learning he was used to.

"In Lebanon and Syria we used to memorize what we were being taught, while here in the UK we understand what we are being taught," Mustapha said. Eton College Access Adviser Francesca Moultrie said Mustapha settled in quickly despite missing his mother's cooking and that as well as benefiting from Eton, he had also been a credit to the college.

"They really do broaden the outlook of the boys they are sharing life with," she said. Now in his final year, Mustapha is applying to some of the top British and US universities. "After my graduation, I would like to stay in Europe or America to work and set myself up," Mustapha said. "But my long term goal is to go back to Lebanon and help my community as a civil engineer." That will please Cogito founder Ali Erfan, an Iranian-born, British-educated businessman who hopes to extend the two-year old scholarship program to 100 boys and girls every year. "If we are successful, in 20 years, we'll have 2,000 boys and girls who can hopefully play a major role eventually in the revival of the Middle East." — AFP



AL-QAHTANIYAH: Syrian Christian Ormia, member of the battalion called the "Female Protection Forces of the Land Between the Two Rivers" fighting the Islamic State group, poses during a training on December 1, 2015 at their camp near the Syrian-Turkish border. —AFP photos

CHRISTIAN FEMALE MILITIA TAKE FIGHT TO IS IN SYRIA

'I WOULD LOVE TO BE ON THE FRONT LINE'

HASAKEH: Babylonia has no regrets about leaving behind her two children and her job as a hairdresser to join a Christian female militia battling against the Islamic State group in Syria. The fierce-looking 36-year-old in fatigues from the Syrian Christian minority in the northeast believes she is making the future safe for her children.

"I miss Limar and Gabriella and worry that they must be hungry, thirsty and cold. But I try to tell them I'm fighting to protect their future," she said. Babylonia belongs to a small, recently created battalion of Syrian Christian women in Hasakeh province who are fighting IS. They are following in the footsteps of Syria's other main female force battling the jihadists—the women of the YPJ, the female counterpart to the Kurdish People's Protection Units or YPG.

So far the new force is small, with around 50 graduates so far from its training camp in the town of Al-Qahtaniyah, also known as Kabre Hyore in Syriac, and Tirbespi in Kurdish. But the "Female Protection Forces of the Land Between the Two Rivers"—the area between the Tigris and Euphrates waterways historically inhabited by Syrians—is teeming with women eager to prove their worth against IS.

It was actually Babylonia's husband who encouraged her to leave Limar, nine, and six-year-old Gabriella and join the unit whose first recruits graduated in August. Himself a fighter, he urged her to take up arms to "fight against the idea that the Syrian woman is good for nothing except housekeeping and make-up," she said.

'Fear quickly went away'

"I'm a practicing Christian and thinking about my children makes me stronger and more determined in my fight against Daesh," added Babylonia, using the Arabic acronym for IS. Syrian Christians belong to the eastern Christian tradition and pray in Aramaic. They include both Orthodox and Catholic branches, and constitute around 15 percent of Syria's 1.2 million Christians.

Before the conflict began in March 2011, Christians from some 11 different sects made up around five percent of the population. The unit's first major action was alongside the newly created Syrian Democratic Forces, a coalition of Kurdish, Arab and Christian fighters, which recently recaptured the strategic town of Al-Hol. "I took part in a battle for the first time in the Al-Hol area, but my team wasn't attacked by IS," said 18-year-old Lucia, who gave up her studies to join the militia. Her sister also joined up, against the wishes of their reluctant mother.

"I fight with a Kalashnikov, but I'm not ready to become an elite sniper yet," the shy teenager said, a wooden crucifix around her neck and a camouflage bandana tied round her head. Al-

Hol, on a key route between territory IS controls in Syria and Iraq, was the first major victory for the SDF, which has captured around 200 villages in the region in recent weeks.

It has received air support from the US-led coalition fighting IS, as well as drops of American weapons. Ormia, 18, found battle terrifying at first. "I was afraid of the noise of cannons firing, but the fear quickly went away," she said. "I would love to be on the front line in the fight against the terrorists."

'Not afraid of Daesh'

The battalion's fighters train in an old mill in a program that includes military, fitness and academic elements. With its limited combat experience, the unit for now focuses mainly on protecting majority Christian parts of Hasakeh province. Thabirta Samir, 24, who helps oversee the training, estimates that around 50 fighters have graduated so far.

"I used to work for a Syrian cultural associa-

tion, but now I take pleasure in working in the military field," she said. "I'm not afraid of Daesh, and we will be present in the coming battles against the terrorists." Samir said both local and "foreign forces" helped train the women, without specifying the nationality of the foreigners.

In late November, Kurdish sources said US soldiers had entered the town of Kobane in northern Syria to train Kurdish fighters and plan offensives. Some women cited what is known as the Sayfo ("Sword") massacres in 1915 of Syriac, Assyrian and Chaldean Christians as reasons for joining the unit.

"We are a community that is oppressed by others," said 18-year-old Ithraa. She joined four months ago inspired by the memory of Sayfo, in which Ottoman authorities are said to have killed tens of thousands of Christians in Turkey and Iran. She said the community hoped to prevent "a new massacre like that committed by the Ottomans... when they tried to erase our Christian and Syriac identity." — AFP



ETON: Libyan-born student Ammar Mustapha poses for a photograph at Eton College. —AFP

CRUZ EXTENDS IOWA LEAD AMONG 2016 US REPUBLICAN HOPEFULS

WASHINGTON: Texas US Senator Ted Cruz has solidified his lead among Republican presidential contenders in the politically crucial state of Iowa, a new poll showed. The Des Moines Register/Bloomberg Politics poll, out late Saturday, shows the conservative Cruz with 31 percent support, 10 points ahead of bombastic billionaire Donald Trump, who has 21 percent. Trump, who has a solid lead in national polls among Republicans, quickly tweeted about another survey.

"New CNN Iowa poll — Trump 33, Cruz 20. Everyone else way down! Don't trust Des Moines Register poll - biased towards Trump!" he wrote on Twitter, apparently intending to say the Iowa paper was biased against him. It was unclear what CNN poll Trump was referring to.

Jennifer Jackson of the Des Moines Register said in a video on the paper's website: "It's Cruz-mentum. Ted Cruz is crushing

it in Iowa." The poll follows a December 7 Monmouth University survey showing Cruz for the first time leading the field among voters who intend to take part in the February 1 Iowa caucuses, the first real measure of voter support in the 2016 presidential campaign.

As recently as October, Cruz, 44, had just 10 percent support in a Monmouth poll. Trump has complained that the Des Moines Register is biased against him ever since the newspaper's editorial board called him to drop out of the race in July. Third in the Des Moines Register/Bloomberg Politics poll is retired neurosurgeon Ben Carson with 13 percent, followed by Florida Senator Marco Rubio with 10 percent.

Republican voters seemed to have cooled on Carson—who was leading in Iowa polls in October—likely because of his embarrassing ignorance of foreign affairs.—AFP

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Training Manager
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Commercial Manager
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You will be responsible for examining company rules to make sure they stay relevant and making recommendations for necessary changes, looking for opportunities to grow a business, whether through partnerships or new initiatives, and working to take advantage of those opportunities.

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Crepecaffaire Store Manager
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 Trading Company - Kuwait

You will be responsible for managing the day to day operation activities of the store, following company policies and procedures and ensuring that sales, store operations and profitability, customer service and product offering are meeting targets, as well as, responsible for managing the store crew and reporting to the Operations Manager.

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Female Section Manager
 Leyhausen Field Services
 International - KSA

You will be responsible for supervising female section interviewers and follow up the field work making sure that everything is going well and you will be required to have flexible working hours, ability to control the team and endure working stress, as well as, good knowledge of using Computer and Microsoft Office programs.

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Director of Revenue Management
 Fairmont - KSA

You will be responsible for ensuring that inventory allocation and pricing parameters are positioned to support the overall revenue goals of the hotel, maximizing net room revenue contribution through a thorough understanding of all booking channels and management of inventory and rate therein.

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Project Manager - M&A
 Michael Page International
 (UAE) Limited - UAE

You will be responsible for supporting activity and driving process of all business related projects, leading multi country strategic and confidential projects and working together with stakeholders to deliver on outcomes and in budget and you should be able to outline project milestones, manage accountability and follow up to ensure timely completion of all tasks.

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Section Head, Product Management
 Daman - UAE

You will be responsible for supporting development and implementation of a product management strategy according to the company strategy, setting goals and initiating measures to reach these goals and improving the overall section's performance, as well as, leading the performance management process that measures and evaluates progress.

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SAP Materials Management - SUS Expert
 Exalogic Consulting - UAE

You will be required to have end to end experience in implementing all Modules under MM/SRM, experience in implementation methodologies, ability to rework on methodologies based on scope, scale and cultural requirements of organizations, leadership skills, as well as, good presentation and excellent documentation skills.

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Trade Marketing Manager
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You will be responsible for building and procuring the execution of the best Hasbro play experience for the shopper, fully responsible for Trade Marketing for the MFNA business to achieve sales & growth objective, responsible for 'Point of Emotion' (POE/BTL) A&P planning and budgeting and procuring the execution of brand plans aligned with 'Customer-Sales-Marketing' relation.

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HR Manager
 Mackenzie Jones
 Qatar

You will be responsible for managing, maintaining and driving HR activities for all the divisions, including policies, procedures, recruitment, performance management, reward, L&D and retention, developing policy and directing and coordinating human resources activities, such as employment, compensation, labor relations, benefits, training, and employee services.

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Service Point Advisor
 DHL Express
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You will be responsible for answering customer inquiries both over the phone and across the counter, ensuring that collection and deliveries of shipments are processed as per network standards and providing a competent, courteous, efficient and proactive point of contact for customers both internal and external, as well as, helping to achieve revenue targets through effectively promoting and selling DHL's products and value added services.

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Office Manager
 Human Capital Group Qatar
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You will be responsible for maintaining office services by organizing office operations and procedures, preparing payroll, controlling correspondence, designing, filing, systems, reviewing, and approving supply requisitions, assigning and monitoring clerical functions, as well as, providing historical reference by defining procedures for retention, protection, retrieval and transfer.

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Senior CRM Manager (Luxury Shopping Mall)
 Al Emadi Enterprises - Qatar

You will be responsible for planning, establishing and managing the CRM strategies, program, operations and engaging with key stakeholders, including the leadership of marketing, retail, hospitality and IT to ensure an effective and seamless delivery, as well as, building, implementing and growing a multi-faceted loyalty and rewards program while ensuring strategic alignment.

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5 US STATES SPARED FROM MASS SHOOTING BLOODBATHS IN 2015

WASHINGTON: Five US states were immune to the bloody, perpetual series of mass shootings in the United States this year, which has seen more of them than the number of days gone by. Experts debate whether the states were spared thanks to coincidence or if circumstances there make them a haven of peace.

As of December 2, 353 mass shootings have killed 462 people in 220 cities, according to the shootingtracker.com website. A total of 1,317 people were wounded, after adjusting for the latest toll from the last mass shooting, which saw a husband and wife couple kill 14 and wound 22 in San Bernardino, California, the deadliest such tragedy in three years.

If there is no slowdown to this frenetic pace, there will be as many such traumatic deadly events as there are days in the year. Or more. The count includes all events that have killed or wounded at least four people. Hawaii, New Hampshire, North Dakota, West Virginia

and Wyoming alone were spared such macabre fate.

'Lucky this year'

All of them except West Virginia have not seen a single mass shooting since 2013, when the website first began its count based not on official figures but on reports obtained from media reports and other sources. The outcome owes in part to the relatively low population density in those states, experts say.

Wyoming, home to 584,000 people, is the least populous state, according to 2014 estimates from the US Census. North Dakota, with 739,500 people, is the fourth least populated state (ranking 47th out of 50 overall by population). "Naturally, we would expect that states with smaller populations would have fewer mass shootings, on average," University of Alabama criminologist Adam Lankford told AFP. The most populous state, California with 38.8 million people, had the second biggest

number of shootings so far this year — 25. Florida, which counted the most — 27 — shootings, has a population of 19.9 million, making it the third most populated state.

The five states are also among the most rural. Most lack major cities, except for Hawaii, with Honolulu having a population of about 375,000. So people in these states are less likely to live in cities than those in most other US states.

"This affects their risk and probability of experiencing a mass shooting," Lankford said. "Although school and workplace shootings do occur in towns and other rural areas, there are many types of mass shootings that mostly occur in cities, such as mass shootings that arise from gang violence, organized crime, and other criminal activity."

But their immunity to these incidents is counterintuitive. None of these five states, except for Hawaii, has adopted strict gun control legislation, and it is often easier to own

one there than elsewhere in the United States. Wyoming notably does not regulate the transfer or possession of machine guns and no state permit is required to purchase a rifle, shotgun or handgun.

That earns it an F from the San Francisco-based Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence, an advocacy group. North Dakota and West Virginia also get that lowest possible grade. New Hampshire fared just a hair better, with a D-. Hawaii, in contrast, got a B+, because of its license and registration requirements, ban on assault weapons and large capacity ammunition magazines, child access prevention requirements and restriction on openly carrying of handguns and long guns.

Unheeded gun control

An increasingly frustrated President Barack Obama has repeatedly called for stricter gun control legislation, but his calls have gone unheeded. The easy flow of weapons, experts

say, triggers more mass shootings because guns can end up in the wrong people's hands. There have been numerous shootings in those five states, but always fewer than four victims.

"None of them have done anything innovative or effective to prevent mass shootings, it just happens to be an unfortunate coincidence," said Adam Winkler of the UCLA School of Law. Winkler, who wrote "Gunfight: The Battle over the Right to Bear Arms in America," said there was "no doubt" that gun rights advocates will point to the lack of mass shootings in those states as proof that less gun control means more safety.

Yet "it is very difficult to reduce mass shootings, mainly because most of the guns used in these shootings are purchased legally," he added. "I don't think it is possible to stop mass shootings at the state level, even if, of course, they can take some actions," Lankford thinks it has more to do with coincidence than anything else. — AFP



LYON: A dog waits for its owner who is casting a ballot in the second round of the regional elections in the Rhone, Auvergne-Rhones-Alpes region. — AFP

SUSPENSE AS FRENCH FAR RIGHT HOPE FOR FIRST REGIONAL PRIZE

FRANCE REMAINS UNDER A STATE OF EMERGENCY

PARIS: France voted in regional elections yesterday, with the far-right National Front (FN) hoping for a breakthrough that would give its leader, Marine Le Pen, the springboard for a presidential bid in 2017. Voting took place amid heightened security, as France remains under a state of emergency after the November 13 jihadist assault in Paris that claimed 130 lives.

The anti-immigration FN topped the vote in six of 13 regions in the first round of voting on December 6, capitalizing on security fears following the attacks. But analysts said yesterday's runoff could be close in several regions after the ruling Socialist Party urged supporters to vote tactically to thwart the far-right populists.

Pollster Jean-Daniel Levy of Harris Interactive said the FN was "almost certain" to win one region, while Bruno Jeanbart of OpinionWay said it would win between "zero and five". Turnout stood at 19.59 percent at noon, up from 16.27 percent at the same point last Sunday and 18.57 percent during the last regional elections in 2010. The ballot is considered key to the FN's strategy.

The party has previously scored well in presidential and European Union (EU) elections, but is desperate for local success to bolster its claim to be a grassroots movement. The Socialists have pulled out their candidates in two regions in the north and south of the country where respectively Le Pen and her 26-year-old

niece Marion are running. They have called on voters to back former president Nicolas Sarkozy's conservative Republicans.

'Time bomb'

"Frankly, I'm voting against the FN in the interests of my family," said Issa Kouyate, a 59-year-old voter of Senegalese origin, as he went to cast his ballot in Marseille, where a high proportion of citizens are of immigrant background. "There's danger," said Kouyate, describing the FN's 40.45-percent first-round turnout in his region as "a time bomb."

Tactical voting carries a political risk for the Socialists, though, as it plays into the far right's claim that the two main parties are indistinguishable. Le Pen cast her ballot in Henin-Beaumont, in the economically depressed northern Nord-Pas-de-Calais-Picardy region. A TNS-Sofres poll on Wednesday showed Le Pen, who heads the party list, would lose easily to the Republicans' Xavier Bertrand.

Nationwide, the FN took 28 percent of the vote last Sunday, ahead of 27 percent for the Republicans and their allies. President Francois Hollande's Socialists suffered their fourth electoral beating since coming to power in 2012 as voters punished their failure to reduce unemployment, but held up better than expected with 23.5 percent.

The president, voting in his south-central Correze region flush from the successful completion of the

marathon UN climate talks at Le Bourget yesterday, smiled broadly as a well-wisher congratulated him.

'De-demonized' party

Le Pen has reaped the rewards of her efforts to "de-demonize" the party bequeathed by her father Jean-Marie Le Pen, but it retains a stridently anti-immigrant edge, sharpened by last month's carnage in Paris. Critics accuse it of fomenting Islamophobia.

Her campaign has also exploited anger over the situation in the northern port of Calais, where thousands of migrants are camping in squalid conditions in the hope of reaching Britain. Socialist Prime Minister Manuel Valls said he had "no hesitation" in urging voters to back the Republicans to keep the FN from power as they did in 2002 when voters switched to Jacques Chirac in a presidential run-off against Jean-Marie Le Pen. Sarkozy, who has been accused of flirting with the FN's ideas on immigration and Islam, has taken a different approach. He said a vote for the FN was "not immoral" but they were "people who have never run anything, have no plan, have no self-control, who would create chaos". Regional councils have little political visibility in France. Abstention in the first round of voting was high for France-nearly one in two voters did not cast their ballot. In contrast, the regions have much economic and social clout. They levy their own taxes and administer major budgets in education, transport and business incentives. — AFP

OBAMA OPTIMISM ON CLIMATE PACT TEMPERED BY GOP OPPN

WASHINGTON: President Barack Obama and Secretary of State John Kerry hailed the newly passed international climate change agreement as a major achievement that could help turn the tide on global warming, but got a quick reminder that Republicans will fight it all the way.

Obama said the climate agreement made Saturday night by almost 200 nations "can be a turning point for the world" and credited his administration for playing a key role. He and Kerry predicted it would prompt widespread spending on clean energy and help stem carbon pollution blamed for global warming.

"We've shown that the world has both the will and the ability to take on this challenge," Obama said from the White House. He said the climate agreement "offers the best chance we have to save the one planet we have." "In short, this agreement will mean less of the carbon pollution that threatens our planet and more of the jobs and economic growth driven by low-carbon investments," Obama said.

Obama said the world leaders meeting in Paris "met the moment" and that people can be more confident "the planet will be in better shape for the next generation." Obama said the agreement is not perfect, but sets a framework that will contain periodic reviews and assessments to ensure that countries meet their commitments to curb carbon emissions.

Stark reminder

The immediate reaction of leading Republican critics was a stark reminder of the conflict that lies ahead. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky said Obama is "making promises he can't keep" and should remember that the agreement "is subject to being shredded in 13 months." McConnell noted that the presidential election is next year and the agreement could be reversed if the GOP wins the White House.

And Republican Sen James Inhofe of

Oklahoma said that Americans can expect the administration to cite the agreement as an excuse for establishing emission targets for every sector of the US economy. Kerry said from Paris: "I have news for Senator Inhofe. The United States of America has already reduced its emissions more than any other country in the world."

"This has to happen," he said of the agreement. "I believe this will continue because I just personally cannot believe that any person who doesn't understand the science and isn't prepared to do for the next generation what we did here today and follow through on it cannot and will not be elected president of the United States."

'Massive investment'

In an interview taped for CBS' "Face the Nation," Kerry called the climate pact "a breakthrough agreement" that will change how countries make decisions and "spur massive investment." He acknowledged that a Republican president could undo the agreement, but said there is already plenty of evidence that climate change is having a damaging and expensive impact with more intense storms, wildfires and melting glaciers.

Several Democratic lawmakers applauded Obama's efforts. House Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi hailed it as a "monumental moment" and praised Obama for his leadership on the issue. Sen Harry Reid, the Senate Democratic minority leader, said climate change poses one of the greatest threats the world has ever known, and that no country acting alone can stem the tide.

"The time to act is now," the Nevada lawmaker said. Obama took credit for the successful negotiations. "Today, the American people can be proud - because this historic agreement is a tribute to American leadership. Over the past seven years, we've transformed the United States into the global leader in fighting climate change." — AP



WASHINGTON: President Barack Obama speaks about the Paris climate agreement from the Cabinet Room of the White House. — AP

ALLEGED UK HEIST GANG FAR FROM SILVER-SCREEN GLITZ

LONDON: The press has compared the gang alleged to be behind one of Britain's most audacious jewelry heists to the glamorous thieves of Hollywood movie Ocean's Eleven, but the reality is much less sexy. Rather than George Clooney and Brad Pitt, the group believed to be behind April's daring raid on a London safe-deposit facility includes two geriatrics and a man suffering from incontinence.

A red-haired man known as "Basil", who allegedly let the men into the jewelry vault through a fire escape, has not yet been identified, adding an air of mystery to a story begging for a film adaptation. The burglary at Hatton Garden, long known as London's jewelry quarter, was the "largest burglary in English legal history" prosecutor Philip Evans said.

Four of the defendants, including the 76-year-old mastermind, have already pleaded guilty, while several others still face trial. Taking advantage of a long Easter weekend in early April, prosecutors told London's Old Bailey court that the gang broke into the vault of central London's Hatton Garden Safe Deposit company. Disguised as gas workers and fitted with hard hats, it is claimed they rappelled down an elevator shaft then used a diamond-tipped industrial drill to bore three large holes in a concrete wall 50 centimeters thick. Video surveillance recorded the comings and goings as 73

safes were emptied to net a booty worth an estimated £14 million (\$21.3 million, 20 million Euros) in gold, sapphires, diamonds, jewelry, luxury watches and cash.

'Ocean's 11-style'

The raid was only discovered the following Tuesday. Appealing for help from the public, Scotland Yard detective Craig Turner said a "particularly ambitious" burglary appeared to have been carried out by an "Ocean's 11-style" team.

As details of the raid crystallized, it became clear that the comparison to the sophisticated Hollywood heist was not entirely justified. Things did not go as planned from the start, as the thieves took longer than planned to break through the vault's wall, forcing them to bring additional equipment. Alleged mastermind Brian Reader is believed to have ditched the raid on the first night, having arrived at the scene of the crime by bus using a senior's free travel pass. Court also heard that suspect Terry Perkins, 67, was secretly recorded boasting of having carried out the "biggest robbery" in the world in his bugged Citroen Saxo. He also mentioned his diabetes and the insulin injections he had to take during breaks in the raid, court heard. Another alleged gang member, William "Bill" Lincoln, 60, suffers from incontinence and wet himself when arrested, according to police. — AFP

PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL FIRE KILLS 23 IN RUSSIA

MOSCOW: Twenty-three psychiatric patients, most of them elderly, died when a fire ripped through their care facility in southern Russia Saturday night, in the latest tragedy to hit mental health hospitals in the country. "The bodies of 21 people have been found, two more died in hospitals," said the emergencies ministry on Sunday,

adding that a further 23 people were hospitalized.

Seventy patients and four nurses were in the Soviet-era ward when the fire broke out shortly before midnight (2100 GMT) Saturday at the hospital in the village of Alforyovka, in the southern Voronezh region. Most of those who perished were aged in their 60s



ALFYOROVKA: A handout picture provided on December 13, 2015 by the Russian Emergencies Ministry shows firefighters and rescuers working among the debris of a psychiatric hospital destroyed by the fire. — AFP

and 70s, although some were in their 40s and 50s, according to a list of patients released by the emergencies ministry.

The state-owned Rossiya 24 rolling news channel said patients had been given tranquilizers as part of their medication before the fire broke out. "They simply did not wake up," a correspondent reported from the scene, saying they choked on noxious smoke. Igor Kobzev, chief of the Voronezh regional branch of the emergencies ministry, said that "the epicentre of the fire was located in a place where bedridden patients were."

The fire gutted the hospital building made of brick and wood, with footage showing firefighters still combing through the smoking ruins in light snow. It took more than 440 firefighters and emergency workers around three hours to bring the fire under control. The Investigative Committee, which reports directly to President Vladimir Putin, said it opened a criminal probe into the deaths on suspicion of negligence.

There was no immediate reaction from the Kremlin but Emergencies Minister Vladimir Puchkov went to the scene to oversee the response to the

tragedy and conduct a meeting on fire safety. The blaze was the latest tragedy to hit a psychiatric institution in Russia, where outdated Soviet-era infrastructure is still in widespread use and managers often take a lax approach to fire safety. Critics say such deadly fires, which often claim the lives of some of the most vulnerable people in Russia, are a source of embarrassment for the Kremlin, noting authorities have learnt little from past tragedies.

Bleak place

Experts are looking into what triggered the blaze at the psychiatric ward in Alforyovka, investigators said, adding searches were also being conducted as part of the probe at the regional department for social protection. Medical personnel said patients did not have access to matches or lighters.

Nurse Nadezhda Sukhareva said patients were allowed to smoke but staff would light their cigarettes for them outside the building. "There's no way we would give them matches," she said in televised remarks. Activist Konstantin Rubakhin, whose father was born in Alforyovka, said the hospital had been a bleak place. — AFP

INTER-KOREA TALK'S FAILURE HIGHLIGHTS DEEP MISTRUST

SEOUL: The mutual recriminations after the failure of North and South Korea's latest talks underline the depth of distrust and animosity that has plagued cross-border relations for decades. The rare high-level talks ended Saturday night after two days of marathon negotiations produced no agreement on any issues—not even an agreement on whether to meet again.

The talks between vice ministers, with a mandate to address a broad but unspecified range of inter-Korean issues, were the first of their type for nearly two years. While no substantial breakthrough had been expected, hopes for some tangible progress in stalled cooperation projects were dashed as the meeting became deadlocked from the very beginning over the

agenda.

The cash-strapped North wanted the South to resume lucrative tours to its scenic Mount Kumgang resort, which Seoul suspended in 2008 after a female tourist was shot dead by a North Korean guard. But Seoul refused to talk about the issue and sought instead to focus on ways to hold another round of family reunions for those separated by the 1950-53 Korean War.

Key issues

Pyongyang tried to make the resumption of the tours a precondition for discussions on reunions, according to Seoul's chief delegate Hwang Boo-Gi. The North's state agency KCNA later accused Seoul of refusing to discuss "core issues" and resorting to "unreason-

able assertion" that hobbled the talks.

Previous efforts to establish a regular dialogue have often quickly faltered after an initial meeting—a reflection of the deep mistrust between two countries that have remained technically at war since their conflict six decades ago. Since both sides refuse to budge on key issues, a breakthrough in relations will be hard to achieve in coming months, said Cheong Seong-Chang of the South's Sejong Institute think-tank.

"I doubt that the Koreans will ever reach any agreement for a while even if there are to be talks any time soon," he said. For the impoverished and isolated North, a reunion of hundreds of cross-border families is a highly taxing project economically and politically, Cheong said, urging Seoul to take a more flexi-

ble stance over the pressing humanitarian issue.

Millions of family members were separated by the war that sealed the division of the Korean peninsula. Most have died without ever seeing or hearing from relatives on the other side of the border. Pyongyang has rejected repeated requests from Seoul to make the reunions—the last of which took place in October—more frequent and of longer duration.

Yang Moo-Jin, professor at Seoul's University of North Korean Studies, said the South's refusal to discuss resumption of the tour program—which was widely believed before the meeting to have been on the agenda—appeared to have left Pyongyang "deeply mistrustful" of Seoul. "It looks like the talks failed to

establish a much-needed basic level of trust between the two Koreas," he said.

The North's leader Kim Jong-Un is expected to celebrate in May the first conference of the ruling Workers' Party since 1980. Analysts said restarting the tour programs would have been a useful propaganda victory for him as well as providing a source of much-needed hard currency. But after the latest negotiations fell apart, Pyongyang would likely focus on preparations for the conference rather than dialogue, Yang said, adding an upcoming South Korean-US joint army exercise would also mar the prospects for fresh talks. Seoul and its ally Washington are set to stage in March the annual Key Resolve exercise, which the North has for years slammed as a preparation for invasion. — AFP

26 KILLED, MORE WOUNDED IN PAKISTAN MARKET BOMBING

PESHAWAR: A bomb hidden in a bag ripped through a crowded bazaar in a mainly Shiite area of Pakistan's northwestern tribal region yesterday, killing at least 26 people and wounding more than 30, officials said. The death toll was expected to rise after the explosion at the Eidgah used-clothes market in Parachinar city, the capital of Kurram tribal district on the border with Afghanistan.

"We have received 16 dead bodies and 30 people are being treated at the hospital now and we have discharged over a dozen others who had sustained minor injuries," a doctor at the government-run district headquarters hospital told AFP, requesting anonymity. He said eight of the injured were in critical condition.

Amjad Ali Khan, the political administrator of Kurram, confirmed the toll and said the most seriously wounded were taken by helicopter to the region's main city of Peshawar. "It was an IED (Improvised Explosive Device) blast, the bomb had been hidden in a bag left at the market," he added. Local television footage showed hundreds of male market goers fleeing the area, which was strewn with clothing and debris, as police tried to cordon off the location and ambulances rushed to the site.

Sectarian violence

No one immediately claimed responsi-

bility for the attack, but the region is known for sectarian clashes between Sunnis and Shiites, who make up roughly 20 percent of Pakistan's population of 200 million. Kurram is one of Pakistan's seven semi-autonomous tribal districts which are governed according to local laws and customs.

They are the frontline of Pakistan's battle against an Islamist insurgency that began in 2004 after the US-led invasion of Afghanistan forced Taliban and Al-Qaeda militants to flee across the border. The insurgency has claimed the lives of around 25,000 civilians and security forces' personnel, according to the South Asia Terror Portal. Overall levels of violence have decreased this year following a nationwide military-led offensive against militants. The army issued a statement Saturday trumpeting its achievements, claiming it had killed more than "3,400 terrorists" since last December and convicted a further 31 militants in military courts that were established in January.

It added it had lost 488 personnel over the past 18 months in the offensive. The crackdown has also included groups who target Shiites and preachers who incite hatred. In July the leader of an anti-Shiite group behind some of Pakistan's worst sectarian atrocities was killed in a shootout with police, along with 13 other extremists. — AFP



PESHAWAR: In this photograph taken on December 8, 2015, Pakistani family members and parents of the victims of the deadliest Taliban assault on an army-run school in the northwestern city of Peshawar on December 16, 2014, weep as they attend a ceremony at Peshawar University to pay tributes to the victims. — AFP

ZERO ANSWERS FOR REVENGE-SEEKING PAKISTAN SCHOOL MASSACRE PARENTS

DEAFENING SILENCE FROM AUTHORITIES

PESHAWAR: Peshawar's parents are seeking retribution: not only from the Taliban gunmen who slaughtered their children one year ago, but from a state they say has not yet answered for the nightmare they are still living. The massacre saw nine extremists scale the walls of an army-run school in the northwestern Pakistani city, lobbing grenades and opening fire on terrified children and teachers, murdering them one by one before being killed by security services.

Many of the mothers and fathers of more than 130 children murdered in the December 16 attack are ethnic Pashtun, their lives infused with the tribal code of ethics of which badal-or revenge-is a cornerstone. As such they take grim satisfaction in knowing that the military has wreaked its vengeance on the insurgents with hangings, arrests, and an offensive in the tribal areas where militants had previously operated with impunity. But the same parents are railing against a deafening silence from authorities over how a securi-

ty apparatus put in place to protect them could have failed their children so completely.

"At least someone at some level was responsible...

"Why don't they talk about it?" asks Abid Raza Bangash, whose 15-year-old son Rafiq was among those slaughtered. The assault-in which 134 children and 17 adults died, according to the army-shocked and outraged Pakistanis, already scarred by nearly a decade of attacks, and prompted a crackdown on extremism in civil society. But no government, security or military official has yet been held to public account. Bangash left his job as an engineer to become head of the Shuhada (Martyrs) Forum, a lobbying group of parents of the victims who gather on the 16th of every month in the city's cultural centre, Nishtar Hall. "We want a fact-finding inquiry commission headed by a senior judge to probe this incident. The findings of that commission should be made public," he told AFP. "Still my heart is crying," he says,

remembering his bright son. "How can I forget him?"

'We want them hanged'

In August, after a military trial that took place behind closed doors, the army announced that six militants linked to the Peshawar assault would be executed, while a seventh was given a life sentence. On December 2, four were hanged at dawn in a prison in the northwestern city of Kohat, enraging parents who wanted to witness their deaths.

"All the nation wanted to see these animals hanged publicly so others would not dare follow their example," Bangash told AFP angrily after the executions. "Being a Pashtun, I think public hanging would be a remedy for the parents a sort of relief to them," said Ajun Khan, whose only son Asfand, a 10th grader, was among the children killed. But Khan said even public executions would not deter the parents from their quest for a judicial inquiry. — AFP



KURRAM: Pakistani men gather beside the bodies of victims of a bomb explosion at a market in Parachinar, the capital of Kurram tribal district. — AFP

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Focus

MUSLIM AMERICANS
STRUGGLE WITH FALLOUT
FROM CALIF ATTACK

By Alana Wise

With tears in her eyes, Mohammad Halisi's young daughter asked her father "Why are we bad?" after seeing reports that a Muslim couple killed 14 people in California last week, and wanted to know whether she should hide the fact she is Muslim from others at her school. Recalling the conversation while choking back his own tears, the 61-year-old father said he felt frustrated that he and his family were being held responsible for the actions of people he branded "a couple of idiot terrorists".

"It's getting to a point where you have to hide who you are," Halisi said on Friday night at the Islamic Society of Corona-Norco mosque where leaders and law enforcement met to address negative perceptions of the Muslim community. "Seven-year-old kids cannot say they're Muslims because of the bad atmosphere we have."

The mosque is just 40 km from San Bernardino, where US-born Syed Rizwan Farook, 28, and his Pakistani-born wife Tashfeen Malik, 29, opened fire on his co-workers last week in what the US Federal Bureau of Investigation is treating as an act of terror. Malik had pledged allegiance to Islamic State on Facebook around the time of the attack and the FBI believes the two had been radicalized for some time.

Muslim Americans across the country have said they are worried about a backlash, as happened in the aftermath of the Sept 11, 2001 attacks. A handful of incidents at mosques and a rash of anti-Muslim political rhetoric over the last week appear to be compounding their fears of growing Islamophobia. On Friday, a fire burned the entrance to a mosque in Southern California's Coachella Valley, some 75 miles from San Bernardino. A 23-year-old man was arrested on suspicion of arson and for committing a hate crime, the Los Angeles Times reported. A pig's head was thrown at a mosque in Philadelphia on Monday and a mosque in Jersey City, New Jersey received a letter calling Muslims "evil" and telling them to "go back to the desert".

Several U.S. mosques this year have been subjected to protests by armed groups. On Saturday, a group of fewer than 10 people, some wearing camouflage and rifles slung over their shoulders, stood outside a mosque in the Dallas suburb of Richardson and held signs and American flags, according to images and reports from local media.

'We Feel it More'

US President Barack Obama asked Americans on Sunday to not turn against Muslims after the Paris and San Bernardino attacks, but rather work with the Muslim-American community in fighting home-grown extremism. But then Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump ratcheted up the rhetoric on Monday by calling for a ban on Muslim immigrants, students and other travelers entering the country, provoking sharp rebukes across the US political spectrum and from abroad.

Close to San Bernardino, at the Islamic Center of Riverside, where Farook once prayed regularly, members said mosque attendance continued to be low because people did not feel safe. "Because this happened next door and because our mosque was mentioned, we feel it more," said a 50-year-old Palestinian immigrant who knew Farook but declined to be identified by name.

It is not just Muslims that fear the attacks on Muslims. Around the corner from the Islamic Society of the Coachella Valley, where Friday's fire occurred, neighbor Israel Orantes said he was concerned about safety, given that it was the second time in about a year the mosque was targeted. "We are exposed over here," said Orantes, who has lived on what he described as a peaceful, neighborly street for 14 years. It did not help, he added, that Trump was stirring up animosity with his comments. "We know we have crazy Muslims, crazy Christians around. They think attacking the mosque is the solution, but we're over here, exposed," he said in front of his home. —Reuters

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A LA CARTE ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

By Bruce Wallace

At the end of bargaining, when the last bracketed differences in diplomatic language were [glossed over], the global climate accord that emerged from two weeks of talks in Paris proved to be a very a la carte deal. The intentional flexibility of the Paris agreement was constructed not only to accommodate the diversity of 195 national interests. It had to compensate for its limited legal authority with enough aspirational language to send governments away confident that a global turn from fossil fuels to cleaner energy sources was inevitable.

"You cannot always press the parties to do something on your own terms," UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon told Reuters in an interview just hours before the agreement was adopted but not in serious doubt. "Just motivate the parties so that they do it in their own way." Most countries in Paris accept that they face a wicked problem in trying to stop rising global temperatures. With some exceptions, there is a willingness to get off dirty energy sources, though many will still need to burn a lot of coal for quite a while. All know it will take billions of dollars to get there.

What no one wanted to accept was an onerous collection of international rules dictating how they do it. The final accord therefore repeatedly "invites," "urges," "requests" and "further requests" countries to take action. The most ambitious goals - such as holding the increase in global temperatures to 1.5 Celsius degrees above pre-industrial levels - are aspirational, requiring belief that technologies yet to be invented will offer a realistic route to achieving them.

Ban called the coming together in Paris "the apex of multilateralism." And while he said the U.N. will actively encourage implementation of the deal, the real action on climate change has clearly moved to the national

and local level, where hard strategic choices lie ahead for governments, big business executives and energy start-ups alike.

"This text will send signals to civil society, consumers and businesses," said Hans Joachim Schellnhuber, Director of the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research as he mulled the prospects for the world to reach the 1.5 degree Celsius target someday. "It will be up to business, consumers, citizens and particularly investors to finish the job."

A Shift Underway

By almost all estimates, the transition to a low carbon economy will need to summon trillions of dollars for investment in renewable energies, conservation and subsidies for those new sources to compete with fossil fuels. The shift is already underway. Coal prices have collapsed in the developed world, pressured by tough pollution regulations as well as newly abundant natural gas supplies. The last deep pit coal mines in Britain - birthplace of the fossil fuel-driven Industrial Revolution - are closing, and the price of energy produced from solar panels is falling.

"From now, on, the smart money will no longer go into fossil fuels, but into cleaner energy, smarter cities, and more sustainable land use," said Felipe Calderon, former President of Mexico, one of the world's biggest oil producers. Now chair of the Global Commission on the Economy and Climate, Calderon argued that governments must turn their commitments in Paris into policy, adding that they will find "these actions are also in their economic self-interest."

With some passionate exceptions, civil society groups also appeared energized by the Paris deal. Many chose to see a half-full version of the text, vowing to seize the spirit of Paris to step up a global movement to get investors to divest their holdings from fossil fuel

companies. "Since pace is the crucial question now, activists must redouble our efforts to weaken that industry," said Bill McKibben, co-founder of 350.org, a grassroots movement that campaigns for divestment and direct action against projects that would further develop and transport fossil fuels.

Still, countries face distinct hurdles in driving energy changes at home. The Obama administration has come close to exhausting the use of executive authority to push new regulations that would cut carbon emissions. Nor is any new legislative action remotely likely as long as Republicans control the US Congress. The party has made clear they don't buy the argument that climate change is a serious problem, and it has no intention of voting to fund the US contributions to helping developing countries convert their economies to a low carbon future. It has also joined the fossil fuel industry and many states in a legal challenge to Obama administration regulations that would cut pollution from power plants.

Meanwhile in India, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is determined to electrify rural India, a gargantuan feat only possible at the moment by producing and burning vast amounts of cheap coal. Modi sees electrification as the route to improving the lives of millions of Indians, as well as a way to entrench the political appeal of his Bharatiya Janata Party with voters in rural areas. "We should appreciate the challenges India has," Ban told Reuters. "Three hundred million people do not have access to electricity and hundreds of millions of people live under the poverty level."

How to square those demands for social and economic justice with the promises made in Paris is the calibration politicians and business leaders will now have to make. Those choices will determine whether the architects of Paris showed foresight with their creative flexibility, or just let everyone off the hook. —Reuters

CRIMEA FACES LONG ROAD TO POWER SECURITY

By Anastasia Lyrchikova and Alexander Winning

The Kremlin is trying to reassure residents of Crimea, left in the dark after electricity supplies from Ukraine were cut off, that it is coming to their rescue by installing a power link with Russia. But the reality is that it will take many months of complex engineering before Russia can provide Crimea with a secure electricity supply, while Western sanctions over the peninsula's annexation have made it more difficult to buy the best equipment for the job.

The electricity problems are a stark reminder that when Vladimir Putin last year decided to make Crimea part of Russia he was not just courting international outcry but also taking on huge practical problems about how to sustain a peninsula that is physically cut off from Russia. Crimea was plunged into darkness around three weeks ago after electricity pylons in southern Ukraine that carry the four lines that supply Crimea with the bulk of its power were blown up by unidentified people.

The authorities in Ukraine, where anger over the annexation last year is still raw, have shown little urgency in restoring the power supplies. Russia has flown in emergency generators that cover some of Crimea's power needs, and Ukraine has partially restored power. But until Crimea is fully hooked up to the Russian grid, it will be vulnerable to power disruptions. Moscow's response has been to speed up work on a so-called "energy bridge" - a series of cables along the seabed - it is building across the

Kerch Strait that separates Russia from Crimea.

That project was launched by Putin on a visit to Crimea on Dec. 2, but its transmission capacity remains limited and Russian officials have largely glossed over the huge engineering challenges the remaining work will entail. "The issue is really pressured. The energy bridge is not just an underwater cable, you see," said Sergei Pikin, director of Russian consultancy Energy Development Fund. "It's difficult work that normally takes years to complete."

Energy Bridge

Russia has hired a Chinese firm, Hengtong, to supply the power cables to be laid across the Kerch Strait, a source at a Western electrical corporation said. Russia's Kommersant newspaper also reported the Chinese firm was supplying the cables. The Western source also noted, however, that Chinese companies have much less experience in this field than those cut off from the project due to sanctions. The previous time Russia laid an under-sea cable for such a project, in 2011 between the Pacific port of Vladivostok and the island of Ruskyy, it contracted a Japanese firm to supply the cable. A French company supplied the cable for a link under Lake Baikal in Siberia, completed in 2005.

Hengtong did not respond to questions submitted by Reuters about its role in the project. Russia's Energy Ministry declined to say who was supplying the cables. If everything goes to plan, by June next year all the cables planned for the energy bridge will be

laid. "850 Megawatts is what it will be possible to send via the energy bridge from May 2016, without any risk to the energy system of the south of Russia," Deputy Energy Minister Andrei Cherezov told Reuters. That should allow Crimea to plug its electricity deficit with supplies from Russia, according to Vladimir Sklyar, director for utilities research at Renaissance Capital.

But the challenges don't end with the undersea cables. Russia must also build electricity substations and lay new transmission lines on either side of the Kerch Strait to connect the new cables to the existing networks. Analysts say that because Crimea's power has always come from the north, via a neighbouring Ukrainian region, its grid is set up to handle north-to-south flows, and now will have to be re-configured to take in power from the east.

Enduring Solution

Work must be done too on the Russian side of the bridge to ensure there is sufficient spare capacity in the southern portion of Russia's grid to supply power to Crimea. E.ON Russia, controlled by German firm E.ON, said on Thursday it was interested in building generating capacity in the Krasnodar region, which Russian authorities have said could be used to send power to Crimea. Maxim Shirokov, E.ON Russia's head, told journalists: "It will supply electricity to the wholesale market. ... The same thing that we're doing at the moment. Therefore I don't see any risks linked to this."

Experts say power stations in Crimea itself offer a more enduring solution to

the peninsula's energy needs. Russia plans to build these near Crimea's capital Simferopol and Sevastopol, home to its Black Sea fleet. The first blocks at those stations are due to come online in Sept 2017, and their generating capacity is to be doubled to around 940 Megawatts the following year. That will ensure Crimea is self-sufficient and can use the bridge as backup or during times of peak consumption, when around 1.3 Gigawatts of electricity are needed.

But the power plants are some way from being completed, and sourcing machinery could present problems. With a few exceptions Russian firms do not produce the powerful gas turbines often installed in Russian power stations. Such turbines are usually bought from Germany's Siemens, France's Alstom and General Electric of the United States. Alstom said it had received no requests to supply equipment to Crimea and declined to comment on whether it was prepared to deliver supplies there. Siemens did not respond to a request for comment, and GE declined comment. If those suppliers were to sign contracts to provide equipment for power stations in Crimea, they run the risk of violating sanctions. Finding an alternative solution is liable to be time-consuming and expensive. On top of that would be the challenges of upgrading a power network that was already creaking after years of under-investment from Kiev. "There is several years' work to bring the system into a good, stable condition," a source in Russia's utilities sector said. "No one has managed such a task over the past 50-60 years. Of course it won't be easy." —Reuters



A young Malaysian girl walks in front of a Christmas tree at a mall in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. — AP

NOW COMES THE TOUGH PART: WORLD'S...

Continued from Page 1

Leading up to the Paris Agreement, nearly every nation formed an individual action plan to cut or at least slow the growth of carbon pollution over the next decade or so. Richer nations that have already developed, like the United States, Europe and Japan, pledged to cut now. Developing nations that say they need fossil fuels to pull themselves out of poverty pledged to slow the rate of growth for now, and to cut later.

"The EU and US are all on Slim-Fast," said Paul Bledsoe, a former Clinton administration climate official. "China's still hitting fast food, but will have to stop soon." China, the world's top carbon polluter, will eventually have to make the biggest cuts. Overall, for the world to hit its new target, global carbon dioxide emissions will have to peak by 2030, maybe earlier, and then fall to near-zero, experts said. Those levels have been generally rising since the industrial revolution. A new study suggests emissions may have fallen slightly this year, but that may be a blip.

Without any efforts to limit global warming, the world would have warmed by 3.5 degrees Celsius from now by 2100, according to Climate Interactive. But China's submitted plan alone would cut that projected warming by 1.3 degrees, according to Climate Interactive. The US plan trims about six tenths of a degree of the projected warming without a global deal.

And while China is now the No. 1 carbon dioxide polluter with more than a quarter of the world's emissions, carbon dioxide stays in the air for at least a century, so historical emissions are important. Since 1870, the US is responsible for 18 percent of the world's carbon pollution, compared to 13 percent for China.

That all sounds good, but the goals the nations have set aren't enough. Taken together, they would still allow temperatures to rise 2.5 degrees Celsius by the end of the century from now, so to reach the goals agreed on this weekend countries will need to do more, Climate Interactive found. Another climate modeling group, Climate Action Tracker, is slightly more optimistic, but still finds the nations' plans would miss the goal of limiting temperature rise to one more degree. It says the current proposals would allow a rise of 1.7 degrees Celsius.

Countries agreed Saturday to take another look at their goals every five years. "Clearly countries must be exercising their low-carbon muscles more," said Rachel Cleetus, climate policy manager for the Union of Concern Scientists. French President Francois Hollande took the first step as he praised the Paris Agreement. He said France would ratchet up its goals and efforts earlier than required and challenged other nations to do the same. "The world starts tomorrow" UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon told climate negotiators. He said that Saturday. — AP

DEATH SENTENCE UPHELD OVER MOSQUE...

Continued from Page 1

The bombing, the worst terror attack in Kuwait's history, was carried out by a Saudi citizen and claimed by the Islamic State group. Among those acquitted yesterday was Jarrah Nimr, owner of the car used to drop off the bomber.

In other developments, MP Abdullah Al-Turajji yesterday questioned the interior minister about how Mahmoud Hajji Haider, a prominent Kuwaiti businessman, got Kuwaiti citizenship by birth, known as first-degree Kuwaiti nationality. The lawmaker asked the minister about the documents by which Haider received his citizenship. He also asked if any of Haider's sisters have also received citizenship and on what basis. Turajji also inquired about the way other relatives of Haider, a Kuwaiti of Iranian origin, obtained Kuwaiti citizenship.

Lawmaker Abdulhameed Dashti however strongly criticized Turajji for asking about Haider's nationality, saying that Haider has been in Kuwait long before Turajji himself.

Dashti earlier criticized Turajji for sending a series of questions about Kuwait and Gulf Link Co (KGL) and its activities at Kuwaiti ports. The company is owned by a Kuwaiti Shiite family. MP Mohammad Al-Jabri meanwhile threatened to grill Communications Minister Essa Al-Kandari if he does not answer questions about KGL.

Meanwhile, a decision by the legal and legislative committee to approve a proposal to stop medical treatment abroad for Kuwaiti patients caused an uproar. The proposal was sent to the health committee to study it and will finally go to the Assembly for a vote. MP Sultan Al-Shemmari said he is confident the health committee will not pass it while MP Majed Mousa said the proposal is not constitutional. MP Faisal Al-Duwaisan however said the proposal aims to force the government to hire highly professional doctors and to invite highly experienced physicians from abroad to provide medical treatment in the country. The government pays hundreds of millions of dinars every year to send Kuwaiti patients overseas.



A photographer looks at the sky at night to see the annual Geminid meteor shower on Elva Hill in Maira Valley near Cuneo, northern Italy, on Saturday. — AFP

VAST DESERT SUN FARM TO HELP LIGHT...

Continued from Page 1

King Mohamed VI launched construction of the plant, called Noor 1, in 2013, at a cost of \$660 million (\$660 million) and involving roughly 1,000 workers. Its start of operations by the end of this month was set to coincide with the conclusion of high-stakes COP21 global climate talks in Paris. "Construction work has finished," said Obaid Amran, a board member of Morocco's solar power agency. "We are testing components of the production units with a view to connecting them to the national grid at the end of the year." The project's next phases - Noor 2 and Noor 3 - are to follow in 2016 and 2017, and a call for tenders is open for Noor 4.

Once all phases are complete, Noor will be "the largest solar power production facility in the world," its developers say, covering an area of 30 sq km. It will generate 580 megawatts and provide electricity to a million homes. The solar power project will also help reduce the country's greenhouse gas emissions. The energy ministry estimates that its first solar power plant will allow the country to reduce CO2 emissions by 240,000 tonnes per year initially, and by 522,000 tonnes with the second two phases. That is equivalent to nearly one percent of Morocco's CO2 emissions of around 56.5 million tonnes in 2011, according to World Bank figures.

The so-called "greenhouse effect" is a natural phenomenon - an invisible blanket of gases including small amounts of carbon dioxide (CO2) - that has made Earth warm enough for humans to survive on it comfortably. But human activities such as burning coal and oil inject additional CO2 into the atmosphere, leading to global warming. Humanity's annual output of greenhouse gases is higher than ever, totalling just under 53 billion tonnes of CO2 in 2014, according to the UN.

Morocco, to host next year's COP22, aims to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 32 percent by 2030 as it develops renewable energy production. "We have a project to introduce 6,000 megawatts to the existing electricity production nationwide," Energy Minister Abdelkader Amara said recently. "Two thousand megawatts will come from solar energy and 2,000 megawatts from wind and hydro-electric power."

Morocco started producing electricity at Africa's largest wind farm in its southwestern coastal region of Tarfaya last year. "Things have been going well so far," the minister said. "We're likely to go beyond 2,000 megawatts by 2020 in the area of wind power." But Rabat has not abandoned fossil fuels altogether - last December, Amara announced a multi-billion-dollar project to step up Morocco's search for natural gas to produce electricity. — AFP

19 WOMEN WIN IN HISTORIC SAUDI VOTE

Continued from Page 1

Lama bint Abdulaziz Al-Sulaiman, Rasha Hafza, Sana Abdulatif Abdulwahab Al-Hamam and Massoumeh Al-Reda won seats in Jeddah. In northern Saudi Arabia, Hanouf bint Mufreh bin Ayad Al-Hazimi won a seat in Al-Jawf, Mina Salman Saeed Al-Omairi and Fadhila Afnan Muslim Al-Attawi both won seats in the Northern Borders province.

Two women won seats in Al-Ahsa in Eastern Province, but their names were not immediately released. Elsewhere in the province, Khadra Al-Mubarak won a seat in Qatif district. In the southern Jazan province, Aisha bint Hamoud Ali Bakri won a seat. In Qassim, traditionally the most conservative part of the country, two women were elected but their names were not immediately released. Another was elected in Al-Babtain district.

The mayor of Makkah, Osama Al-Bar, told AP yesterday that Oteibi won in a village called Madrasah, about 150 km north of the city which houses the cube-shaped Kaaba to which Muslims around the world pray. Many women candidates ran on platforms that promised more nurseries to offer longer daycare hours for working mothers, the creation of youth centers with sports and cultural activities, improved roads, better garbage collection and overall greener cities.

In October, the Saudi Gazette reported that harsh road conditions and long distances to the nearest hospital had forced some women in the village of Madrasah, where Oteibi was elected, to give birth in cars. The local newspaper reported that the closest hospital and the nearest university were in Makkah, prompting some students to forgo attending classes. The article said residents were also frustrated with the lack of parks in the village. It is precisely these kinds of community issues that female candidates hope to address once elected to the municipal councils.

The duties of municipal councils are limited to local affairs including responsibility for streets, public gardens and garbage collection. The councils do not have legislative powers, but advise authorities and help oversee local budgets. 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, and polling stations were segregated during the ballot. More than 900 women were among the 6,440 candidates running for seats on 284 councils. They had to overcome a number of obstacles to participate in the landmark poll. Female candi-

dates could not meet face-to-face with male voters during campaigning, while neither men nor women could publish their pictures.

Women voters said registration was hindered by factors including bureaucratic obstacles and a lack of transportation. As a result, women accounted for less than 10 percent of registered voters. According to election commission data, nearly 1.5 million people aged 18 and above signed up for the polls. This included about 119,000 women, out of a total native Saudi population of almost 21 million.

At least two parts of the country reported a female turnout of around 80 percent, according to official data. In the mountainous Baha region, female turnout was around 82 percent while about half the registered male voters cast ballots, data showed. In neighboring Asir, turnout was about 79 percent for women and 52 percent for men. Female candidates expressed pride in running, even if they didn't think they would win, while women voters said they were happy at finally being able to do something they had only seen on television or in movies.

Nassima Al-Sadah, an activist in the eastern city of Qatif, said the voting process itself took place relatively smoothly, unlike the registration. Many female candidates used social media to campaign, but a handful of others, including women's rights activists, were disqualified from the process. Oil-rich Saudi Arabia boasts modern infrastructure of highways, skyscrapers and ever-more shopping malls. But women still require 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. A slow expansion of women's rights began under Salman's predecessor Abdullah who announced four years ago that women would take part in the 2015 municipal elections. Men have voted since 2005 in the local polls.

In Jeddah, three generations of women from the same family cast ballots for the first time. The oldest woman in the family was 94 year-old Naela Mohammad Nasief. Her daughter, Sahar Hassan Nasief, said the experience marked "the beginning" of greater rights for women in Saudi Arabia, who are not allowed to drive and are governed by laws that give men the ultimate say over aspects of their lives like marriage, travel and higher education. "I walked in and said 'I've have never seen this before. Only in the movies,'" the daughter said, referring to the ballot box. "It was a thrilling experience." — Agencies

CARTER ADMITS TO NERVES BUT THRIVES ON RACING CAMARADERIE

PARIS: All Black legend Dan Carter admitted to nerves before his debut for Racing 92 in the European Champions Cup, but insisted the Parisian club could beat anyone thanks to the camaraderie amongst his expensively assembled, multi-national teammates.

An early warning shot already fired cross the bow to three-time reigning European champions Toulon, at the other end of France but with a similarly rich president-cum-benefactor and loaded squad. "I was a little bit nervous before the game, I was unsure about how I would go after having six weeks off after the World Cup. But the team made it pretty easy for me by the way they stepped up," Carter said.

Test rugby's leading points scorer and last season's world player of the year after leading the All Blacks to a second World Cup triumph, Carter was at his effortless best in the 33-3 thumping of Northampton on Saturday.

The 33-year-old, capped 112 times by New Zealand, nailed three of his four conversion attempts, and looked comfortable sitting deep in the pocket and letting Wales scrum-half Mike Phillips dictate the run of play. Seventeen passes, five kicks out of hand and one run at the English club's defence summed up Carter's afternoon.

The New Zealander, however, also never shirked from his defensive duties, making 10 tackles, and rode some challenges from England hitman Courtney Lawes, lined up at blindside flanker for the Saints.

"The first kick from the touchline wasn't that easy, but I just went through my usual routine and I was pretty happy that it sailed through. That took a bit of weight off my shoulders," Carter said of his first conversion. "The legs were a bit heavy and my lungs were blowing a bit after six weeks not playing ... but it was good to get back out there." Carter added: "I really enjoyed the experience. The crowd

were good, it's been an awesome first couple of weeks and now I just want to keep playing.

"Hopefully I can keep building on this performance because it's brilliant to be here playing for this great club. "Credit to my teammates, they helped me so well and to have such a comprehensive win was pleasing. "The forward pack laid the foundation for all game and gave us go-forward and made it pretty easy for the back line."

The Racing backrow of Wencelsas Lauret, Yannick Nyanga and ex-All Black No 8 Chris Masoe impressed, along with Wales lock Luke Charteris and imposing ex-Chiefs prop Ben Tamiefuna.

'A REAL UNITED NATIONS'

"You look at the talent here, there are so many French internationals, Kiwis, South Africans, it's a real United Nations," Carter said of the club bankrolled by property tycoon Jacy Lorenzetti.

"But talent is not going to be what wins this

competition, it's about how we all gel together. "We showed out there that we do come together well as a team and on our day we could beat anyone.

"We've a great bunch of guys and there's a really good camaraderie in the squad. We've lots of amazing individual players from different countries, there's plenty of unity and overall, it's a lot of fun for me to here."

While insisting his team could beat anyone on their day, Carter insisted that keeping focus was key.

"Northampton will be disappointed and I'm sure they will be a different side next week," he said after Racing ran in five tries, including two from full-back Brice Dulin, to just a solitary JJ Hanrahan penalty for the Saints. "We know it's going to be pretty tough next week at Northampton, so it's important that we recover well. "We'll enjoy this victory, but we'll be concentrating on the return match we've won nothing and it's another huge game for us next weekend," he said. — AFP

HANYU HEROICS AS ASADA SUFFERS GP FINAL MELTDOWN

BARCELONA: Japan's Yuzuru Hanyu basked in the glory of another record-breaking night at the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final as Mao Asada suffered a meltdown on the Barcelona ice. The 21-year-old Hanyu took an unprecedented third straight men's gold with Spain's world champion Javier Fernandez taking silver, as he had last year, and Japanese newcomer Shoma Uno taking bronze.

The reigning Olympic champion was in a class of his own as he followed his world record short programme of 110.95 points on Thursday with a new free skate record of 219.48 for an overall 330.43.

The performance came two weeks after his world record 322.40 at the NHK Trophy in Nagano, where he became the first skater to break the 200-point mark in the free skate and the 300-point barrier overall. But for Asada, 25, it was a night to forget in the International Convention Centre, as she stumbled to last in the six-skater women's field. The three-time world champion was lying third, only 5.45 points behind Russia's Evgenia Medvedeva after the short programme.

But it was a trio of teens who took the medals with Medvedeva winning her first major title at 16, ahead of Japan's Satoko Miyahara, 17, and Russian Elena Radionova, 16. Asada was struggling from her opening triple Axel jump in her "Madame Butterfly" free skate, popping the following planned triple-triple combination.

She landed four triples, but the error-strewn presentation saw her achieve a below-par 125.19 in her free skate for a total of 194.32. "I'm very disappointed I couldn't perform the way I wanted to," said the 2010 Olympic silver medalist, who was bidding for a record fifth women's crown a decade after she won her first GP Final gold. "I had a lot of mistakes, I have to change my mindset, refocus

and do better at the next competition." The pressure is now on Asada, who is on the comeback trail after a season off, as the Japanese national championships begin on December 24 with only the top two qualifying for the world championships. Miyahara's routine to "Un Sospiro" by Franz Liszt saw seven clean triple jumps, intricate spins and footwork.

'Absolutely majestic'

The 2015 world silver medalist achieved a new personal best 140.09 points and moved up from fourth to second with 208.85. "I was nervous at first but when I got the first jump I thought, 'OK, I can do this'," explained the 17-year-old from Kyoto.

"I didn't think I would get 140 points, so I am really happy. "Of course this gives me confidence... but there is always room to improve. "My next goal is nationals, and to get a higher score in the short programme."

Hanyu reeled off a quadruple Salchow, quadruple toeloop, quadruple-triple toeloop and six triple jumps including two Axels in his exquisite programme to Japanese movie soundtrack "Seimei".

On the road to reclaiming the world title he lost last year to training-partner Fernandez, Hanyu will bid for a fourth straight national title in Hokkaido. "I don't feel absolutely majestic yet. I realise there are only two spots for the worlds," said the Toronto-based skater.

World junior champion Uno pulled out two quads and seven triples to "Turandot", scoring 190.32 points, improving his personal best for 276.79 overall.

"I'm very pleased with today's performance, especially the jumps which are my best so far," said the skater from Nagoya. "I was surprised to get over 190 points. I'm satisfied with what I've done today but this is not a goal it's just a starting point." — AFP



VAL D'ISERE: First placed Norway's Henrik Kristoffersen, center, celebrates with second placed Austria's Marcel Hirscher, left, and third placed Felix Neureuther, of Germany on the podium of a men's World Cup slalom in Val D'Isere, France, yesterday. — AP

KRISTOFFERSEN WINS WORLD CUP SLALOM RACE

VAL D'ISERE: Henrik Kristoffersen of Norway easily protected his lead from the first run to win a World Cup slalom race yesterday, beating Marcel Hirscher of Austria by 1.09 seconds.

Hirscher, who earned a record fifth win in Val d'Isere in the giant slalom on Saturday, was eighth after the morning run but powered down the second run to keep the pressure on.

The 21-year-old Kristoffersen won his fifth career race and fourth in slalom. His other win was in GS at another French Alpine resort in Meribel in March during the world finals, and his previous slalom win was at the Slovenian resort of Kranjska Gora - a week before Meribel. Kristoffersen is also an Olympic bronze medalist in slalom. Felix Neureuther of Germany improved from fifth in the morning to take third ahead of American David Chodounsky - who secured a career-best fourth place and a fifth top-10 finish. The 31-year-old Chodounsky's previous best was fifth at a City event in Moscow in 2013. In December of that year, he also placed

seventh in slalom at Val d'Isere, which is becoming one of his favorite courses.

Veteran Julien Lizeroux, the 2009 world championship silver medalist in slalom, also had a good day, taking fifth place. It was the 36-year-old Frenchman's first top-five slalom finish since placing fourth at the German resort of Garmisch Partenkirchen in 2010. Chodounsky's impressive performance was also a welcome boost for the US team, softening the blow of another disappointing day for Ted Ligety, who tied 20th with Austrian Michael Matt. Ligety failed to qualify for the second run in Saturday's GS, having crashed in the Beaver Creek GS last weekend. Meanwhile, Kristoffersen enjoyed better luck than Saturday, when he was just .14 behind.

Olympic silver medalist Hirscher after the first run but went out after straddling a gate on the top section in the second run. In clear and crisp morning conditions on the choppy Face de Bellevalde course, Kristoffersen edged countryman Sebastian Foss-Solevaag by .31 seconds

and was a more comfortable .79 clear of Frenchman Alexis Pinturault. Neither joined him on the podium. Foss-Solevaag's second run ended early when he straddled a gate. Pinturault set off at a tremendous speed - drawing a massive roar from the home fans when he clocked 1.13 ahead of Hirscher at the first split - but then he mistimed a gate and went up on his skis and out.

The conditions were not so good by the lunchtime second run and taking risks proved costly for some. Two-time world slalom champion Jean-Baptiste Grange, ninth after the first run, stumbled badly on the top section and then missed a gate lower down as he tried everything to gain time.

Italian Giuliano Razzoli, a contender for a podium spot, lamented his luck after also failing to finish. Seeking a fifth straight overall World Cup title, the 26-year-old Hirscher already holds a commanding lead, but Kristoffersen's classy performance will give him something to think about in slalom. — AP



BARCELONA: (L-R) Second placed Spanish skater Javier Fernandez, winner Japanese skater Yuzuru Hanyu and third placed Japanese skater Shoma Uno pose on the podium sporting their medals during the awarding ceremony after the Men Free Skating program of the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final 2015 in Barcelona. — AFP

MCGREGOR STOPS ALDO IN 13 SECONDS, WINS UFC BELT

LAS VEGAS: Conor McGregor stopped Jose Aldo with one spectacular punch just 13 seconds into the first round Saturday night, backing up his bravado and claiming the undisputed featherweight title at UFC 194. McGregor (19-2) finished the fight with an electrifying exchange shortly after the opening bell, slipping Aldo's lead right and cracking Aldo on the jaw with a huge left hand.



LAS VEGAS: Conor McGregor reacts after defeating Jose Aldo during a featherweight championship mixed martial arts bout at UFC 194, Saturday, in Las Vegas. — AP

Aldo (25-2) actually finished his punch and hit McGregor with a left, but the champ fell senseless to the ground. McGregor pounced, only to be pulled off in victory. Aldo had won 18 consecutive fights over the last 10 years, but nothing seems to slow McGregor. The loquacious Irish brawler goaded Aldo throughout the promotion of

their delayed bout, only to back up every word he said.

"Precision beats power, and timing beats speed," McGregor said. "Jose was a phenomenal champion. He deserved to go a little bit longer, but I still feel at the end of the day, precision beats power and timing beats speed. That's what happened." Luke Rockhold also claimed the UFC middleweight title with a bloody fourth-round stoppage of previously unbeaten champion Chris Weidman in front of a frenzied crowd at the MGM Grand Garden Arena. But the sellout crowd was packed with thousands of screaming Irish fans who traveled to see whether their braggadocious countryman could back up his talk.

McGregor, a former plumber who was fairly late to take up mixed martial arts as a career, has won 15 consecutive fights since November 2010 while building an international celebrity. He is 7-0 in UFC bouts, stopping his last five opponents with his vicious punching power.

He picked one of the UFC's most daunting targets in Aldo, who had made seven consecutive title defenses. McGregor targeted the imperious Brazilian champion with a steady stream of trash talk and entertaining antics, infuriating Aldo while making himself into a pay-per-view draw and arguably the UFC's second-biggest star behind Ronda Rousey.

McGregor and Aldo were scheduled to meet at UFC 189 in July, but Aldo pulled out with an injury two weeks before the bout. McGregor stopped Chad Mendes to win the interim title belt but never stopped talking about Aldo. — AP

JOSHUA WINS HEAVYWEIGHT TITLE WITH 15TH KNOCKOUT

LONDON: Olympic champion Anthony Joshua defeated former kick-boxer Dillian Whyte to take the British heavyweight title on Saturday with a bruising seventh-round knockout and edge closer to a possible shot at the world crown.

The 26-year-old took his record to 15 knockouts from 15 fights since turning pro after winning 2012 Olympic gold in London. Joshua's latest win raises the prospect of a clash with WBO and WBA heavyweight champion Tyson Fury if

his fellow British fighter beats Wladimir Klitschko in their world title rematch.

"Yes I enjoyed it, more because it was about bragging rights," said Joshua who had lost to Whyte in 2009 during their amateur careers. "There had been a lot of talking, all the way back since 2009. We'd been patiently waiting for this moment and I enjoy being victorious and showing that talk is cheap, you have to back it up when you're in the ring. "He was tough, there

were times when I hurt him in the first round and he hurt me in the second. It was a matter of who had that little more grit, determination and skill." Saturday's fight was the first time Joshua had been taken beyond three rounds in his professional career. "I took myself past three rounds and felt that I carried the right engine through the fight," he added. "Even when I had been loading up and doing silly things, I still had enough power to knock him out in the seventh." — AFP



LONDON: British boxer Anthony Joshua (C) celebrates beating British boxer Dillian Whyte in the British and Commonwealth heavyweight title boxing match at the O2 arena in London. — AFP

ALABAMA'S SUPER-SIZED RUNNING BACK WINS HEISMAN

NEW YORK: Hand it to Derrick Henry. Alabama's bulldozer of a tailback with the super-sized workload won the Heisman Trophy on Saturday night after carrying the Crimson Tide offense for most of the season.

"I'm just so thankful to have this trophy," Henry said. "It's just a blessing and an honor." The 6-foot-3, 242-pound Henry is the second Alabama player to win the Heisman, joining running back Mark Ingram. Since Ingram won the award in 2009, it had gone to five straight quarterbacks. Stanford's do-it-all running back Christian McCaffrey, who broke the NCAA record for all-purpose yards in a season, was the runner-up, making it four second-place finishes for Cardinal players in seven years. Deshaun Watson, quarterback of No. 1 Clemson, finished third. Henry was considered the favorite going in, though it didn't make it any easier for him. "I didn't know at all," he said. "Them two guys were great contenders for the trophy. Deshaun, with how consistent and efficient he is at the quarterback position, all the success he had, I was kind of worried. Christian, breaking Barry Sanders' record, doing all the things he does, he's just unbelievable."

The moment right before the winner was announced

was the toughest for Henry. "My heart was about to bust out my chest. I thought I was going to have a heart attack," he said. It was the closest Heisman voting 2011, when Baylor's Robert Griffin beat out Stanford's Andrew Luck by 280 points, but still a comfortable victory for Henry. He received 1,832 points, 293 more than McCaffrey (1,539). Watson received the third-most points for a third-place finisher with 1,165. Oklahoma quarterback Baker Mayfield came in fourth and Navy quarterback Keenan Reynolds was fifth, but Henry, McCaffrey and Watson dominated the voting.

RESPIRATORY PROBLEMS

Henry broke the Southeastern Conference record with 1,986 yards rushing - previously held by 1982 Heisman winner Herschel Walker - and matched a league mark with 23 touchdowns, leading No. 2 Alabama to the College Football Playoff. He also set an Alabama record with 339 carries, including an astounding 90 in the Tide's last two games.

"I know that our entire organization is really happy, happy, happy for Derrick Henry tonight, winning the Heisman Trophy," Alabama coach Nick Saban said.

Henry choked up during his speech, thanking family, coaches and teammates, and mentioning former Alabama teammate Altee Tenpenny, who was killed in a car crash two months ago.

Henry was born to teenage parents and raised with the strong influence of his grandmother, Gladys, in the small north Florida country town of Yulee, just outside of Jacksonville. Gladys Henry has been hospitalized for weeks in Florida with heart and respiratory problems. Derrick Henry said his grandmother was with him in spirit as his childhood dream of winning the Heisman came true. "I love you so much," he said during his speech. Henry came to Alabama as a five-star recruit. Before the Heisman came a dose of humility. For the first time football wasn't easy.

INEXPERIENCED RECEIVERS

"One day I said something to him and he said, 'Coach, all this stuff is new to me. All they did in high school was turn around and toss me the ball and I ran with it,'" Saban said. "I really appreciate his hard work at becoming a complete player." Henry was a backup on a crowded depth chart as a freshman and thought about transferring, but with the encouragement of his family decided

to stay put. As a sophomore he shared carries with T.J. Yeldon and ran for 990 yards and 11 touchdowns.

This season as a junior, with Alabama breaking in a first-time starting quarterback and inexperienced receivers, the Tide hooked its offense to Henry and let him lead the way. When injuries hit Alabama's other running backs, Henry picked up that slack, too.

He had four 200-yard games in the second half of the season. He went for 210 against LSU to move to the front of the Heisman race, and had 271 yards in the Iron Bowl against Auburn. Weary defenses got plenty of looks at big No. 2 from behind, his long bundled locks sticking out of the back of his helmet. The Crimson Tide's Predator.

After Ingram won the Heisman in '09, he helped Alabama win the national championship about a month later. Henry will try to do the same. The Tide faces Michigan State in the Cotton Bowl on Dec. 31, trying to earn a fourth national championship in nine seasons under Saban. Henry has not announced his intentions yet, but a jump to the NFL seems likely after this season. Alabama has placed its championship hopes on Henry's broad shoulders and he has delivered. "Roll Tide," Henry said as he wrapped up his speech. — AP

BRODIE SCORES IN OT TO LIFT FLAMES PAST RANGERS

CALGARY: TJ Brodie scored at 2:09 of overtime, Johnny Gaudreau had two goals in regulation, and Calgary recovered after giving up a three-goal lead in the third period for its ninth straight home victory. Tanner Glass, Dan Boyle and Mats Zuccarello scored for the Rangers in the final 15 minutes of regulation to tie the score. In the extra period, Brodie held the puck on a 2-on-1 rush and sent a shot inside the far goal post on Antti Raanta. It extended the defenseman's career-best point streak to six games (one goal, six assists). Joe Colborne and Mason Raymond also scored Calgary (13-14-2), which opens a four-game road trip on Tuesday at Nashville. J.T. Miller scored in the first period for the Rangers, who fell to 2-6-2 in their last 10 and finished a 0-2-1 road trip to western Canada.

ISLANDERS 3, COLUMBUS 2 (OT)

COLUMBUS: Kyle Okposo got his second goal of the game at 2:16 of overtime to lift the New York Islanders to a 3-2 victory over the Columbus Blue Jackets on Saturday night. Frans Nielsen also scored and Jaroslav Halak had 28 saves as New York improved to 7-0-2 in its last nine games. Brandon Saad and Cam Atkinson scored for Columbus, which entered with one win in its last seven (1-3-3). The Blue Jackets also had a potential winning goal in the final minute of regulation overturned by a video review. Curtis McElhinney finished with 16 saves while making a second consecutive start since Sergei Bobrovsky suffered a strained groin late on Tuesday against the visiting Kings. Bobrovsky is expected to be on the shelf for three weeks.

HURRICANES 5, COYOTES 4, OT

Victor Rask's left-handed wrist shot 53 seconds into overtime to lift Carolina. Rask's goal came after the Coyotes' Connor Murphy scored with 15.7 seconds left in regulation to tie it. Seconds earlier, the Hurricanes' Elias Lindholm missed an empty net with Carolina up 4-3. Justin Faulk had a goal and an assist, his goal a team-high 12th of the season. Faulk's goal came on the power play 40 seconds into the third period. Faulk has 13 assists and has tallied a point in four straight games. Carolina goalie Eddie Lack stopped 25 shots a night after making 31 saves in a win at Anaheim, but he gave up two goals early in the third period that made the game closer. Anthony Duclair scored 1:23 into the period, his second goal of the game, and Kyle Chipchura put in a deflection moments later.

WILD 2, SHARKS 0

Zach Parise broke a scoreless tie early in the second period and Darcy Kuemper earned his sixth career shutout to help Minnesota get a rare win in San Jose. Mikko Koivu added an empty-net goal and Kuemper made 25 saves as the Wild once again played a tight defensive game. Minnesota has allowed just three regulation goals in the past six games but ended up losing a pair 2-1 in overtime to start this three-game road trip. Martin Jones made 28 saves but couldn't stop Parise's rebound attempt as the Sharks dropped their sixth straight game. It's their longest losing streak since losing seven in a row in February 2013.

CAPITALS 2, LIGHTNING 1

Braden Holtby made 35 saves to win for the 10th time in his last 11 starts as Washington beat Tampa Bay. Holtby stopped Valtteri Filppula's shot from just outside the crease, and a scoring chance from the slot by Kucherov during a 15-second stretch 5 minutes into the game. Washington got goals from Jay Beagle and Evgeny Kuznetsov. Nikita Kucherov scored for the Lightning, who head

out on a three-game road trip that includes a matchup Tuesday night at Toronto in which Lightning captain Steven Stamkos will be in the spotlight. The Ontario native can become a free agent after this season, which has been a topic of great discussion in the Toronto media. Stamkos had an assist, but saw his goal-scoring drought reach eight consecutive games.

SABRES 2, KINGS 1, OT

Ryan O'Reilly's sliding overtime goal ended Buffalo's three-game losing streak. O'Reilly was tripped as he cut to the slot, but got off an off-balance shot that fooled Kings goaltender Jhonas Enroth at 3:19 of overtime. It was O'Reilly's 100th NHL goal. Jamie McGinn also scored for the Sabres, and Linus Ullmark made three of his 21 saves in overtime. Marian Gaborik scored for the Kings, and former Sabres goaltender Enroth finished with 28 saves. The loss snapped the Kings' six-game winning streak, but Los Angeles has picked up a point or more in nine in a row.

BRUINS 3, PANTHERS 1

Ryan Spooner scored twice and Tuukka Rask stopped 26 shots to lift Boston past Florida. Backed by a strong stretch from Rask, the Bruins posted their eighth win in 11 games (8-1-2). Rask is 6-0-2 in his past eight starts. The 28-year-old Vezina Trophy winner held the Panthers scoreless until former Bruin Reilly Smith's fired a slap shot from the right point that broke between his pads with 6:04 to play. Brad Marchand sealed it with an empty-net goal, firing it from center ice with 1:23 to play. Roberto Luongo made 22 saves for the Panthers, who lost for the third time in four games. They are winless in their past nine meetings in Boston (0-8-1).

CANADIENS 3, SENATORS 1

Brian Flynn and Max Pacioretty scored in the first period, and Montreal stopped a four-game losing streak. Jeff Petry also scored for Montreal (20-8-3), which scored more than two goals in a game for the first time in six contests. Jean-Gabriel Pageau scored for Ottawa (15-10-5), which went 1-3-0 on a four-game road trip. Determined to break their losing streak, and facing a flat-looking opponent, the Canadiens tied a team record with 27 shots on Craig Anderson in the first period and took a two-goal lead.

AVALANCHE 3, PREDATORS 2

Andreas Martinsen broke a tie midway through the third period, Semyon Varlamov made 34 saves and Colorado beat Nashville. Francois Beauchemin and Nick Holden also scored for Colorado in the first game of a three-game trip. Mikka Salomaki and Craig Smith scored for Nashville. The Predators fell to 9-4-2 at home and 9-2-1 in its last 12 home games against Colorado. Colorado seized a 2-0 lead in the first period, but Nashville rallied to tie the score at 2 on Smith's one-timer from the left point 58 seconds into the third. It was Smith's seventh goal of the season. Martinsen's backhand during a scramble in front of the net gave the Avalanche a 3-2 lead with 10:24 left.

BLUES 3, DALLAS 0

David Backes had a goal and an assist, Jake Allen stopped 26 shots and the St. Louis beat Dallas for the third straight time. Vladimir Tarasenko and Ryan Reaves scored in the third period to help the Blues end a four game losing streak at home to Dallas dating back to Nov. 23, 2013. Backes also got into a fight with Stars forward Jammie Benn in the first period, earning the Gordie Howe hat trick. Antti Niemi stopped 23 of 26 shots for the Stars, but fell to 9-9 in his career against the Blues. — AP



DUNEDIN: Sri Lanka's Kusal Mendis bats in front of New Zealand's BJ Watling, second from right, on day four of their first international cricket test at University Cricket Oval in Dunedin, New Zealand, yesterday. — AP

NEW ZEALAND SNIFF VICTORY IN DUNEDIN

DUNEDIN: Wicketkeeper BJ Watling took a record-equalling ninth catch as New Zealand inched their way to a probable victory over Sri Lanka in the first test as they reduced the visitors to 109 for three at the close of the fourth day's play yesterday.

Wicketkeeper Dinesh Chandimal was on 31 at University Oval, which had weathered heavy, but brief, rain and hail showers that forced the players from the field three times.

The last shower forced them off the ground with 20 overs remaining and umpires abandoned play at 1745 (0445 GMT) with captain Angelo Mathews scheduled as the next man in. He will join Chandimal on Monday, when they have almost 98 overs to score an additional 296 runs. "If we can get a good partnership in the morning session, the game is on," left-arm spinner Rangana Herath told reporters. "We need to play our brand of cricket and I'm sure Angie and Chandimal will do that."

The visitors, who batted for 117 overs in their first innings, had been given 160 overs to score the 405 needed for an improbable victory after New Zealand captain Brendon McCullum had made a surprise declaration at 267-3 just before lunch.

Sri Lanka, just like their first innings, did not seem too pressed to take any unnecessary risks as they set about their run chase with openers Dimuth Karunaratne and Kusal Mendis taking 23 overs to reach 50. Karunaratne (29) was the first batsman to fall when he tried to lift a short ball from Tim Southee over the slips to be caught by Watling, before Neil Wagner had Udara Jayasundera caught down the leg side by the wicketkeeper for three to leave them 69-2 at tea.

Mendis, who was dropped by Martin Guptill at

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the fourth day in the first Test between New Zealand and Sri Lanka yesterday in Dunedin, New Zealand.

New Zealand 1st innings 431 (M. Guptill 156, K. Williamson 88, B. McCullum 75; N. Pradeep 4-112)

Sri Lanka 1st innings 294 (D. Karunaratne 84, D. Chandimal 83)

New Zealand 2nd innings (Overnight: 171-1)

T. Latham not out 109
M. Guptill b Herath 46
K. Williamson b Chameera 71
R. Taylor b Herath 15
B. McCullum not out 17
Extras (b-3 lb-1 nb-5) 9

Total (for 3 wickets declared, 65.4 overs) 267
Fall of wickets: 1-79 M. Guptill, 2-220 K. Williamson, 3-247 R. Taylor

Did not bat: M. Santner, B. Watling, D. Bracewell, N. Wagner, T. Southee, T. Boult.
To bat: A. Mathews, K. Vithanage, M. Siriwardana, R. Herath, D. Chameera, N. Pradeep, S. Lakmal.

Bowling:
T. Boult 7-2-18-0, T. Southee 10.1-3-16-2, D. Bracewell 12-5-21-0, M. Santner 12-2-26-0, N. Wagner 9-2-28-1.

second slip on 13 and by Watling on 25, was within sight of his first test half century on 46 when he nicked a Southee delivery to Watling, who took his ninth catch of the test. Rain and hail then forced the players off. The catch equalled the record for most dismissals in a test by a New Zealand wicketkeeper. Watling also made nine dismissals against India in 2014, while Brendon McCullum had nine against Pakistan in 2009.

McCullum, no doubt aware of possible disruptions with expected poor weather in Dunedin

throughout Sunday, had surprisingly declared before lunch when he was on 17, having hit a six to take their lead past 400.

The six, the second of his short innings, also moved him into a tie with former Australian wicketkeeper Adam Gilchrist with 100 career sixes, the most in test cricket. Opener Tom Latham was left on 109 not out having scored his first test century in New Zealand. His previous two test centuries were scored in the United Arab Emirates last year against Pakistan. — Reuters

PATTINSON DITCHES NEW ACTION TO DESTROY WINDIES

HOBART: Pacesman James Pattinson said yesterday he did away with his remodelled bowling action and returned to his old approach to spearhead Australia to an emphatic innings victory over the West Indies in Hobart.

The recalled fast bowler failed to take a wicket in the West Indies first innings with his new more front-on style but made adjustments and claimed five for 27 in the second innings to trigger a batting collapse. The West Indies were routed for 148 and were crushed by an innings and 212 runs in the first Test, raising fears about their competitiveness in the remaining two Tests against Australia in Melbourne and Sydney. Pattinson was brought into the Australian side for the sidelined Mitchell Starc and made minimal impact bowling in the first innings with no wicket for 68 off 15 overs.

He reviewed video of his bowling and spoke with team bowling coach Craig McDermott and skipper Steve Smith before ripping through the Caribbean tourists in the second innings.

"There were a little bit of nerves and I didn't put it together in the first innings which was disappointing," Pattinson told reporters. "But to get another chance and to take that chance was pretty exciting and a relief after being out of the picture for a couple of years. "I ran in and wanted to bowl fast like I did when I first came on to the scene."

Pattinson, 25, playing in his first Test since March last year after recovering from back and hamstringing issues, said he studied what he was

doing wrong and came back a changed bowler to skittle the Windies. "I looked at a bit of vision on the night before and I wasn't releasing the ball where I wanted to in the right position," he said. "I thought if I bowled like I did in the first innings then I wouldn't be getting too many games, so I thought I better change something. "So I did a little bit of work on it in the morning to get my wrist behind the ball a bit more and get it good for outswing." The effect was devastating as Pattinson removed Rajendra Chandrika (0), first-innings century-maker Darren Bravo (4), Marlon Samuels (3), Jermaine Blackwood (0) and skipper Jason Holder (17) to rip the heart out of the tourists' innings.

"In the second innings I was running in straight lines and I had my wrist behind the ball and it felt pretty easy," he said. "It's all got to do with my arm pass, it's not much, but little bits I can see on video and pick up and try to change."

Pattinson said he wasn't concerned that by moving away from his remodelled bowling action he would risk another physical breakdown which has plagued his 14-Test career.

"I have gone back a little bit now. It's hard because when you're running in to bowl you don't want to think about your action so I made the change to stop injuries," he said. "Hopefully now that I am back in the team and I'm getting a bit older my body will hold up and I can go back a little bit to where I was when I first started playing, because that's when I thought I was bowling at my best." — AFP



James Pattinson



CALGARY: Micheal Ferland #79 of the Calgary Flames checks Dylan McIlrath #6 of the New York Rangers during an NHL game at Scotiabank Saddledome on Saturday in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. — AFP

JABER STADIUM READY FOR ALL MAJOR SPORTING EVENTS

KUWAIT: Information Minister, State Minister for Youth Affairs said Jaber Stadium will witness a major celebration that will contribute to restoring the "smile" to the sports community, following the suffering of Kuwaiti sports lately and suspension from sports by the IOC.

Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah asked the sports fans and the Kuwaitis to attend the event which will be held under the patronage of HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. Sheikh Salman Al-Humoud, who appeared on Al-Kass satellite channel said the stadium is ready for the celebration, and all problems it faced since 2012 has been solved.

He said the government undertook the plan to develop all that is related to youth, including sports which are considered the youths' way out.

He said the government selected a group of athletes who are known for being competent and experienced to prepare a plan to develop sports and overcome all hurdles, adding that the use of Jaber Stadium at this time will help implement this plan soon. He said the government looks forward to



Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdallah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah launch several sporting facilities after the opening of Jaber Stadium to be a gigantic step on the road of bringing Kuwait sports back to where it was.

Al-Humoud lauded the role of all members of the organizing committee and their great efforts during a short period of time to organize a major



Sheikh Salman Al-Sabah celebration for this stadium which carries a dear name to all which is the name of late Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

About the suspension he said that the clubs unanimously confirmed that local laws do not have any suspicion of the government's interference, and

asked Kuwait Football Association (KFA) to defend athletes' rights and the game, but the association did not do anything.

He said suspension of Kuwait sports by the IOC is not legal, and some of its officials are not neutral in dealing with the issue, adding that the levels were reached do not honor Kuwait sports nor its reputation or history. Meanwhile, Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdallah Al-Mubarak, Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs said the organizing committee of Jaber Stadium celebration did not cooperate or coordinate with KFA to protect it against FIFA terror, which is still going after Kuwait sports.

Al-Abdallah said there are attempts to pressure some stars who are participating in this celebration by asking them not to come to Kuwait. He said that he felt the soccer players being pressured through direct contacts with some players.

Al-Abdallah found it strange, although the match is a friendly and may not be according to the basic rules of the game, so FIFA has no right to interfere in the celebration and threaten the stars of suspension.



MZADRID: Atletico Madrid's French forward Antoine Griezmann (L) vies with Athletic Bilbao's defender Eneko Boveda during the Spanish league football match Club Atletico de Madrid vs Athletic Club Bilbao at the Vicente Calderon stadium in Madrid yesterday. — AFP

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE HOPE FOR SOUTH AFRICA, NIGERIA

JOHANNESBURG: The 2016 CAF Champions League draws made in Senegal this weekend offer South African and Nigerian clubs hope of going further than this year. Kaizer Chiefs and Mamelodi Sundowns represent South Africa again and want to avoid the round-of-32 exits they suffered in the 2015 edition of the premier African club football competition.

Enyimba are one of two Nigerian hopefuls for a second successive year and seek to atone for a last-32 exit this season. Warri Wolves, the other qualifiers from the west African nation, did not compete this year.

Draws were made in Dakar for the three, two-leg knockout rounds ahead of the lucrative group stage and Chiefs' path to the last-eight could include a rematch against recent foes. Volcan of the Comoros should not present too many preliminary-round problems with Chiefs visiting the south-east island state for the first leg. Former African champions ASEC Mimosas of Ivory Coast, who face a to-be-named Chadian club first, are the likely round-of-32 opponents of the South Africans, assuming they qualify. The clubs met in a 2014 CAF Confederation Cup play-off with ASEC winning 2-1 in Soweto and 1-0 in Abidjan against virtual reserve Chiefs sides. Should the South Africans clear that obstacle, they probably will come up against 2015 semi-finalists Al Hilal of Sudan with a mini-league place up for grabs.

Chiefs consider themselves among the biggest football clubs in Africa, but do not have the silverware to match, winning only the now defunct African Cup Winners Cup 14 years ago. South Africa goalkeeper Itumeleng Khune is Chiefs' best known footballer, Zimbabwese Willard Katsande is a combative midfielder and Togolese striker Camaldine Abrew a recent addition. Sundowns, an expensively assembled Pretoria-based outfit owned by mining magnate

Patrice Motsepe, were Champions League runners-up the same year Chiefs achieved African glory. Coach Pitso Mosimane craves continental success and his squad includes Uganda goalkeeper Denis Onyango, Zimbabwe midfielder Khama Billiat and Burundi striker Fiston Abdul Razak. Sundowns were paired with debutants Chicken Inn of Zimbabwe in a preliminary tie and experienced African campaigners AC Leopards from Congo Brazzaville await the winners. Whoever survives are likely to meet 2014 Champions League runners-up V Club of the Democratic Republic of Congo in a round-of-16 showdown. Enyimba, the 2003 and 2004 Champions League winners, confront African newcomers Vipers of Uganda in a preliminary-round highlight.

The club from south-east city Aba should keep a close watch on Farouk Miya, an 18-year-old midfielder with a fondness for goals and occasional captain of Uganda.

If Enyimba progress, they would face what appears a less difficult task against Lioli of Lesotho or Vital'O of Burundi, but highly decorated Etoile Sahel of Tunisia loom as round-of-16 opponents.

Etoile lifted the Confederation Cup last month, raising to nine their number of African successes, and the Tunisian club are the only ones to have won all five CAF competitions.

Warri should eliminate Sporting Praia Cruz of Sao Tome e Principe, but 2015 Champions League semi-finalists Al Merrikh and 2014 winners Entente Setif of Algeria are possible rivals for a group place.

The first opponents for title-holders TP Mazembe of DR Congo will be Saint George of Ethiopia or Saint Michel United of the Seychelles. Preliminary round first legs are scheduled for February 12-14 with the return matches two weekends later. — AFP

COACH HODGSON HAPPY TO AVOID 'FAMILIAR FACES'

PARIS: England coach Roy Hodgson welcomed Saturday's draw for Euro 2016 made in Paris that threw up three unfamiliar opponents for the much-travelled Three Lions boss. England, who have twice reached the semi-finals of the European Championship in 1968 and 1996, were placed in Group B alongside Russia, Slovakia and fellow home nation Wales. "Despite having coached over 100 matches at this level with three teams (Finland, Switzerland and England), I have never come up against Russia, Slovakia or Wales," said Hodgson.

"I'm looking forward to having new acquaintances. I'm quite happy not to be coming up against the same faces which has happened to me in qualifications. "We hope we can do better, definitely than we did in 2014 (at the World Cup)," he added, referring to England's dismal group-stage exit when they finished with just a single point from three matches.

Undoubtedly, the group's standout fixture is England's June 16 clash with tournament debutants Wales in the northern French city of Lens. "We understand the hype but we're just as excited about playing Russia and Slovakia," said Hodgson.

"(It was) half-expected to draw a home nation with three of the six teams in pot four." Wales coach Chris Coleman had previously admitted he would prefer not to be placed in the same group as England, citing fears that a "Battle of Britain" could act as a distraction, but remained confident his players would rise to the challenge.

"It was more to do with the hype sur-

rounding the game. There are three games to play and we can't get caught up with just playing England," Coleman explained.

"We've been waiting for this moment and whatever group we were in, and I'm not being flippant, I think we can beat any team on our day." Wales, whose only previous major tournament appearance came at the 1958 World Cup, face Slovakia in their opening match before locking horns with England, marking the 112th meeting between the two countries. "It suits both teams not to play each other first up. It'll be nice to get a bit of time on the pitch before the England game," said Coleman. "It'll be two British teams going at it and it will be an exciting game. I just hope there's no fear."

RUSSIAN OPENER

Before that England will begin their finals campaign against Russia on June 11, with Hodgson full of praise for his Russian counterpart. "(Leonid) Slutsky has done extremely well since taking over and has got them winning again. It'll be a great atmosphere in Marseille," said Hodgson, before downplaying concerns over disappointing England performances at recent major tournaments.

"The past is the past and if the players continue to perform like they have over the past 18 months... our form is quite good and there are good players coming through.

"(However), our tournament experience is not quite so good. "Whatever we say or do, once the referee's whistle goes it'll come down to what those 22 players can do out on the pitch." —AFP

BUCKS HAND ROAD-WEARY WARRIORS FIRST LOSS

MILWAUKEE: The streak is over for the Golden State Warriors. Their NBA-record start ended after 24 wins when they lost 108-95 to the Milwaukee Bucks on Saturday night. Golden State's 28-game winning streak, counting the final four games of last season, also came to a halt. The NBA's longest winning streak is 33 by the Los Angeles Lakers in 1971-72 - and it was also snapped by Milwaukee. Greg Monroe scored 28 points for the Bucks, who got the all-around effort needed to beat the defending NBA champions. It also helped that the Warriors (24-1), perhaps fighting fatigue after needing two over-times to win at Boston on Friday, were cold from 3-point range. They usually make 13 a night, but were just 6 of 26 from behind the arc in the final game of a seven-game road trip.

SPURS 103, HAWKS 78

Kawhi Leonard scored 22 points, and San Antonio allowed only 25 first-half points in the strongest defensive effort by any NBA team this season. The Spurs led 47-25 at halftime. The Hawks' total - 13 points in the first quarter, 12 in the second - was the lowest for any NBA team in any half this season, according to STATS. The previous low was Houston's 26 second-half points on Nov. 1 at Miami. Manu Ginobili had 17 points and LaMarcus Aldridge added 13 for San Antonio, which has won six of seven. Paul Millsap led Atlanta with 22 points, including 17 in the third quarter. No other Hawks player scored in double figures.

CLIPPERS 105, NETS 100

Blake Griffin and J.J. Redick each scored 21 points, and the Clippers ended a seven-game, two-state road losing streak against the Nets. Chris Paul had 15 points and 14 assists for the Clippers, who hadn't beaten the Nets on the road since Dec. 11, 2007, back when the Nets played in East Rutherford, New Jersey. Los Angeles never beat them during the Nets' brief stay in Newark and had been 0-3 in Brooklyn. Thaddeus Young scored 18 points and Jarrett Jack had 16 points and 11 assists for the Nets, who were trying for their first three-game winning streak of the season.

KNICKS 112, TRAIL BLAZERS 110

Carmelo Anthony tied a season high with 37 points, helping the Knicks rally for the road win. Anthony, who scored 20 points in the first half, shot 13 of 21 from the field as New York ended a four-game losing streak. Anthony finished the game by hitting six free throws during the final 30 seconds. Former Blazers Robin Lopez and Arron Afflalo, returning to Portland for the first time since leaving the team in free agency last summer, were among six Knicks in double figures. Afflalo scored 15 points, while Lopez had 14 points and seven rebounds. Damian Lillard led Portland with 29 points. C.J. McCollum scored 22 points, and Allen Crabbe had 15.

ROCKETS 126, LAKERS 97

James Harden scored 30 points, leading the Rockets to the runaway win. A 3-pointer by Nick Young with about seven minutes left got the Lakers within 11, but a 13-2 run by Houston pushed the lead to 115-93. Donatas Motiejunas, Harden and Patrick Beverley each made a 3-pointer to cap the key stretch. Motiejunas had 11 points in his best game since returning from back surgery. Kobe Bryant had 25 points, seven rebounds and six assists for the Lakers, who have lost six in a row and 13 of 14.

BULLS 98, PELICANS 94

Pau Gasol had 18 points for Chicago, and Aaron Brooks scored 15 of his 17 in the fourth quarter. Jimmy Butler added 15 points for the Bulls, who trailed for most of the game. Anthony Davis and Tyreke Evans each scored 22 points for the Pelicans, who fell to 1-11 on the road. Eric Gordon added 14. Davis tied it at 94 with a three-point play with 1:47 remaining, and Brooks' layup gave the Bulls a 96-94 lead with 40 seconds to play.

PISTONS 118, PACERS 96

Reggie Jackson had 21 points and nine assists, leading Detroit to the win. Ersan Ilyasova added 20 points, and Kentavious Caldwell-Pope finished with 18 points, a career-high eight assists and seven rebounds. Six Pistons scored in double figures, and Andre Drummond had eight points and 11 rebounds. George Hill led the Pacers with 14 points. Paul George finished with 13 on 4-of-16 shooting, missing all four of his 3-point attempts. Detroit has won six of eight, including five in a row at home, while the Pacers lost for the fourth time in five games.

CELTICS 98, HORNETS 93

Avery Bradley scored 23 points, Isaiah Thomas added 21 points and 13 assists, and Boston snapped Charlotte's four-game winning streak. Jae Crowder added 16 points and seven rebounds for the Celtics (14-10), who have won seven of their last 10 games. Boston bounced back after a heartbreaking double-



MILWAUKEE: Jabari Parker #12 of the Milwaukee Bucks dribbles up the court on a fast break during the third quarter against the Golden State Warriors during the third quarter against the Milwaukee Bucks at BMO Harris Bradley Center on Saturday in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. — AFP

overtime loss on Friday night to Stephen Curry and NBA-leading Golden State. The Hornets had a chance to tie the game late but Nicolas Batum's 30-foot jumper off a side inbounds play with 6.6 seconds remaining missed everything. Evan Turner put away the game with a layup. Batum led the Hornets with 21 points and eight rebounds, and Kemba Walker had 16 points.

WIZARDS 114, MAVERICKS 111

Otto Porter scored a career-high 28 points, John

Wall had 26 points and 16 assists, and Washington ended an 11-game losing streak against Dallas. Washington had not beaten Dallas since Oct. 27, 2009. The Wizards were playing their second straight game without Bradley Beal, who is expected to miss at least two weeks with a right leg injury. Porter more than picked up the slack, scoring 17 points during Washington's 39-point third quarter as the Wizards built a 21-point lead. Wesley Matthews led the Mavericks with 28 points, including six 3-pointers. — AP

NBA results/standings

LA Clippers 105, Brooklyn 100; Boston 98, Charlotte 93; Detroit 118, Indiana 96; San Antonio 103, Atlanta 78; Chicago 98, New Orleans 94; Houston 126, LA Lakers 97; Washington 114, Dallas 111; Milwaukee 108, Golden State 95; NY Knicks 112, Portland 110.

Eastern Conference					Western Conference				
Atlantic Division					Northwest Division				
	W	L	PCT	GB					
Toronto	15	9	.625	-	Oklahoma City	15	8	.652	-
Boston	14	10	.583	1	Utah	10	11	.476	4
NY Knicks	11	14	.440	4.5	Minnesota	9	13	.409	5.5
Brooklyn	7	16	.304	7.5	Portland	10	15	.400	6
Philadelphia	1	23	.042	14	Denver	9	14	.391	6
Central Division					Pacific Division				
Cleveland	15	7	.682	-	Golden State	24	1	.960	-
Chicago	13	8	.619	1.5	LA Clippers	14	10	.583	9.5
Indiana	13	9	.591	2	Phoenix	10	14	.417	13.5
Detroit	14	11	.560	2.5	Sacramento	9	15	.375	14.5
Milwaukee	10	15	.400	6.5	LA Lakers	3	21	.125	20.5
Southeast Division					Southwest Division				
Charlotte	14	9	.609	-	San Antonio	20	5	.800	-
Miami	12	9	.571	1	Memphis	13	11	.542	6.5
Atlanta	14	11	.560	1	Dallas	13	11	.542	6.5
Orlando	12	11	.522	2	Houston	12	12	.500	7.5
Washington	10	12	.455	3.5	New Orleans	6	17	.261	13

HERNANDEZ'S DELIGHT AS FIVE-STAR BAYER HIT FORM

BERLIN: Javier Hernandez was more delighted to see Bayer Leverkusen return to winning ways in the German league by demolishing Borussia Moenchengladbach than with the first club hat-trick of his career. "Chicharito" needed just 13 second-half minutes to score his three goals in Leverkusen's 5-0 victory over Gladbach on Saturday as ex-Germany striker Stefan Kiessling also scored either side of half-time at Leverkusen's BayArena. Having previously scored a hat-trick for Mexico in 2011, ex-Manchester United and Real Madrid star Hernandez hit the second treble of his career to leave him with 10 league goals this season.

He is in a purple patch with 15 goals in Leverkusen's last 12 games in all competitions. Leverkusen climbed to sixth in the Bundesliga with only their second win in their last nine games, something which pleased Hernandez more than his hat-trick.

"I'm going to have the ball in my house, but I'm going to get the team to sign it, because it's an effort from the whole team,

not just me," said Hernandez in continuing the tradition of taking home the match ball after a hat-trick. "Some people think a striker's job is just about scoring goals, but I'm not obsessed with scoring, it's just a consequence if the team plays well. "The main thing we take from this game is the way the whole team plays, we did well, but we had a bit of luck."

Hernandez and Kiessling were superb up front as Gladbach crashed to their first defeat in 11 league games under new coach Andre Schubert. But four days after his side converted just one of their many chances in a 1-1 draw with Barcelona as they exited the Champions League in disappointing style, the Mexican said football can be unpredictable and that the only difference this time was the rub of the green.

"We played just as well on Wednesday, but we just didn't score the second goal," said Hernandez. "On Wednesday we scored one goal, against Gladbach we scored five, that's football-you can't predict anything." — AFP

ENGLAND GREAT BANKS REVEALS CANCER DIAGNOSIS

LONDON: England's World Cup-winning goalkeeper Gordon Banks is fighting kidney cancer for a second time, he revealed in a British newspaper interview published yesterday. Banks, 77, lost one kidney to cancer 10 years ago and is now undergoing chemotherapy after blood tests showed that his other kidney is diseased. "Last year we went on our annual holiday to Florida. A week later I couldn't sleep and then I couldn't even stand due to the pain," the former Leicester City and Stoke City player told the Sunday Mirror. "I was sent straight to hospital where they told me I had cancer. I was so shocked when they told me it was my kidney. They put me straight on medication and I am taking chemotherapy tablets three times a day for a month and then I am to have two months off them.

"The last time I had the cancer it was very large, but they were able to remove the kidney and take the cancer away with it. We hope medication will make this cancer small enough for them to operate and carry out electrical treatment to break it up. But if it grows, they will have to remove (the kidney) and I'll need a replacement."

Banks kept goal as England won the 1966 World Cup on home soil, beating West Germany in the final, but is perhaps best remembered for a stunning save to thwart Brazil great Pele at the 1970 tournament in Mexico.

He added: "If I could make a save like the one against Pele, while playing against the greatest in the world, then I will be able to battle through this health problem." — AFP

OWN GOAL HANDS NEVILLE'S VALENCIA POINT AT EIBAR

MADRID: A late own goal salvaged a point for Valencia in Gary Neville's first taste of La Liga action yesterday as Los Che battled back with 10 men to draw 1-1 at Eibar.

Sergi Enrich deservedly opened the scoring for Eibar with the last kick of the first half. However, the turning point came midway through the second period when Valencia goalkeeper Jaume Domenech saved Saul Berjon's penalty after Lucas Orban had been very harshly sent off for supposedly elbowing Dani Garcia. And Valencia got the slice of luck they needed when David Junca turned the ball into his own net five minutes from time.

A point leaves Valencia seven points off the top four in eighth. Neville had suffered a nightmare debut as a head coach in midweek as Valencia were dumped out of the Champions League in a defeat to Lyon, and the former Manchester United defender made four changes for the trip to the Basque country. However, his decision to rest Jose Luis Gaya in favour of Orban backfired as the Argentine was routinely beaten by Eibar winger Keko before seeing red just after the hour mark. Valencia were lucky to escape conceding a penalty on 13 minutes when Keko's first dangerous delivery was met by Borja Baston at the near post and deflected just wide by the

hand of Shkodran Mustafi.

Moments later, Domenech made an incredible save to turn Enrich's effort onto the post from point-blank range from another Keko cross. Neville was given a warning by the fourth official as his frustrations boiled over midway through the half with Valencia unable to make any impact going forward.

And Eibar deservedly took the lead when this time Ander Capa found space down the right and his low cross was bundled home by Enrich for his fourth goal of the season.

Valencia's hopes of a point looked to have gone when Orban was amazingly sent off for contesting a routine high ball with Garcia and, to compound the mistake, referee Jose Luis Gonzalez also pointed to the spot. However, Domenech flew to his right to save his second penalty of the season and give his side a lifeline.

It was one which the visitors took advantage of with some good fortune as Andre Gomes burrowed into the box and Junca turned the ball into his own net as he tried to dispossess the Portuguese midfielder. Neville's men could even have taken all three points at the death as Ivan Ramis was sent off for upending Paco Alcacer as the Spanish international broke clear on goal and Alcacer fired the resulting free-kick inches wide. — AFP



UDINE: Inter's Ivan Perisic, right, and Udinese's Silvan Widmer, challenge for the ball during the Serie A soccer match between Udinese and Inter Milan at the Friuli Stadium in Udine, Italy, Saturday. — AP

INTER MOVES 4 POINTS CLEAR WITH 4-0 WIN AT UDINESE

MILAN: Mauro Icardi hit back at his critics with two goals as Inter Milan moved provisionally four points clear in the Serie A by comfortably beating Udinese 4-0 on Saturday. The Inter captain and Stevan Jovetic both took advantage of howlers in the Udinese defense to put Inter 2-0 up at halftime.

Icardi, the league's joint top goalscorer last season and criticized this season for lack of form, doubled his tally late on before Marcelo Brozovic added to Udinese's embarrassment with a stunning strike. "Scoring is his (Icardi's) job," Inter coach Roberto Mancini said. "We were never worried about him, because at the end he will score goals. It's normal that forwards go through dry spells, but tonight he played very well, as did Jovetic. They're beginning to understand each other and that's a good sign."

Inter moved four points clear of Fiorentina, which visits Juventus on Sunday. Third-place Napoli hosts Roma the same day, with four of the top five sides playing each other.

"Who will I support tomorrow? It won't change much, it's too early," Mancini added. "All the teams will continue to fight for the title." Earlier, Bologna continued its resurgence under former Italy coach Roberto Donadoni as it snatched a 1-0 win at fellow relegation struggler Genoa. Sassuolo's match against Torino was postponed because of fog. Bologna, which has picked up 13 points in six

matches under Donadoni, moved five points clear of the relegation zone. Genoa has lost three successive matches and fell to 17th spot, two points off the bottom three, after it was leapfrogged by Palermo following the Sicilian side's 4-1 win over 18th-place Frosinone.

Udinese had early chances before gifting Inter the lead in the 23rd minute. Icardi intercepted a woeful Bruno Fernandes backpass and rounded Maurizio Domizzi before racing through one-on-one and slotting past Udinese goalkeeper Orestis Karnezis. Udinese could have leveled before Domizzi gave away the ball to Jovetic, who sprinted forward and placed a cheeky chip over Karnezis. Inter goalkeeper Samir Handanovic continued to preserve his side's lead, and there was worse to come from Udinese seven minutes from time as Francesco Lodi's awful backpass sent Icardi clear to score his second.

GREAT GAME

Brozovic capped a great result for Inter three minutes later, curling a magnificent effort into the far top right corner from the edge of the penalty area. "It's a pity because we had a great game, especially in the first half," Udinese coach Stefano Colantuono said. "But if you don't score it becomes more difficult against teams like Inter, and then you pay for some lapses of concentration." But we controlled the game in the first half, they were defending, and shot at goal on our misplaced backpasses."

In Genoa, visiting goalkeeper Antonio Mirante made key saves and Luca Rossetini headed in a corner to claim the winner deep in stoppage time as the home side was made to pay for its profligacy and ill-discipline. Genoa substitute Diego Perotti was sent off 10 minutes from time for elbowing Amadou Diawara. It was Genoa's eighth red card in 16 matches.

Diawara also got a red card for comments to the referee after Bologna scored. Edoardo Golan and Franco Vazquez fired Palermo 2-0 up within the opening 17 minutes, which also saw the home side hit the woodwork twice.

Paolo Sammarco got Frosinone back into the game shortly after, but Aleksandar Trajkovic netted his first Serie A goal on the hour to restore Palermo's two-goal advantage and Alberto Gilardino headed in the fourth from a rebound late on. It could have been worse for Frosinone as defender Leonardo Blanchard was shown a second yellow and a red card just before halftime but the referee discussed it with his assistant and changed his mind, deciding that the foul was from teammate Mirko Gori on Uros Djurdjevic, who then fell on Blanchard. It was a first win for Palermo coach Davide Ballardini since he replaced Giuseppe Iachini a month ago. — AP



OSAKA: China's Guangzhou Evergrande forward Gao Lin (top) jumps over Mexico's Club America midfielder Jose Guerrero (bottom) during their Club World Cup quarter-final football match in Osaka yesterday. — AFP

SCOLARI'S EVERGRANDE STUN AMERICA TO REACH SEMIS

OSAKA: Asian champions Guangzhou Evergrande came from behind and scored twice in the last 10 minutes to stun their CONCACAF counterparts America and reach the Club World Cup semi-finals yesterday. The Chinese side, led by former Brazil coach Luiz Felipe Scolari, could even afford to miss an open goal when they were trailing 1-0, on their way to earning a dream tie against European champions Barcelona on Thursday. The Mexicans appeared to be on course for a comfortable win when Oribe Peralta headed them ahead early in the second half. But Zheng Long equalised with 10 minutes and former Tottenham and Brazil midfielder Paulinho headed a dramatic winner in stoppage time.

Scolari, who was in charge of the Brazil team beaten 7-1 by Germany on home soil in last year's World Cup semi-final, has not lost a match since taking over at Guangzhou in May. His Chinese side were boosted by four Brazilians, including former Real Madrid and Manchester City forward Robinho, in the line-up.

'Big Phil' was typically excitable on the touchline and got into an argument with America captain Rubens Sambueza over a tough tackle on Robinho.

"Our team did everything to get here, to win and to play Barcelona and now we are going to play them, it's absolutely spectacular for us," Scolari told reporters. Goalkeeper Li Shuai kept America at bay as they poured forward in the first half although Guangzhou mounted some dangerous attacks of their own.

America went ahead after an intense spell of pressure when Mexico forward Peralta met Dario Benedetto's low cross with a diving header at the near post but they then lowered the tempo. Guangzhou sounded a warning when a corner was headed across goal and Xiaoting Feng, unmarked at the far post, miscued the ball with the goal at his mercy. But they equalised after Richard Goulart got away down the left and found Gao Lin with a low cross into the centre. He laid the ball back for Zheng who drilled the ball past Moises Munoz. Encouraged by that, Guangzhou went in search of the equaliser and it came when America's defence lost concentration and Paulinho headed in.

"It's a failure and we are not at all happy; we lost concentration completely for five or ten minutes, what I have seen is not at all good," America coach Ignacio Ambriz told reporters. — Reuters

HONG STRIKES AS STRUGGLING AUGSBURG SHOCK SCHALKE

BERLIN: South Korea's Hong Jeong-Ho netted and Brazilian winger Caibuy hit a late winner as struggling Augsburg shocked Schalke 2-1 yesterday to stay above the Bundesliga relegation places.

Hosts Augsburg took the lead when Dominik Kohr's strike from outside the area cannoned off Hong's boot at a right angle, taking a wicked deflection, to wrong-foot Schalke goalkeeper Ralf Faehrmann on 34 minutes.

It was centre-back Hong's first Bundesliga goal in his third season with Augsburg. Schalke, who like Augsburg have qualified for the Europa League's knockout stages, hit back when Sead Kolasinac slotted home on 70 minutes after Eric Choupo-Moting's shot was saved. But unmarked Caibuy fired home at the far post in the 92nd minute to give Augsburg their first home league win since September and lift them up to 13th. Schalke drop to eighth with just one league win in their last seven games to put pressure on coach Andre Breitenreiter. On Saturday, Robert Lewandowski and Philipp Lahm netted as leaders Bayern Munich

laboured to a 2-0 win against Ingolstadt to get back on track after last week's shock Bundesliga defeat at Borussia Muenchengladbach. After losing in the league for the first time this season with a 3-1 humbling at Gladbach last Saturday, Bayern produced a subdued performance at the Allianz Arena before pulling away with two second-half goals.

Bayern coach Pep Guardiola gave Lahm a note on 58 minutes which contained tactical instructions which had an almost immediate effect. Lewandowski claimed his 15th league goal of the season when he pounced on Jerome Boateng's long pass on 65 minutes before Lahm struck with 15 minutes left.

With second-placed Borussia Dortmund playing at Eintracht Frankfurt on Sunday evening, Bayern took their chance to go eight points clear.

Gladbach crashed to their first defeat in 11 league games under coach Andre Schubert in a 5-0 hammering at Bayer Leverkusen, for whom Javier Hernandez claimed a hat-trick.

'Chicharito' needed just 13 second-half minutes to

score his three goals with ex-Germany striker Stefan Kießling also scoring either side of half-time for Leverkusen, who are sixth after only their second win in their last nine games. Gladbach are fifth.

Hertha Berlin took the chance to leapfrog Gladbach into third when they romped to a 4-0 win at Darmstadt as Bosnia striker Vedad Ibisevic scored twice, Marvin Plattenhardt hit a free-kick and Salomon Kalou netted a fourth. Fresh from Tuesday's Champions League win over Manchester United, which confirmed their place in the last 16 as group winners, fourth-placed Wolfsburg laboured to a 1-1 draw at home to Hamburg. Werder Bremen continue to hover just above 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 are bottom again after their goalless draw at Mainz on Friday. — AFP



AUGSBURG: Schalke's Sead Kolasinac scores his side's first goal during the German Bundesliga soccer match between FC Augsburg and FC Schalke 04 at the WKK Arena stadium in Augsburg, Germany, yesterday. — AP

Sports

Kristoffersen
wins World Cup
slalom race



Inter moves 4 pts
clear with 4-0
win at Udinese



MONDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2015

JABER STADIUM READY FOR ALL MAJOR SPORTING EVENTS Page 18



BIRMINGHAM: Arsenal's Czech goalkeeper Petr Cech (2L) watches as Arsenal's German defender Per Mertesacker jumps to clear the ball during the English Premier League football match between Aston Villa and Arsenal at Villa Park in Birmingham, central England yesterday. Arsenal won the match 2-1. — AFP

ARSENAL ON TOP AS VILLA CAPITULATE AGAIN



LONDON: Arsenal eased to a comfortable 2-0 victory at Aston Villa yesterday to soar to the summit of the Premier League and leave their hapless opponents rooted at rock bottom. A 50th Premier League goal from Olivier Giroud, a penalty converted four days after his Champions League hat-trick against

Olympiakos Piraeus, swiftly brought more gloom to Villa Park after eight minutes.

Mesut Ozil then produced his 13th assist of the season to allow Aaron Ramsey to slot home a goal in the 38th minute and enable Arsenal to move on to 33 points, one point clear of Manchester City and Leicester City.

Leicester have the chance to regain the leadership when they entertain Chelsea today. Villa improved in the second half as Arsenal took their foot off the gas but manager Remi Garde, who as a player was once signed by Arsenal boss Arsene Wenger, could only hear the grumbles of discontent as his side went a club-record 15th league game without a win.

"Overall for us, it was a great week," Wenger said on Sky Sports, referring to his side's mid-

week heroics when they managed, against the odds, to qualify for the knockout phase of the Champions League once again.

The defeat left Villa stranded at the foot of the table on six points from 16 games, six adrift of 19th-placed Sunderland. It was not just Giroud who was able to celebrate a landmark achievement. Arsenal goalkeeper Petr Cech equalled David James's all-time Premier League record with his 169th clean sheet, in 349 games, prompting Wenger to hail him as "an absolute all-time great."

Giroud's splendid week quickly gained a new sheen when Arsenal were awarded a penalty, which referee Kevin Friend took a while to consider before adjudging that Theo Walcott had been bundled over unfairly in the

area by Alan Hutton. From the spot, Giroud converted his 14th goal of the season and 50th Premier League goal in all for Arsenal in 113 appearances, a landmark reached quicker for the Gunners only by Ian Wright and Thierry Henry. Arsenal, in effortless command, struck again thanks to the industry of Ramsey, who won the ball not far outside his own box from Idrissa Gueye to set up a dazzling counter, then sprinted up the field to get on the end of Ozil's unselfish square pass and double the lead.

Ozil was also singled out for praise from Wenger. "I must say that Mesut is an absolute complete collective player. Sometimes, he's frustrated that he doesn't get the same balls back but he's a very important link in our

game," he said. "We believe we have an opportunity to win the title," man of the match Ramsey told Sky Sports. "We have shown what we are capable of and have to continue now, in what is a busy part of the season. We have to maintain our focus and belief." After being booed off at half-time, Garde's men huffed and puffed a little more convincingly after the break, Scott Sinclair heading over and Leandro Bacuna curling one close as Arsenal dozed, content to let the dismal home side continue to meander in possession. Adama Traore came closest to scoring for Villa in the dying seconds but their plight is worsening after a ninth straight league game at Villa Park without a win, their worst home league sequence. — Reuters

ORIGI RESCUES RAGGED LIVERPOOL



LIVERPOOL: Divock Origi scored his first Premier League goal in the 96th minute to earn Liverpool a 2-2 draw in a heated match against West Bromwich Albion yesterday. Liverpool captain Jordan Henderson marked his first league start since August by finishing a superb move with a sweet half-volley to give the home side the lead mid-way through the first half.

Craig Dawson equalised for Albion after half an hour, turning in the loose ball after goalkeeper Simon Mignolet had failed to deal with a corner. Liverpool looked uncertain whenever defending set-pieces and almost went behind right on half-time as Jonas Olsson volleyed in Craig Gardner's free-kick, only to be correctly ruled offside after a long delay. The Sweden centre-back was not to be denied a goal, though, rising at the near post to glance in Chris Brunt's corner with 17 minutes left. There followed a sour incident as Dejan Lovren was carried off on a stretcher with his leg in a brace after a challenge by Gardner, who followed through and caught the centre-back on the knee. But towards the end of eight minutes of time added on for Lovren's injury, Origi's deflected 25-yard shot prevented Liverpool from succumbing to a second straight defeat after last weekend's 2-0 loss at Newcastle United.

Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp, who had been involved in a number of touchline disputes

with his West Brom counterpart Tony Pulis during a bad-tempered second half, greeted the equaliser by punching the air. But the loss of Lovren will be of serious concern to the Liverpool manager, whose side looked set for defeat until Origi—the Croatian's replacement—intervened.

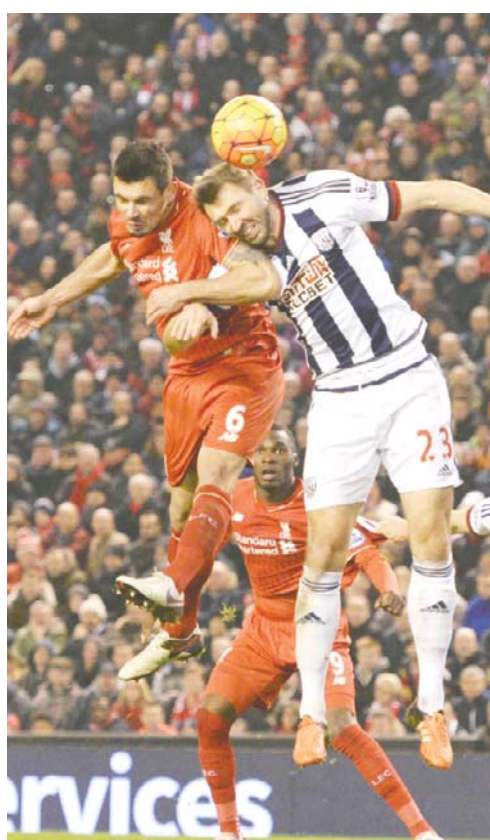
Another significant talking point was the offside decision that denied Olsson just before the interval. The West Brom defender thought he had given the visitors a 2-1 lead when he sneaked in unattended at the far post to volley in Gardner's free-kick.

SPECIAL MOMENT

Linesman Roger West did not raise his flag and only a couple of Liverpool players made any kind of appeal. But West then called referee Craig Pawson over towards him and, after a delay, the goal was disallowed.

Television replays showed that it was the correct decision, with four Albion players in an offside position as Gardner took the free-kick, but it was unclear how Pawson and West had managed to spot it. That incident came after Liverpool had taken the lead with a lovely goal, only to lose it as a result of some sloppy defending at a set-piece. The opening goal came when Christian Benteke laid the ball back to Alberto Moreno, whose angled cross was headed down by Adam Lallana for Henderson to sweep in on the half-volley.

It was a special moment for Henderson, who has missed three months of the season with two separate foot injuries. Liverpool should have been in front before their captain's 21st-minute goal as Philippe Coutinho blazed over from 15 yards after Gareth McAuley had headed Emre Can's diagonal chip straight to the Brazil international. But any hopes Liverpool might have had of a comfortable afternoon disappeared as Albion equalised nine minutes after going behind. Mignolet, who had



ANFIELD: Liverpool's Croatian defender Dejan Lovren (L) rises to win a header against West Bromwich Albion's Northern Irish defender Gareth McAuley (R) during the English Premier League football match between Liverpool yesterday. — AFP

earlier prevented a deflected Gardner cross-shot from sneaking in at his near post, failed to reach a corner as he collided with Benteke and Salomon Rondon worked the loose ball to Dawson, who prodded in. Liverpool struggled to impose themselves in the second half. Lovren saw a glancing header deflected wide from James Milner's free-kick, but chances were otherwise hard to come by.

Albion went in front from another corner in the 73rd minute, as Olsson scored, only for Origi to have the last word. — AFP

SUBS MITROVIC, PEREZ END TOTTENHAM RUN



LONDON: Substitutes Aleksandar Mitrovic and Ayoze Perez scored late goals as Newcastle United ended Tottenham Hotspur's 14-game unbeaten Premier League run with a dramatic 2-1 away victory yesterday. Eric Dier's 39th-minute header set Spurs on course for a win that would have seen them supplant Manchester United in fourth place in the table, only for Mitrovic to poke home a 74th-minute equaliser just two minutes after coming on.

Worse was to follow for the hosts as Perez struck a stoppage-time winner that saw Newcastle register a third successive league win at White Hart Lane—something they last achieved in 1911 — and, more importantly, lifted Steve McClaren's men out of the relegation zone.

Spurs were seeking to go 15 successive top-flight games without defeat for the first time since 1967, but instead succumbed to their first loss since a 1-0 reverse at United on the opening day, leaving Mauricio Pochettino's side three points below the Champions League places. Harry Kane was one of several first-team players recalled by Pochettino following Thursday's 4-1 Europa League win over Monaco and he showed his intent with a low first-minute shot that forced Newcastle goalkeeper Rob Elliot to save one-handed.

At the other end, Papiss Cisse inadvertently blocked a goal-bound effort from team-mate Siem de Jong with his face, but Spurs were soon back on the front foot, Dier dragging a shot wide from outside the box. Elliot denied Erik Lamela twice in the space of two minutes, first springing to his left to paw away a shot from the edge of the box and then tipping a prodded effort over the bar following a flick-on by Kane.

PEREZ POUNCES

But from the corner that followed the second chance Spurs took the lead as Dier stole in front of his marker at the near post to glance Christian Eriksen's left-wing corner past Elliot.

Danny Rose could have extended Spurs' lead before the interval, but when Eriksen's shot deflected into his path via Fabricio Colocchini's backside, his shot bisected the goal and the sliding Kane.

Newcastle manager McClaren resisted the urge to make any changes at half-time and saw Cisse go close early in the second period when he drilled narrowly wide with his left foot from Moussa Sissoko's pass. Spurs continued to probe at the other end, however, with Elliot fully extended by a 25-yard effort from Kane and also obliged to field a couple of long-range attempts from Eriksen.

McClaren sent on Mitrovic for Cisse with 18 minutes left and the combative Serbian striker made an immediate impact, poking home from right on the line after Chancel Mbemba's stooping header was parried by Hugo Lloris. Mitrovic squandered a chance to put Newcastle ahead when he failed to apply a touch to Sissoko's inviting cross in the final minute. — AFP

Kuwait Times BUSINESS

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deepens crisis

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MANAMA: An oil pump at sunset in the desert oil fields of Sakhir, Bahrain, yesterday. Gasoline prices remain low in the United States and are expected to soon drop below \$2 a gallon.—AP

GULF STOCKS DIVE TO MULTI-YEAR LOWS

OIL'S DROP TO NEAR 11-YEAR LOWS DRAGS DOWN MARKETS

KUWAIT: Share prices in the energy-rich Gulf states tumbled to multi-year lows yesterday after oil prices closed the week below \$38 a barrel, the lowest in seven years. The slide was led by markets in the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia, which plunged below key resistance points amid a sell-off by concerned investors.

Crude prices nosedived Friday, with Brent dropping 4.5 percent to \$37.93 a barrel and West Texas Intermediate losing 3.1 percent to \$35.62 a barrel. Gulf states, which pump over 18 million barrels of oil per day, heavily depend on crude income for public revenues. Brent crude posted its biggest weekly percentage drop in over a year after the International Energy Agency (IEA) warned global oversupply of crude could worsen next year. The Kuwait Stock Exchange dropped 0.93 percent to 5,633.28 points, a three-year low. It has lost 13.8 percent on the year. Saudi's benchmark index plunged 2.7 to 6,764 points. It is down 32 percent from a 2015 peak of 9,897 on April 30.

"Low oil prices coupled with investors' heightened nervousness about the kingdom's budget has compounded volatility in the markets," said Hisham Tuffaha, head of equity investments at Riyadh-based Mulkia Investments.

"Overall we are in a downtrend, for some sectors this is justified, especially oil-linked industries like petrochemicals, other segments such as banks this is less so." Saudi Telecom Co (STC), the country's biggest telecommunications company, dropped 1.9 percent, despite the Kuwaiti market regulator approving STC's takeover plan for Kuwait's Viva.

The retail sector was down 3.5 percent, with Saudi Company for Hardware (SACO) and Al Othaim losing 6.3 and 3.7 percent respectively. Recent retail data showed signs of weakness, as consumers are shopping less and cutting back on spending at stores, according to a note by Saudi's NCB Capital.

"The slowing growth in sales transaction val-

ues is similar to the period during the global financial crisis and oil price declines in 2008," NCB Capital's note added.

The Saudi Tadawul All-Shares Index (TASI) dropped 2.65 percent to 6,764.60 points, its lowest close since November 2012. It has lost 18.8 percent since the start of the year. TASI, the largest Arab bourse, slid lower during the day but recovered before closing.

Dubai's index fell 2.1 percent to 2,883 points. It is down 23.6 percent in 2015, making it the worst performing Gulf bourse this year. Emirates NBD - Dubai's largest bank by market value - tumbled 4.1 percent, reversing earlier session gains. Dubai Islamic Bank fell 3 percent to 5.42 dirhams, a 2015 low. Arabtec retreated 3.7 percent, falling near a four-year low.

Abu Dhabi's index dropped 2.1 percent as blue-chip Etisalat, the largest stock by market value, slid 2.5 percent. The telecom company is up 57.2 percent this year, which has helped limit the

benchmark's year losses to 11.7 percent.

Qatar Exchange, the second largest Arab bourse, shed 3.7 percent to close at 9,643.65 points, the lowest level since September 2013. It has shed 21.5 percent compared with last year. Financial sector heavyweights Masraf Al-Rayan and Qatar National Bank dropped 6.3 and 2.1 percent respectively.

Muscat Securities Exchange slid 0.66 percent to 5,414.99 points, a 12-month low, while the tiny Bahrain Stock Exchange dropped slightly. Gulf private companies are feeling the heat from government measures to cut capital spending on which they heavily rely. The decline in Gulf markets followed a global shares rout on Friday due to low oil prices.

Egypt dips

Egypt's bourse fell 3.7 percent to 6,395 points, within 93 points of November's 2015 low. "The sell-off is part of the declines in other

Middle East markets following a drop in oil prices," said Simon Kitchen, head of regional strategy at Cairo's EFG Hermes.

"The Egyptian market is uncertain about the central bank's interest rate decision at the monetary policy meeting scheduled at the end of this week," Kitchen added. Egypt's annual urban consumer inflation rose to 11.1 percent in November from 9.7 percent in October, the official statistics agency CAPMAS said on Thursday. That is the steepest increase in headline inflation since June.

The higher inflation figures are unlikely to influence Thursday's central bank meeting to set interest rates, analysts told Reuters, noting the main priority is likely to be promoting growth. Local and Arab traders were net sellers while foreign investors were net buyers, exchange data showed. Orascom Telecom and Commercial International Bank fell 7.3 and 4.2 percent respectively.—Agencies

SAUDIS TO SET STRATEGY FOR ERA OF CHEAP OIL

DUBAI/RIYADH: Saudi Arabia's government is expected to announce spending cuts and a drive to raise revenue from new sources as it lays out a strategy to cope with an era of cheap oil, people familiar with Saudi policy-making said.

Markets in the world's top oil exporter are jittery because low crude prices have pushed state finances deep into deficit and so far, the government has not revealed a detailed, comprehensive plan to stem the flow of red ink. But in coming weeks, authorities will make their intentions clearer. The state budget for 2016 is expected to be released on or around Dec. 21, official sources said. In the following weeks, probably in January, the government is to reveal a multi-year economic plan that may include longer-term reforms such as cuts to energy subsidies and new taxes.

The budget will be the first drafted by the administration of King Salman, who took the throne in January, and the first carrying the imprint of his son Mohammed bin Salman, who chairs a powerful new Council of Economic and Development Affairs that now dominates the economic policy apparatus. So far Mohammed bin Salman, also defense minister, has focused much of his energy on launching Saudi Arabia's military intervention in Yemen. He is now expected to apply some of that willingness to take radical action to the economy. "A strategic review of economic policy is underway in the government and officials are putting together a new framework for managing the economy," said Khalid Alswilem, a former senior official at the central bank, now fellow at the Harvard Kennedy School's Belfer Center in Boston.

He said much of the work was occurring

at the Ministry of Economy and Planning, where Adel al-Fakieh became minister in April. As labor minister in 2010-2015, Fakieh developed a reputation for implementing complex reforms. Under Fakieh, the economy ministry has gained influence while the Ministry of Finance has become less central, Alswilem said. "There's a 180 degree change in the way policy-making is being done." The two ministries did not respond to requests for comment.

Cuts

The government's deficit this year is expected to come in at about 400-500 billion riyals (\$107-133 billion), around 20 percent of gross domestic product. To ease market jitters, the government will need to cut next year's deficit sharply. Prominent Saudi economists contacted by Reuters expect the 2016 budget to plan spending of about 800 billion riyals, roughly 20 percent lower than their estimate of this year's actual spending. The government is likely to curb public sector wage rises and bonuses, but that is politically sensitive, so most spending cuts would occur in public investment. "The state has delivered a lot of infrastructure projects, so spending should normally decline gradually over the next few years," said Mazen Al-Sudairi, research chief at Al-Istithmar Capital.

In the past Riyadh has often overspent its annual budget plan, but one change introduced by Mohammed bin Salman is expected to be stricter adherence to the plan. He told the New York Times last month that one of his key challenges was "the way we prepare and spend our budgets". The result, if Brent oil stays around \$40 a barrel next year, could be a budget deficit of

around 200 billion riyals - still large, but enough of a reduction to let Riyadh slow the liquidation of its foreign assets.

Reforms

If oil stays cheap for years, deeper reforms will be needed to stabilize state finances; the multi-year economic plan may prepare the ground for this. Officials have said they are looking at raising domestic energy prices, potentially saving some of the over \$100 billion spent annually to keep prices low.

Subsidy cuts would start with rises in the cost of natural gas feedstock and power for industry; politically difficult hikes in domestic petrol prices would come later and be spread over years, said a source familiar with official thinking.

The government is also considering privatizations and new taxes. The cabinet has approved a tax on undeveloped urban land that could be introduced as soon as the end of next year.

Saudi Arabia and five other Gulf Arab states have stepped up talks on imposing a value-added tax across the region; a United Arab Emirates official said governments were aiming to introduce it in three years. Alswilem said that in the long term, it would not be enough for Riyadh to increase domestic revenue sources - authorities would need to develop non-oil sources of foreign exchange to make up for oil revenues lost because of low prices.

Increasing non-oil exports would happen only slowly, so Riyadh should also consider introducing new policies to preserve its foreign assets and create a sovereign wealth fund to increase returns on them, he said.—Reuters

EGYPT SEEKS TO DRUM UP GULF INVESTMENTS

CAIRO: Egyptian Prime Minister Sherif Ismail will meet Saudi officials and investors this week in a bid to drum up more investment as Egypt seeks to revive an economy suffering from a foreign currency shortage. The talks follow a visit by Ismail and several ministers to Saudi Arabia earlier this month to present potential projects and push forward pledges made at an international investment conference in Sharm al-Sheikh in March.

Egypt attracted \$12 billion in pledges from Gulf countries at the conference, where President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi urged foreign investors to help Egypt recover from the turmoil unleashed after the 2011 uprising overthrew Hosni Mubarak.

About \$6 billion was deposited in Egypt's central bank to help replenish its dwindling foreign currency reserves. The rest was to come as investments, many of which are still being negotiated.

Egypt's International Cooperation Minister Sahar Nasr was one of the ministers to join the recent visit to Saudi. "We had a clear road map. We had different forms of projects. We had development projects which I presented which are mainly in partnership with the Saudi Fund for Development," she told Reuters in a recent interview.

"We have a delegation coming soon, a high level delegation from Saudi Arabia to move on the next steps." Deputy Crown Prince and Defence Minister Mohamed Bih Salman will visit Cairo at the head of a Saudi delegation this week, the government said in a statement.

Under discussion will be a num-



CAIRO: A transport boat sails in the Nile River past a promotional banner that reads "Investment is the key to Egypt's welfare" in Cairo. Egypt launched a major economic conference to attract foreign investors. The government says new investment is crucial to rescue an economy gutted by four years of turmoil since Egypt's 2011 uprising.—AP

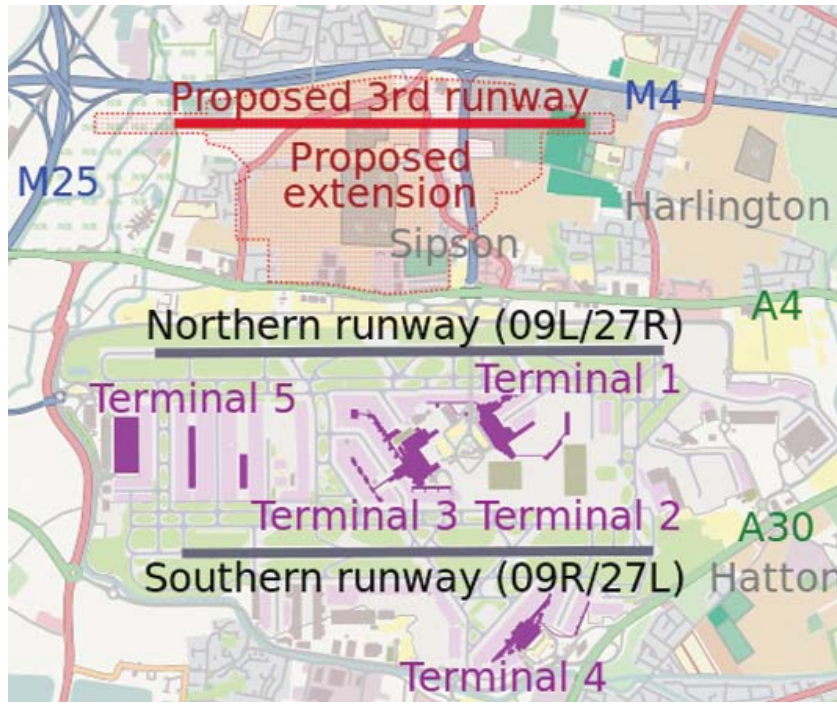
ber of projects including plans for a hydroelectric plant in Assiut and plans to develop the Red Sea resort of Sharm al-Sheikh, the statement said. In July, Egypt and Saudi Arabia issued a so-called Cairo Declaration, a pledge to work together on defence and improve cooperation on investment and trade.

Gulf states have showered billions of dollars on Egypt since mid-2013, when Sisi removed the Muslim Brotherhood from power. They opposed the Brotherhood's rise after the 2011 revolt.

Egyptian officials have denied speculation that Gulf support has slowed amid declining oil prices and

concerns about the pace of Egypt's economic reforms. Cairo is also at odds with Riyadh over policy in Syria. Nasr said she was also in contact with Kuwaiti investors.

Sherif Otaifa, adviser on mega projects to the investment minister, said Egypt was moving away from direct Gulf aid toward long-term investments. Otaifa said Egypt was also working to resolve legal disputes that had hampered investment. "We are focusing on the private investors of the Gulf... They are big now and they built a good experience in the operational models and they have to expand," he said.—Reuters



LONDON: Map of London Heathrow Airport showing the original proposed extension and third runway



LONDON: On the day of Terminal 5's opening, hundreds of protesters descended on Heathrow in red Stop Heathrow Expansion T-shirts. The protest was kept out of the news by Terminal 5's opening day baggage system problem.

GOVT BLASTED OVER LONDON AIRPORT EXPANSION DELAY

NEW RUNWAY BUILDING FURTHER DEFERRED OVER ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

LONDON: The British government was on the back foot Friday after being branded "gutless" for further delaying a decision on where to build a much-needed new runway for London.

The government said Thursday it would postpone the decision until at least mid-2016 to assess the environmental impact of possible expansion at London Heathrow, Europe's busiest airport.

Businesses have been lobbying for a third runway at Heathrow, a move fiercely opposed by environmental groups and lawmakers in residential west London. Prime Minister David Cameron had promised a decision before the New Year. Transport Secretary Patrick McLoughlin on Friday refused to rule out yet more delay on choosing between a third runway at Heathrow, extending one of the current runways or building a second one at the secondary London Gatwick Airport.

The government had made "some important moves" forward by accepting the case for expanding airport capacity in

southeast England, he told BBC radio. "We accept that additional airport capacity is needed and we will make a decision on that hopefully in the summer of next year", which would "still allow us to get the extra capacity we need by 2030".

McLoughlin insisted that all options were "still on the table". "Please get off the fixation of a third runway" at Heathrow, he said. An earlier commission had recommended expanding Heathrow, but hundreds of homes would have to be demolished and the extra traffic could mean Britain fails to meet emissions targets. Business groups have long called for Heathrow's extension, which they say would boost trade and help Britain keep up with rapidly expanding airports in the Middle East and Asia.

Heathrow handled some 73.4 million passengers in 2014 and connects to 185 destinations in 84 countries. It lost its crown as the world's busiest airport for international passenger traffic to Dubai last year, while Turkey is planning massive

airport capacity expansion in Istanbul.

'Gutless move'

"Businesses will see this as a gutless move by a government that promised a clear decision on a new runway by the end of the year," said John Longworth, director-general at the British Chambers of Commerce umbrella organization. "Ministers need to stop prevaricating and get on with doing what the country sorely needs." Critics also said the decision to delay was to avoid political embarrassment for Cameron and his Conservative Party.

When in opposition in 2009, Cameron opposed adding a third runway to Heathrow. More importantly, Zac Goldsmith, the Conservative candidate for the May 2016 London mayoral elections, threatened to resign his seat in parliament should Heathrow expansion get the green light.

Goldsmith represents a constituency near Heathrow and his resignation would trigger a by-election to replace him. "I am

absolutely delighted that, after much campaigning, the government has heard the arguments, seen sense and will judge the options against an environmental test," Goldsmith said. He has in the past said he would not quit if the prime minister announced a "legitimate delaying exercise".

Environmental campaigners have set up camp in the countryside around Heathrow, and have stacked piles of wood to use for barricades. Simon Clydesdale, aviation campaigner for Greenpeace, said there was no way the transport hub could be extended without breaking pollution limits. "It's about time everyone accepted that no lobbying budget is big enough to change the laws of physics," he said. Conservative London Mayor Boris Johnson, who has advocated building a completely new airport in the Thames Estuary, said the difficulties of expanding Heathrow were becoming "very, very obvious". "The real problem is it's so short term. It's so pathetically unambitious for a country like Britain." — AFP

News

in brief

US dollar firms vis-a-vis Kuwaiti dinar at 0.303

KUWAIT: The US dollar stabilized vis-a-vis the Kuwaiti dinar in yesterday's trading at KD 0.303 while the euro went down to KD 0.332, as compared to Thursday's rates, the Central Bank of Kuwait said. Sterling pound went up to KD 0.461, likewise the Swiss franc to KD 0.308 while the Japanese yen firmed at KD 0.002.

Egyptian pound steady at forex auction

CAIRO: The Egyptian pound held steady at an official foreign currency auction yesterday and strengthened slightly on the black market. Egypt, which depends on imported food and energy, is facing a dollar shortage and mounting pressure to devalue the pound. The central bank surprised markets when it strengthened the pound on Nov 11 by 20 piasters against the dollar. Yesterday it sold \$39.3 million at a cut-off price of 7.7301 pounds to the dollar, unchanged from Thursday, providing 38.83 percent of the amount requested by banks. The official rate is still far from that on the black market, which was quoted at 8.55 pounds to the dollar yesterday by a trader, making the pound marginally stronger than Thursday's black market rate of 8.56/57 pounds.

Gold price up to \$3 per ounce

KUWAIT: Gold price rose US dollar three in last week's trades standing at \$1,077 per ounce, according to Sabayik Al-Kuwait company for precious metals trade company. The company added in a press release published yesterday, the gold prices resisted downward drive, despite the state of fear and anticipation among investors towards American central banks decision to raise interest rate on the US dollar by the end of this month. Many analysts are betting that the reaction will be strong in metals markets after the interest rate hike and the new year would be a new start for gold to rise again, the company added. It said expectations for a low price of \$1,050 per ounce until US interest rate is raised, pointing it will not last for long and will have limited impact on the medium and long term.

Doha Bank signs \$575m two-year loan

DUBAI: Qatar's Doha Bank has signed a two-year \$575 million syndicated unsecured loan for general corporate purposes, it said in a statement yesterday. The facility was increased from the original \$500 million amount the bank had been seeking to borrow, the statement said. The loan pays a margin of 75 basis points per annum over Libor and has a bullet repayment at the end of the two-year tenor, the statement said. The bank has the option of a one-year extension at the end of the second year, it added. Bank of China, China Construction Bank, Commerzbank Aktiengesellschaft, Filiale Luxemburg, ING Bank, Mizuho Bank, Wells Fargo were among the banks acting as bookrunners and mandated lead arrangers, Doha Bank added.

Qatar Insurance to give 25% cash dividend

DUBAI: Qatar Insurance has proposed a 2015 cash dividend of 25 percent plus a 10 bonus share issue, it said yesterday. A 25 percent cash dividend equates to 2.50 riyals (\$0.6867) per share. This would be slightly higher than the company's cash dividend of 2.17 riyals for 2014. Qatar Insurance will also conduct a 20 percent rights issue after the distribution of the bonus shares, it said in a bourse statement. The dividend proposal is subject to 2015 full-year results, plus approvals from authorities and shareholders.

OIL REVENUES FORM 93% OF KUWAIT'S INCOME: REPORT

KUWAIT: Kuwait's oil revenues make up 93 percent of the country's income, Chairman of the Industrial Bank of Kuwait (IBK) Abdulmohsen Al-Hunaif said. He added in an interview with "Al-Jareeda" daily in its yesterday's issue that the decline in oil prices since June of 2014 resulted in weak forecasts regarding such revenues, thus leading to a budget deficit for financial year 2015-2016 of around KD 8.2 billion. This decline will continue in case the oil prices keep going down below the indicative price draw set in the country's budget at \$45 per barrel, he said.

The deficit will continue through the coming years along with the increasing spending rates, especially regarding the capital expenditure and implementing development projects, he added. In order to tackle the deficit, Kuwait should work on diversification of income sources by imposing taxes on the business profits, besides increasing non-oil revenues, and decreasing subsidies on a number of goods and services, he added.

Kuwait has a number of choices to help in maintaining volume of spending and financing development projects, like withdrawing from the general reserves, offering governmental bonds, besides direct loaning from local financial institutions, as the Islamic banks are the best choice for lending, he said.

The local banks showed readiness to finance the budget deficit, especially regarding the finance of development projects, taking into consideration the excessive liquidity they possess.

Such finance will enhance the quality and diversification of the credit portfolio, besides decreasing the rates of non-performing loans and boosting the banks' international ratings. — KUNA

BURUNDI TO SLASH 2016 SPENDING, BRACES FOR AID CUTS

NAIROBI: Burundi plans to slash public spending by 16 percent next year and expects foreign aid to almost halve as relations with donors have soured during recent political turmoil, according to a draft 2016 budget passed by the cabinet.

More than 300 people have been killed in Burundi since April, when President Pierre Nkurunziza announced plans for a third term in office. Ensnared in street protests and a coup attempt in May were quashed but the capital Bujumbura has been riven by almost daily skirmishes.

Western powers fear aid-dependent Burundi could slide back into civil war and some donors like Belgium have already suspended their financial support in protest at crimes and human rights violations committed by state security forces. The draft budget passed by the cabinet on Friday showed state

spending will drop to 1.2 trillion francs (\$777 million) in 2016 from 1.5 trillion francs this year, while expected aid grants will decline 44 percent to 382.2 billion francs.

The government also predicts domestic tax revenues will fall about 5 percent to 675.8 billion francs. On Friday, in the worst outbreak of violence since the failed coup, the army spokesman said nearly 90 people were killed in clashes between government forces and gunmen, who attacked three military sites in Bujumbura.

But a local human rights organization known as Ligue Iteka said that 85 civilians, mostly young and middle-aged men, were killed by the police who conducted house-to-house searches, hours after the Friday clashes. Police deny any civilians were targeted.

Earlier this week the European Union, the biggest donor to Burundi, said it would partially sus-

pend new aid due to government abuses in relation to rule of law, democratic principles and human rights in the nation of 10 million people. The EU had been due to disburse about 450 million euro to Burundi over half a decade until 2020, but the bloc said it would suspend all new support except for humanitarian causes and projects where the population directly benefits.

Burundi's 12-year civil war, which ended in 2005, was fought along ethnic lines. While the unrest so far has mostly been political, Western and regional powers fear prolonged violence could cleave open old ethnic rifts and further destabilize a volatile region still scarred by the 1994 Rwanda genocide. More than 220,000 Burundians have fled the violence to neighboring Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda and Congo. — Reuters

EXCHANGE RATES

AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

ASIAN COUNTRIES

Japanese Yen	2.515
Indian Rupees	4.550
Pakistani Rupees	2.925
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.128
Nepali Rupees	2.851
Singapore Dollar	216.410
Hongkong Dollar	39.215
Bangladesh Taka	3.848
Philippine Peso	6.435
Thai Baht	8.460

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	151.600
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	336.170
Sterling Pound	465.040
Canadian dollar	222.270
Turkish lira	102.030
Swiss Franc	311.740
Australian Dollar	220.970
US Dollar Buying	302.750

20 Gram	218.970
10 Gram	112.180
5 Gram	56.77

GOLD	
20 Gram	218.970
10 Gram	112.180
5 Gram	56.77

UAE EXCHANGE CENTRE WLL

CURRENCIES

Australian Dollar	209.25
Canadian Dollar	227.76
Swiss Franc	313.06
Euro	337.68
US Dollar	304.15
Sterling Pound	464.05
Japanese Yen	2.54
Bangladesh Taka	3.853
Indian Rupee	4.555
Sri Lankan Rupee	2.128
Nepali Rupee	2.846
Pakistani Rupee	2.933
UAE Dirhams	0.08277
Bahraini Dinar	0.8083
Egyptian Pound	0.03875
Jordanian Dinar	0.4326
Omani Riyal	0.7898
Qatari Riyal	0.08386
Saudi Riyal	0.08107

TELEX TRANSFER PER 1000

Australian Dollar	209.25
Canadian Dollar	227.76
Swiss Franc	313.06
Euro	337.68
US Dollar	304.15
Sterling Pound	464.05
Japanese Yen	2.54
Bangladesh Taka	3.853
Indian Rupee	4.555
Sri Lankan Rupee	2.128
Nepali Rupee	2.846
Pakistani Rupee	2.933
UAE Dirhams	0.08277
Bahraini Dinar	0.8083
Egyptian Pound	0.03875
Jordanian Dinar	0.4326
Omani Riyal	0.7898
Qatari Riyal	0.08386
Saudi Riyal	0.08107

DOLLARCO EXCHANGE CO. LTD

Rate for Transfer

US Dollar	304.200
Canadian Dollar	225.384
Sterling Pound	458.869
Euro	330.858
Swiss Frank	304.463
Bahrain Dinar	804.775
UAE Dirhams	83.064
Qatari Riyals	84.278

Selling Rate

US Dollar	304.200
Canadian Dollar	225.384
Sterling Pound	458.869
Euro	330.858
Swiss Frank	304.463
Bahrain Dinar	804.775
UAE Dirhams	83.064
Qatari Riyals	84.278

Saudi Riyals	81.798
Jordanian Dinar	428.766
Egyptian Pound	38.738
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.131
Indian Rupees	4.551
Pakistani Rupees	2.918
Bangladesh Taka	3.850
Philippines Peso	6.452
Cyprus pound	579.405
Kenyan Shilling	3.463
Syrian Pound	2.608
Nepalese Rupees	3.936
Malaysian Ringgit	72.201
Chinese Yuan Renminbi	47.821
Thai Bhat	9.450
Turkish Lira	104.618

BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
Europe		
British Pound	0.456760	0.465760
Czech Korune	0.004389	0.016389
Danish Krone	0.040836	0.045836
Euro	0.329182	0.337182
Norwegian Krone	0.031181	0.036381
Romanian Leu	0.087191	0.087191
Slovakia	0.009078	0.019078
Swedish Krona	0.031873	0.036873
Swiss Franc	0.303123	0.313323
Turkish Lira	0.099495	0.109795

Australasia		
Australian Dollar	0.210795	0.222295
New Zealand Dollar	0.198391	0.207891

America		
Canadian Dollar	0.216189	0.224689
US Dollars	0.299850	0.304350

US Dollars Mint	0.300350	0.304350
Asia		
Bangladesh Taka	0.003457	0.004057
Chinese Yuan	0.045883	0.049383
Hong Kong Dollar	0.037116	0.039886
Indian Rupee	0.004325	0.004715
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000018	0.000024
Japanese Yen	0.002435	0.002615
Kenyan Shilling	0.003159	0.003159
Korean Won	0.000247	0.000262
Malaysian Ringgit	0.067353	0.073353
Nepalese Rupee	0.002882	0.003052
Pakistan Rupee	0.002696	0.002976
Philippine Peso	0.006426	0.006706
Sierra Leone	0.000067	0.000073
Singapore Dollar	0.212836	0.218836
South African Rand	0.013439	0.021939
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001763	0.002343
Taiwan	0.009117	0.009297
Thai Baht	0.008114	0.008664

Arab		
Bahraini Dinar	0.799344	0.807344
Egyptian Pound	0.036170	0.039296
Iranian Riyal	0.000084	0.000085
Iraqi Dinar	0.000200	0.000260
Jordanian Dinar	0.424705	0.432205
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000152	0.000252
Moroccan Dirhams	0.022073	0.046073
Nigerian Naira	0.001256	0.001891
Omani Riyal	0.783060	0.788740
Qatar Riyal	0.082776	0.083989
Saudi Riyal	0.080417	0.081117
Syrian Pound	0.001288	0.001508
Tunisian Dinar	0.147771	0.155771
Turkish Lira	0.099495	0.109795
UAE Dirhams	0.081773	0.082922
Yemeni Riyal	0.001374	0.001454

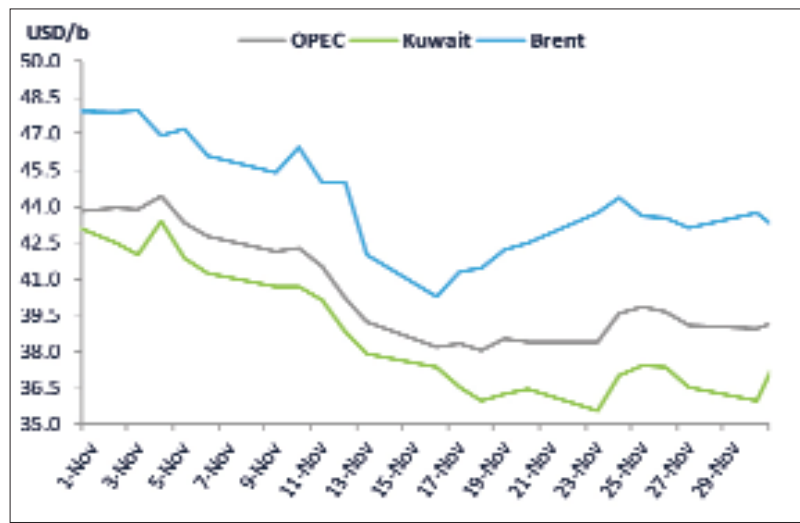
OPEC DILEMMA DEEPENS CRISIS

KUWAIT: Oil prices plunged to historical lows after OPEC failed to agree on output targets for its members and effectively removed a production ceiling in its semi-annual meeting. Prices declined further, after traders discarded an apparently positive oil inventory report, pushing oil to a seven-year low level of \$34.8/b for OPEC oil. On the other hand, price of Brent crude fell below the \$40/b mark for the first time since February-09 to \$39.69/b on 7-December-15. Oil production by OPEC continues to hover above the 30 mb/d mark and is expected to increase as Iran scales production to pre-sanction levels.

The weekly inventory data released by the US Energy Information Administration (EIA) showed a decline in oil inventory in the US for the first time in 10 weeks that led to a temporary surge in oil prices; however, the trend reversed as it emerged that oil derivative inventories (distillates and diesel) continue to be at elevated levels. Moreover, some traders viewed the decline in weekly inventory in the US as refiner de-stocking before the end of the US tax year. US crude supplies for the week ended 4-December-15 reached 485.9 million barrels after losing 3.6 million barrels. The report added that US crude production dropped 38 tb/d to 9.164 mb/d.

The demand side factors for the oil market deteriorated on the back of several factors. In a key development, the latest trade data from China showed a slowing economy. The country's exports fell by 3.7 percent in

KAMCO OIL MARKET MONTHLY REPORT



Oil prices

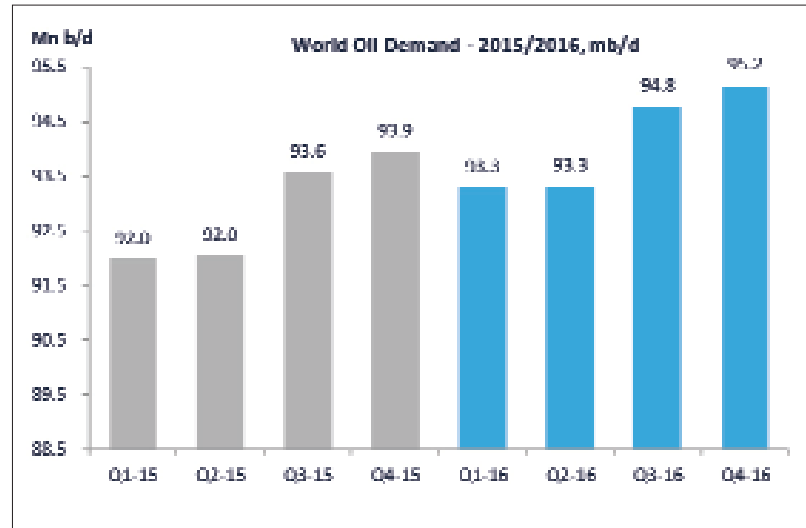
Oil prices remained weak since the start of December-15 as it reached new historical lows during the second week. Positive inventory data from EIA also failed to lift sentiments and provided only a short-lived respite from the decline. As the market waited for monthly report on storage and production published by International Energy Agency (IEA), there was also speculation that the oil storage capacity has peaked in the US and is running at record high levels that exerted additional pressure on oil market. However, the report released by the

decline and this decline will start reflecting in production growth. The scrapping of the oil production limit by OPEC means that the low-cost OPEC supply will continue to flow into the market unabated and drives out high-cost non-OPEC production. According to the IEA report, annual growth in non-OPEC oil supply has shrunk below 0.3 mb/d in November-15 as compared to a growth of 2.2 mb/d at the start of 2015. Moreover, a 0.6 mb/d decline is expected in 2016.

After a temporary respite during October-15, average monthly OPEC oil price plunged by more than 10 percent to \$40.50/b during November-15, the second steepest decline in average monthly oil price in the past 10 months as well as the lowest average monthly OPEC oil price since December-08. The price trend remained weak since the start of the month and declined further when it broke the \$40/b support by mid-month. The trend continued during December-15 with average OPEC oil price of \$37.18/b as of 9-December-15. Kuwait Blend Spot Price FOB also declined to new lows for the sixth consecutive month and averaged at \$38.40/b during November-15, a decline of 11.9 percent as compared to the previous month's average.

World oil demand

Total world oil demand growth for 2015 was raised slightly from the last month by 30 tb/d to 1.53 mb/d to reach 92.88 mb/d for the full year. The increase primarily reflects better than expected oil consumption in OECD Europe and Other Asia. Oil demand from OECD Europe is expected to increase from 13.4 mb/d in 2014 to 13.6 mb/d in 2015, a growth of 200 tb/d, whereas oil demand in Other Asia is expected to increase from

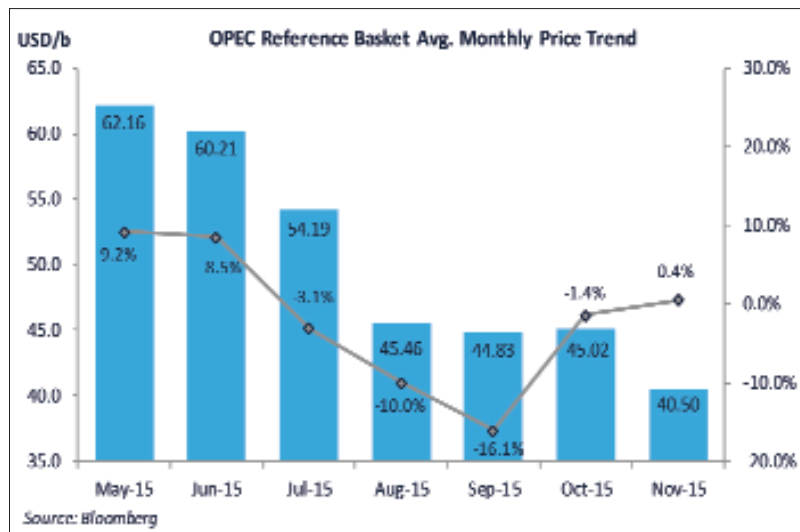


terms of domestic currency in November-15, whereas imports declined by 5.6 percent. This resulted in a trade surplus for the month, however, it failed to generate positive investor reaction. On the other hand, a warm start to the winter in the US has led to a decline in demand for heating oil, which is pretty strong during this time of the year.

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Kuwait Blend Spot Price FOB also declined to new lows for the sixth consecutive month and averaged at \$38.40/b during November-15, a decline of 11.9 percent as compared to the previous month's average. On the production side, oil production by OPEC member countries declined slightly by 33tb/d, according to data from Bloomberg, primarily on the back of a decline in oil production in Nigeria and Libya partially offset by higher production primarily in Iraq.

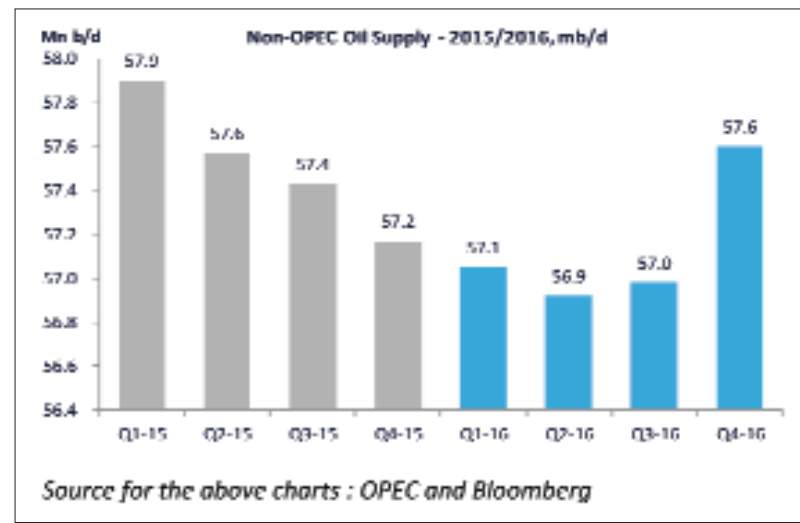
IEA discarded the speculation and said that the concerns regarding the storage capacity are overblown. The report said that spare capacity in the US is not expected to come under pressure anytime soon due to spare storage capacity. The report added that while US inventories are merely 70 percent full, another 230 million



barrels of new storage capacity is being added.

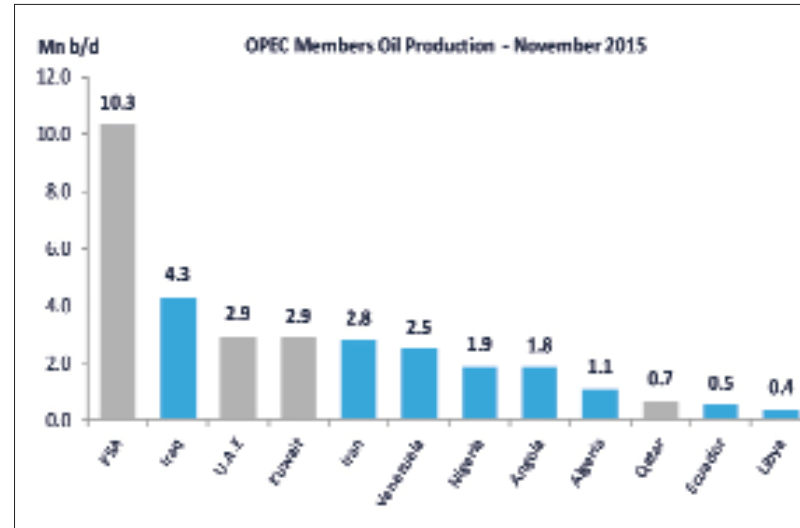
The IEA report and a number of other analyses echoed the view that oil production has peaked especially for the non-OPEC producers as planned new investments to expand production has seen a significant

11.42 mb/d in 2014 to 11.76 mb/d in 2015, an increase of 0.34 mb/d. According to monthly statistics from the US, oil demand remained flat year-on-year during September-15 as strong demand for jet fuel, distillate and gasoline on the back of lower fuel price environment and strong



increase in auto sales was offset by steep decline in demand for propane/propylene and other product requirements. Preliminary data for October-15 and November-15 pointed to an overall positive trend in demand in the US. Similarly, September-15 data for European countries also showed an increase in oil demand by almost 3 percent or 0.45 mb/d. Auto sales Europe

and China in Q3-15 as well as expectations of higher supply in Q4-15. Oil supply from the OECD countries was revised up by 0.23 mb/d and is now expected to grow by 0.71 mb/d in 2015 to average at 24.90 mb/d. The growth would be driven by higher supply from OECD Americas (+0.65 mb/d) and OECD Europe (0.10 mb/d), whereas supply from OECD Asia Pacific is expected to decline by 0.05



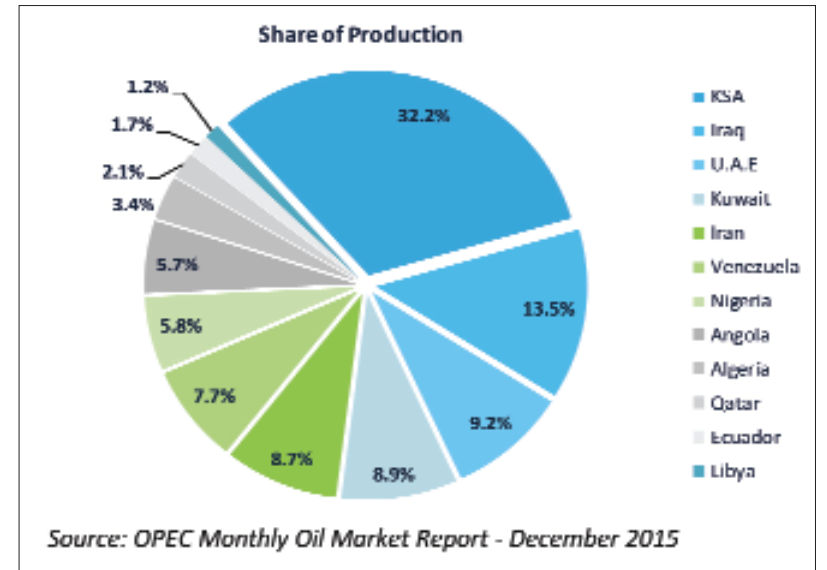
increased for the 26th consecutive month in October-15 by almost 3 percent. In OECD Asia Pacific, oil demand decline in Japan during October-15 after higher demand in the previous two months, whereas demand in India increased by a strong 17 percent year-on-year as all products saw higher demand. Oil demand in the Middle East has also increased unabated during October-15 led by Saudi Arabia with an increase of 15 percent year-on-year to reach the highest level in 2015. Demand in Kuwait, Iraq, Qatar and UAE also increased on the back of higher demand for transportation fuels.

Oil demand growth in 2016 was kept unchanged from the last month and is expected to reach 1.25 mb/d to average around 94.13 mb/d. This growth primarily hinges on economic growth in the OECD Americas which is expected to see higher upside risks whereas in Europe, downside risks outweigh positive growth factors resulting in a slight decline in demand growth in 2016. Oil demand growth in the Middle East also faces downside risks in the form of geopolitical turbulence in some countries; however, higher demand for transportation fuels in Saudi Arabia, Iran, Kuwait, UAE, Qatar, Jordan and Iraq would result in higher overall demand.

World oil supply

Non-OPEC oil supply growth in 2015 was also revised upward by 0.28 mb/d as compared to the previous month's expectations and is now expected to grow by 1.0 mb/d to average at 57.51 mb/d. The increase came as a result of an upward revision in supply from the US, UK, Brazil, Russia

mb/d compared to last year. Oil supply from OECD Americas is expected to average at 20.74 mb/d during 2015 as a result of higher supply from US and Canada partially offset by decline in supply from Mexico. According to the latest weekly rig count report from Baker Hughes, US oil rig count reach 254 rigs after a decline of 21



rigs, the steepest decline in 2 months. Meanwhile, oil supply from the Middle East is expected to decline by 0.09 mb/d in 2015 led by decline in supply from Bahrain and Yemen.

Non-OPEC oil supply was revised down by 0.25 mb/d in the December-15 monthly report and is now expected to contract by 0.38 mb/d as compared to 2015 levels to average at 57.14 mb/d. The decline comes on the back of higher supply declines in US (-

0.17 mb/d), UK (-0.05 mb/d), Mexico (-0.13 mb/d) and Kazakhstan (-0.06 mb/d) whereas supply growth in Australia is expected to decline from the previous expectation of 0.04 mb/d to 0.02 mb/d.

OPEC oil production & spare capacity

A number of news developments during the month pointed to plans for even higher production rates by OPEC countries. On one hand Saudi Arabia called for higher investment in its downstream sector with almost \$150 billion worth of investments identified in the petrochemical sector, a move to develop a more diversified service-based economy. On the other hand, Oman Oil's plans to boost oil output by investing almost \$2.4 billion over the next five years. Although no specific time frame was specified for the investment, the investment comes as a part of the effort to reach a production level of 0.2 mb/d in 2020. Meanwhile, Kuwait plans a capital spending of \$120 billion in the energy sector in the next five years and has already allocated \$50 billion for the Zour refinery project, a clean fuels project, for upstream work and for petrochemicals projects. Furthermore, the energy minister of Bahrain said that the MENA region needs to increase oil production by 5 mb/d over the next 10 years to replace the natural reduction in output due to the decline in oil field capacity as well as to meet global demand. He added that this would require an investment of \$700 billion over the next decade.

According to monthly oil production data from Bloomberg, OPEC oil production declined marginally during November-15 by 33 tb/d or 0.1 percent to 32.12 mb/d after an increase during the previous month. The decline in production was primarily on the back of lower production in Nigeria that reported a decline of 141 tb/d during the month to reach 1.88 mb/d. Libya and UAE also saw marginal decline in oil production during the month reported at 55 tb/d and 30 tb/d. On the other hand, the decline was partially offset by higher production in Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Qatar that reported a combined production growth of 194 tb/d during the month. During November-15, OPEC produced at 88.03 percent of its capacity, a slight decline from the previous month. Saudi Arabia continued to account for

SHELL PLANS MARCH SHUTDOWN AT PEARL GTL PLANT IN QATAR

DOHA: Royal Dutch Shell plans a major maintenance shutdown at its Pearl gas-to-liquids (GTL) plant in Qatar around March next year, a company executive said yesterday. A turnaround maintenance in March will halt output from one facility, Train 2, and that could take around one or two months to complete, Rob Sherwin, Deputy Country Chairman for Shell Qatar said.

"Pearl GTL is two identical, parallel trains, we had Train 1 down for maintenance earlier this year. That will happen again in 2016 for Train 2, it will be the same timing, it will be March-time," he told Reuters in Doha on the sidelines of an energy conference. "The whole train will come down. We'll be down to one train producing for the duration of the turnaround. This year's maintenance took somewhere between one and two months, so it's a decent chunk of time."

Pearl GTL comprises two identical GTL 'trains', with a total capacity of 140,000 barrels per day of GTL products plus 120,000 barrels per day of natural gas liquids and ethane, according to Shell's website. Fed by the world's biggest non-associated gas field, Pearl, the world's largest GTL plant strips methane from wellhead gas and combines it with oxygen to produce diesel, natural gas liquids and ethane. — Reuters



KABUL: An Afghan day-laborer sieves charcoal at a coal yard in Herat Province. Afghanistan's economy has improved significantly since the fall of the Taliban regime in 2001 largely because of the infusion of international assistance. Despite significant improvement in the last decade the country is still extremely poor and remains highly dependent on foreign aid. — AFP

IMF MUST STAY, GREXIT RISK NOT OVER: EU BAILOUT CHIEF

ATHENS: Greece cannot remove the IMF from its economic bailout, the head of the EU's rescue fund said yesterday, adding that the possibility of a Greek eurozone exit remains if reforms are neglected. "There has to be a financial contribution because the IMF, according to the ESM Treaty and to the agreement in the July summit, should be part of the program also financially," Klaus Regling, head of the European Stability Mechanism, told To Vima weekly.

Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras last week argued that the global lender's participation was "not necessary" in the country's third bailout, highlighting the International Monetary Fund's "unconstructive" position in demanding tough reforms and guarantees. But Regling warned Sunday: "If the IMF decides not to participate it could be a big problem." "My assumption is that the IMF will participate," he said, adding that the contribution "is likely to be small." Tsipras' leftist government was forced in July to back down from its anti-austerity electoral pledges and accept a three-year, 86 billion euro (\$94 billion) rescue from its eurozone partners.

At the time, the threat of Greece being forced to leave the eurozone had been broached in Brussels, and Regling yesterday said the risk was theoretically still present. "Greece has agreed to implement reforms which are necessary so that its partners can provide the financing needed and Greece can return to a sustainable economic situation," the European Stability Mechanism chief said.

"But ultimately the possibility is always there, if commitments as a member of monetary union are not respected," he said in reference to the so-called Grexit. Tsipras' administration has since July pushed through parliament a number of unpopular bailout reforms, losing part of its majority in the chamber to defections in the process. Next week lawmakers will be called to approve the privatization of electricity distributor Admie and the sale of non-performing business loans to distress funds. But Athens must next overhaul its social security system and possibly cut pensions, a measure that is likely to put further pressure on the government's tenuous hold on parliament. — AFP

PACKED CITIES, EMPTY VILLAGES: VIETNAM'S MIGRATION DILEMMA

HANOI: When Vu Thi Linh moved her family from their spacious rural home to a tiny rented room in Hanoi, she hoped her children would be able to get the education she never had.

The Linhs are among hundreds of thousands of people moving to Vietnam's bulging capital and southern Ho Chi Minh City every year, part of what the World Bank says is one of the fastest rates of urbanization in Asia. But as economic growth accelerates, Vietnam's cities are struggling to cope with the huge numbers of people abandoning the grind of country life, while only the elderly and the young are left in the villages.

Linh moved to Hanoi in June after her two

daughters won a place at a university in the capital. "I didn't think life in the city was exciting, but because of my children's future, I've had to change my opinion," she told AFP. "They have become more educated and now they don't want to come back to live in the countryside." Since decades of war ended in 1975, Vietnam has developed rapidly from an impoverished nation plagued by food shortages to a middle-income country and World Trade Organization member.

Despite lingering issues in the banking and state-run sector, gross domestic product (GDP) is growing faster than expected this year and analysts say Vietnam is one of the only countries in

Southeast Asian with swiftly rising exports.

Some 70 percent of the 90 million-strong population still lives off farming in rural areas, but top party leaders have said they want a "modern and industrialized nation by 2035".

Many move to the cities to work in export-oriented manufacturing-often in industrial zones on the outskirts of big urban centres-construction and services.

Better wages

For many of these new arrivals, life is not easy. Linh has swapped 500 square metres (600 square yards) of garden and fruit trees and a vegetable plot in northern Thai Binh province for a 20-square-

metre rented room she shares with her two daughters.

But the 300,000 dong (\$13) she brings in each day as a cleaner and scrap metal collector is considerably more than what she would make in her village.

Le Van Mung moved to Hanoi a decade ago and has few regrets. "Life in the countryside is too hard. We cannot make much money and we have to work really hard in the fields," he said.

Originally from northern Ha Nam province, Mung now works as an electrician and his wife runs a small restaurant. Together they earn some \$600 a month-enough to pay for rent and schooling for their two children. "Life is also not easy here in Hanoi. But we're trying to earn money for our children. I think they will have better lives than we do," he said.

Some 7.5 million people moved to Vietnam's cities between 2000 and 2010,

according to World Bank figures, an urbanization rate of 4.1 percent. Among the 14 countries the Bank refers to as East Asia, only neighboring Laos and Cambodia have higher rates, it said.

Vietnam now has 23 million people living in cities, making it the sixth most urbanized country in East Asia, a major-and rapid-change. "There are more well-paying jobs and opportunities than in the countryside," said Dang Nguyen Anh, director of Vietnam's Institute of Sociology in Hanoi.

Moreover, younger generations have turned their back on the traditional rural lifestyle. "It is difficult to resist the attraction of city life," Anh told AFP.

Creaking infrastructure

Officials say around 100,000 people move to the capital every year and some 130,000 move to southern business hub Ho Chi Minh City.

For a country where the phrase "go home" translates literally to "go back to the countryside", this is a major transformation.

The new arrivals-mostly students and unskilled workers-bring benefits, but also put "pressure on culture, education, traffic, health care," said Hanoi city official Pham Van Thanh.

Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City have been struggling to build enough infrastructure-roads, water supplies and drainage can hardly keep pace with the city's growth.

Traffic congestion has become a major issue, while schools and hospitals are overloaded, experts say.

In Ho Chi Minh City, some 85,000 new pupils enter the schooling system each year and, in some areas, up to half of these may be from other provinces. Vietnam has a household registration system which makes it more difficult for new arrivals to access free schooling and healthcare in the cities-although widespread corruption means there are ways around this.

Authorities make "no effort to minimize the number of migrants," Hanoi official Thanh said.

But this is also hurting rural areas. Whole swathes of the countryside are now made up of the elderly and the very young-with all the working-age adults heading to major cities or industrial zones. Sociologist Anh said the changes are entirely understandable. "If you find a good job, you will not want to return to your former homeland," he said. — AFP

Daily Kuwait Stock Exchange Report

Sunday 13 December 2015

Index	Change	Closing	Last Closing	High	Low
Price Index	▼ -52.87	5,633.28	5,686.15	5,686.79	5,605.93
Weighted Index	▼ -1.11	384.89	386.00	387.15	382.85
KSX 15	▲ 1.45	916.25	914.80	920.36	909.89

Volume	94,422,731
Value (KWD)	10,172,695
Number of Trades	2,787

Security	Trades					
	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Change
MARIN	0.0	0.0	0	0	114	▲ 0.0
IKARUS	92	88	286,659	25,839	22	▲ 0.0
IPG	0.0	0.0	0	0	248	▲ 0.0
NAPESCO	610	610	50	31	2	▲ 0.0
ENERGYH	43.5	41.5	1,551	64	2	▲ -0.5
GPI	56	53	4,591,090	249,428	132	▲ -2.0
ABAR	124	110	37,085	4,317	8	▲ -10.0
Oil & Gas			4,916,435	279,679	166	▼ -7.73
KFOUC	0.0	0.0	0	0	230	▲ 0.0
BPCC	530	495	16,205	8,584	4	▲ -35.0
ALKOUT	0.0	0.0	0	0	610	▲ 0.0
ALQURAIN	188	186	226,517	42,533	13	▲ 2.0
Basic Materials			242,722	51,118	17	▼ -19.74

Security	Trades					
	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Change
SOKOUK	43.0	41.5	950,880	39,838	31	▲ -2.5
KRE	59	58	4,489,504	262,400	50	▲ -1.0
URC	95	92	90,575	8,446	7	▲ -1.0
NRE	90	88	616,200	54,648	13	▲ -2.0
SRE	340	325	79,180	26,506	5	▲ -15.0
TAM	650	630	81,000	51,150	3	▲ 0.0
AREEC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	▲ 0.0
MASSALEH	59	55	59,810	3,490	3	▲ -1.0
ARABREC	29.0	28.5	898,589	25,844	30	▲ -0.5
ERESCO	66	64	47,600	3,090	5	▲ 1.0
MABANEE	940	930	165,720	154,120	10	▲ 0.0
INJAZZAT	83	80	33,100	2,649	5	▲ -2.0
INVESTORS	25.5	24.0	6,312,874	154,449	98	▲ 24.5
IRC	30.0	27.5	211,623	6,126	14	▲ -1.0
ALTIJARIA	80	79	853,280	67,552	12	▲ -1.0
SANAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	▲ 0.0
AAYANRE	77	77	9,650	743	1	▲ 0.0
AQAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	▲ 0.0
ALAQARIA	21.0	20.0	32,050	656	3	▲ 0.0
MAZAYA	106	104	139,399	14,773	10	▲ -2.0
ADNC	30.5	27.0	9,581,612	265,732	140	▲ -2.0
THEMAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	▲ 0.0
TIJARA	43.0	40.5	110,200	4,576	7	▲ 2.5
TAAMEER	24.5	23.0	211,100	4,980	7	▲ -2.0
ARKAN	110	110	43,000	4,730	3	▲ 1.0
ARGAN	178	174	33,500	5,872	5	▲ -6.0
ABYAAR	29.5	28.5	4,169,365	121,688	29	▲ -1.0
MUNSHAAT	80	79	191,750	15,320	10	▲ -2.0
FIRSTDUBAI	47.0	46.0	82,220	3,814	8	▲ 6.5
KBT	42.0	40.5	1,599,504	66,311	51	▲ 41.5
REAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	▲ 0.0
MENA	25.5	23.5	662,200	15,864	20	▲ -2.0
ALMUDON	32.0	31.0	410,000	12,795	4	▲ 1.0
MARAKEZ	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	▲ 0.0
REMAL	36.0	34.5	485,000	17,000	15	▲ 34.5
MASHAER	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	▲ 106
Real Estate			32,650,485	1,415,145	599	▼ -18.84

Security	Trades					
	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Change
KCEM	410	390	22,482	9,217	2	▲ 4.0
REFRI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	▲ 0.0
CABLE	370	370	16,746	6,196	6	▲ -5.0
SHIP	140	140	654	92	1	▲ -8.0
PCEM	1,120	1,100	7,950	8,750	6	▲ 1,100
PAPER	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	▲ 400
MRC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	▲ 79
ACICO	280	280	1,750	490	2	▲ -20.0
GMCM	530	475	2	1	2	▲ 530
HCC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	▲ 132
KPAK	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	▲ 365
KBMMC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	▲ 210
NICBM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	▲ 236
EQUIPMENT	58	57	230,800	13,231	17	▲ -2.0
NCCI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	▲ 99
GYPSUM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	▲ 102
SALBOOKH	83	80	107,938	8,735	7	▲ -1.0
AGLTY	510	495	569,462	284,744	51	▲ 500
EDU	216	216	20,000	4,320	3	▲ 216
CLEANING	41.0	39.0	306,178	12,166	10	▲ -1.5
CITYGROUP	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	▲ 380
KGL	44.0	43.5	72,175	3,149	5	▲ 43.5
KPCP	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	▲ 222
HUMANSOFT	1,060	950	299	285	5	▲ -30.0
NAFAIS	204	204	5	1	1	▲ 204
SAFWAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	▲ 325
GFC	47.5	47.5	19,000	903	13	▲ 47.5
MAYADEEN	21.5	20.0	3,689,708	75,712	66	▲ -1.0
CGC	780	740	1,184	900	3	▲ 780
MTCC	71	67	660,795	45,384	36	▲ -3.0
UPAC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	▲ 700
ALAFCO	212	212	211,667	44,873	7	▲ -2.0
MUBARRAD	79	76	513,200	39,832	13	▲ 79
LOGISTICS	57	54	198,150	10,904	10	▲ -3.0
SCEM	84	84	20,000	1,680	1	▲ 84
GCEM	80	78	11,160	889	2	▲ -2.0
QCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	▲ 80
FCEM	74	72	420,140	30,620	12	▲ 73
RKWC	104	102	29,345	3,051	6	▲ 102
SPEC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	▲ 88
Industrials			7,130,790	606,125	287	▼ 1053.27

Security	Trades					
	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Change
KINV	99	99	300	30	1	▲ 99
FACIL	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	▲ 180
IFA	30.0	29.0	432,000	12,597	36	▲ -0.5
NINV	94	94	510,000	47,940	2	▲ 94
KPROJ	580	570	127,207	72,658	6	▲ 580
COAST	33.0	30.0	305,228	9,334	11	▲ -1.0
SECH	42.5	40.5	1,561,999	63,876	56	▲ 40.5
SGC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	▲ 110
ARZAN	36.5	35.0	187,891	6,640	18	▲ -0.5
MARKAZ	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	▲ 104
KMEFIC	27.5	26.5	417,500	11,218	17	▲ -1.5
ALAMAN	57	55	68,479	3,819	5	▲ -1.0
ALOLA	58	55	13,500	746	3	▲ 58
ALMAL	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	▲ 32.5
GIH	28.0	26.0	1,063,413	28,396	43	▲ -2.0
AAYAN	49.0	48.0	815,500	39,649	18	▲ 49.0
BAYANINV	34.5	33.5	355,690	12,096	19	▲ -1.0
OSOUL	42.5	42.5	100	4	1	▲ 42.5
KFCI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	▲ 40.5
KAMCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	▲ 102
NIH	60	57	806,903	47,604	17	▲ 59
ISKAN	31.5	29.0	1,316,200	39,097	65	▲ -2.5
MADAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	▲ 20.5
ALDEERA	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	▲ 35.0
ALSALAM	35.5	34.0	2,072,804	71,406	37	▲ -2.5
EKTTITAB	30.0	29.0	882,293	26,084	34	▲ -1.0
QURAINHLD	7.0	6.5	1,801,093	12,042	25	▲ 7.0
ALMADINA	37.0	36.0	6,532,911	236,892	104	▲ -2.5
NOOR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	▲ 55
TAMINV	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	▲ 425
EXCH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	▲ 130
TAIBA	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	▲ 88
KSHC	26.5	25.0	208,500			

DOLLAR DROPS AFTER US MIXED PERFORMANCE

KUWAIT: Last week started with a lower US dollar against its major counterparts as recovering oil prices lent some strength to commodity-linked currencies. By the end of the week, the greenback managed to regain some of its losses especially against emerging markets currencies as the strength in commodities and oil prices happened to be short lived. The US dollar ended the week slightly lower against the big five despite expectations of an imminent rate hike by the Fed and as investors started to shift their focus towards the pace of rate hikes beyond December and well into 2016.

The Fed's looming policy decision is indeed making it harder for investors to predict the actions of other central banks and to work out where exchange rates are headed. Next week's event could be pretty quiet in the near term for the major five currencies, but it remains a major episode for emerging market currencies as we continue to witness lately. Further delay of a rate hike is likely to increase uncertainty and achieve nothing useful.

Given the widespread agreement that the Fed will hike, a strong initial market reaction is unlikely. Beyond the first hike, the outlook for risk assets will be determined by how the disagreement between the market and the Fed about the pace and extent of hikes gets resolved.

On the foreign exchange side, as mentioned earlier, the US dollar Index opened the week on a strong footing as market continued to react to further indications of policy divergence between the Fed and other major central banks. The dollar index strength was also short lived this week as it quickly fell to a low of 97.22 amid the jump in commodity-linked currencies on Wednesday. By the weekend, even with commodities tumbling, it was able to regain some of its losses and closed at 97.56.

The Euro witnessed a better performance, rallying to a high of 1.1043 against the US dollar as the momentum from the previous ECB decision continued to dictate the currency's movement. The single currency managed to lose some of that momentum and close the week at 1.0986.

The Sterling pound fell against most of its counterparts after the release of the Bank of England meeting minutes, which indicated that

interest rates are likely to remain at record lows for longer. Additionally, the minutes showed that policymakers expect inflation to remain subdued on the back of low oil prices and slow wage growth. However, the Pound managed to reach a high of 1.5240 as investors sold the dollar across the big five. Finally, the pound closed the week at 1.5213.

The Japanese yen gained against the US dollar after Japanese final GDP figures showed that the economy grew in the third quarter and avoided recession as seen in the initial estimates. The dollar Yen opened the week at 123.20 and dropped to a low of 121.05 by the middle of the



week. However, the cross rebounded by the end of the week and closed at 122.01.

Claims remain below the 300k mark

The number of people who filed for unemployment claims in the US climbed more than expected last week, but remained below 300,000 indicating further strength in the US labor market. Initial jobless claims increased by 13,000 to 282,000, exceeding market expectations of

NBK WEEKLY MONEY MARKETS REPORT

270,000. Although, initial claims remain relatively low, it marked the highest reading since late-July. The four-week average for new claims also rose to 270,750, up from 269,250 a week earlier.

Strong retail sales

Retail sales climbed in November by the most in four months as the drop in gasoline prices helped free up some money for other consumptions. The lower than expected 0.2% increase in November followed a 0.1% gain in the previous month.

US Labor Department on Friday. In the twelve months through November, the PPI declined 1.1 percent after sliding 1.6 percent in October. The dollar strength and continued declines in oil prices amid a glut and slowing global growth have dampened price pressures, leaving inflation running persistently below the Federal Reserve's target.

German industrial production

German industrial production recovered in October but stayed far below market expectations, adding

Excluding purchases of autos and gasoline, retail purchases climbed 0.5 percent, also the biggest increase since July.

Wage Related Increase in Producer Prices

US producer prices unexpectedly rose in November as the cost of services increased, but the underlying trend continued to point to subdued inflation. Producer price index advanced 0.3 percent after falling 0.4 percent in October, as stated by the

to the evidence that the Chinese and emerging market slowdowns are leaving their marks on the Eurozone's largest economy. Industrial production increased by 0.2 percent on a monthly basis in October, from a 1.1 percent decline in September.

Eurozone GDP higher

Third quarter GDP in the eurozone increased by 0.3 percent on a quarterly basis. Details of the GDP report showed that domestic demand was fully responsible for the increase in

the quarter, with household consumption leading the way. Inventory accumulation also contributed importantly in the quarter, while strong imports were a drag on growth.

The Swiss National Bank maintained status quo on its expansionary monetary policy. The target range for the three-month Libor remains between -1.25 percent and -0.25 percent, and the interest rate on sight deposits with the SNB remain unchanged at -0.75 percent. The negative interest rate and the interest rate differential with other currencies have caused the Swiss Franc to be less attractive and a funding currency. Moreover, the SNB noted that they will remain active in the foreign exchange market in order to influence the exchange rate situation whenever deemed necessary.

UK manufacturing slowing down

UK manufacturing production dropped 0.4 percent on a monthly basis in October, disappointing expectations for a drop of 0.1 percent and following a gain of 0.9 percent a month earlier.

On an annualized basis, manufacturing production fell at rate of 0.1 percent, worse than forecasts for a gain of 0.1 percent, after declining at a rate of 0.4 percent in September. Industrial production was in better shape moving up 0.1 percent, in line with expectations and following a decline of 0.2 percent in the previous month.

BoE dovish statement

According to the BoE minutes, policymakers remain concerned over falling oil prices, which are keeping inflation subdued. In addition, the majority of policymakers said that low oil prices and subdued wage growth will keep a lid on inflation. "There would need to be a sustained firming in domestic cost pressures, compared with current rates," to push inflation back to the 2 percent target, officials said.

The Monetary Policy Committee voted eight-to-one to keep rates on hold at 0.5 percent. Ian McCafferty, one of four external members on the nine-person MPC, voted to increase rates to 0.75 percent.

Japan GDP rises

Japan's final GDP figures showed

that the economy expanded in the third quarter and avoided recession as seen in the initial estimate on the back of stronger investments and slower pace of decline in the inventories. Japan's Q3 GDP expanded to 0.3 percent, revised up from -0.2 percent. Markets had expected a 0.1 percent increase in overall output. On an annual basis, the economy expanded 1.0 percent in the third quarter, beating the first estimate of a 0.8 percent contraction.

Latest employment figures from Australia surprised markets to the upside in November. The jump in employment indicates that low interest rates are encouraging businesses to hire. Employment data showed a 71,400 jobs gains from October above the forecasts of the 10,000 drop. In addition, the unemployment rate fell 0.1 percent to the lowest level since May 2014, coming at 5.8 percent against 5.9 percent seen in October and well below the 6.0 percent expected. Moreover, the National Australian Bank reported that business confidence improved from +3 to +5 last month.

Chinese trade balance shrinks

Chinese trade surplus contracted to Yuan 343 billion in November, dropping from record high levels seen in October at Yuan 393 billion. Analysts were expecting a rise to Yuan 407 billion. China November imports declined -5.6 percent on a yearly basis, showing an improvement from the -16.0 percent reported for the previous month. Markets had expected imports to drop -11.3 percent last month.

Chinese consumer prices rose in November higher than the previous month, coming at 1.5 percent on a yearly basis against 1.3 percent in October. Markets had expected an increase of 1.4 percent for November. The upticks in price pressures were mainly seen on the back of higher demand in health care, personal activities and transportation sector. The Producer Price Index was unchanged at -5.9 percent on a yearly basis in November, better than the expected -6.0 percent.

Kuwait
Kuwaiti Dinar at 0.30310
The USDKWD opened at 0.30310 yesterday morning.

AL-TIJARI ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF NAJMA ACCOUNT

KUWAIT: Commercial Bank of Kuwait held the Al-Najma Account draw on 13th December, 2015.

The draw was held under the supervision of the Ministry of Commerce & Industry represented by Mr. Abdulaziz Ashkanani.

The winners of the Al-Najma daily draw are:

Faleh Salem Salamah Ayed — KD 7000,
Mahmoud Mohammed Ahmad Abdulaziz — KD 7000,
Ruksana Motlekar and Abdulhamid Motlekar — KD 7000,
Munera Fawaz Duaij Salman Al-Sabah — KD 7000,
Mohammad Muner Chaudhry Abdulghani — KD 7000.

The Commercial Bank of Kuwait announces the biggest daily draw in Kuwait with the launch of the new Najma account. Customers of the bank

can now enjoy a KD 7,000 daily prize which is the highest in the country and another 4 mega prizes during the year worth KD 100,000 each on different occasions: The National Day, Eid Al-Fitr, Eid Al-Adha and on the 19th of June which is the date of the bank's establishment.

With a minimum balance of KD 500, customers will be eligible for the daily draw provided that the money is in the account one week prior to the daily draw or 2 months prior to the mega draw. In addition, for each KD 25 a customer can get one chance for winning instead of KD 50.

Commercial Bank of Kuwait takes this opportunity to congratulate all lucky winners and also extends appreciation to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry for their effective supervision of the draws which were conducted in an orderly and organized manner.

TURKMENISTAN, AFGHANISTAN PAKISTAN, INDIA LAUNCH MAJOR PIPELINE

MARY, Turkmenistan: Leaders of Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan and India during a ceremony in the Turkmen desert broke ground yesterday on a major pipeline that could help ease energy deficits in South Asia. Presidents Gurbanguly Berdimukhamedov of Turkmenistan and Ashraf Ghani of Afghanistan were on hand for the ceremony outside the city of Mary in the Karakum Desert, marking the beginning of work on the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) link.

They were joined by Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif of Pakistan and Indian Vice President Mohammad Hamid Ansari, an AFP correspondent reported from the scene. "Today we were participants and witnesses of a historic event. Today marks the start of a project of great scale—the TAPI pipeline," said Berdimukhamedov at the ceremony, held in a pavilion imitating a traditional Turkmen nomadic dwelling.

"TAPI is designed to become a new effective step towards the formation of the modern architecture of global energy

security, a powerful driver of economic and social stability in the Asian region," he added.

Turkmenistan has earlier said it expects the gas link with an annual capacity of 33 billion cubic metres to be fully operational by the end of 2018. However uncertainty hangs over the project, whose cost is estimated at \$10 billion (9.0 billion euros).

Aside from the risks associated with a link traversing war-torn Afghanistan, the four-country consortium has yet to confirm the participation of a major foreign commercial partner willing to help finance TAPI. Berdimukhamedov noted that Sunday also marked the beginning of the third phase of development of the Galkynsh gas field which will provide the resource base for the TAPI project.

The next phase of development at Galkynsh—the second largest natural gas field in the world—will be overseen by a consortium of Japanese and Turkish companies in addition to Turkmenistan, Berdimukhamedov said. — AFP

SOUTH AFRICA BOURSE CEO CONCERNED ABOUT FINANCIAL STABILITY

JOHANNESBURG: The head of South Africa's bourse said yesterday he was concerned about long-term financial stability after last week's selling frenzy, triggered by the unexpected sacking of the finance minister, wiped nearly \$11 billion off share values.

"We should not just be concerned about the immediacy of market reaction but should be mindful of the longer term impact on the financial stability of our economy," the JSE Ltd Chief Executive Nicky Newton-King said. President Jacob Zuma sacked Nhlhlahla Nene late on Wednesday in favour of a relatively unknown lawmaker, David van Rooyen, unnerving investors in an ailing economy whose investment grade status is already at risk.

The removal of Nene, a veteran civil servant in the ministry who was keen to rein in government spending in Africa's most industrialised economy, sent the rand currency to record lows, sparked a sell-off in bank stocks and sent yields in both local and dollar-denominated debt soaring.

The JSE All-share index lost 169.6 billion rand (\$10.68 billion) between Thursday and Friday. "We should remember that behind the daily statistics are the life savings of ordinary South Africans," Newton-King said in a statement. "As individuals and as corporates we need to be aware of how we are impacted by the seriousness of this moment." — Reuters

FED EXPECTED TO HIKE RATES AMID NAGGING WORRIES

WASHINGTON: After a long buildup that stirred waves of turbulence in global markets, the Federal Reserve finally is expected to end its seven-year crisis stance with an interest rate increase on Wednesday.

Most bets are that the Fed will increase the benchmark federal funds rate for the first time in nearly a decade, signaling confidence in US economic growth even as the rest of the world sags.

A move has been well-flagged for months now by Fed Chair Janet Yellen and others on her team. About 97 percent of economists surveyed by the Wall Street Journal expect the increase.

Yellen made clear at the beginning of this month that she believes that longstanding arguments against an increase-inflation is absent and the jobs market still shows weakness-will dissolve through next year. "I anticipate continued economic growth at a moderate pace that will be sufficient to generate additional increases in employment, further reductions in the remaining margins of labor market slack, and a rise in inflation to our two percent objective," she said in a December 2 speech.

If the Fed waits too long, she added pointedly, "we would likely end up having to tighten policy relatively abruptly to keep the economy from significantly overshooting both of our goals." That speech "was really intended to tell the market that, yes, they are planning to raise rates at the next meeting," said Stephen Oliner of the American Enterprise Institute.

The Fed's policy body, the Federal Open Market Committee, meets tomorrow and Wednesday to weigh raising the fed funds



FED Chairman Janet Yellen

rate, a short-term peg for interbank lending which influences rates throughout the financial system, from 0-0.25 percent to an expected 0.25-0.50 percent.

The rate was pulled down to zero in an unprecedented series of very sharp cuts in 2008 as the economy sank into a deep recession. It has not budged since then, as the climb back to firm growth has been much slower than expected.

An end to ultra-easy money policy?

But the result of the Fed's ultra-easy money policy has been to flood the US and global economies with trillions of cheap dollars that some critics worry will spark uncontrollable

inflation and new asset bubbles. Neither has happened. But Yellen, stiffly opposed to a rate increase over her first 18 months as Fed chair, has turned more in favor recently, even has some of her FOMC colleagues have remained unconvinced.

Media reports have depicted her working behind the scenes in recent months to build consensus behind a rate hike. In her speech, she conceded that she is "looking forward to" the day she can begin raising rates.

The challenges are much like they were more than a year ago when Yellen said she expected the lift-off from zero around the middle of 2015.

First, although the unemployment rate has fallen steadily, to 5.0 percent now, there is still an uncommonly large number of people who have dropped out of the labor market, suggesting the recovery from the Great Recession has fallen short. Second, rather than move toward the 2 percent goal, inflation has actually fallen, though the main reasons have been the fall in fuel prices and those for imported goods, due to the stronger dollar and global slowdown.

With the rest of the world in a slump, prominent economists like Larry Summers and Paul Krugman have warned about raising rates when the risks of a reversal to US growth remain significant. If the Fed is wrong on inflation picking up, Krugman wrote in the New York Times, "a rate hike could end the run of good economic news."

In that case, he said "it's not at all clear what the Fed could do to fix its mistake." But having let expectations get so wound up, others say it would now be a mistake for the Fed

to hold off, which could suggest the fed has unspoken concerns. "If they don't go, that sends the wrong message about confidence in the economy. And I think it will be detrimental to market if they don't go," Ellen Zentner, chief US economist at Morgan Stanley, said on CNBC.

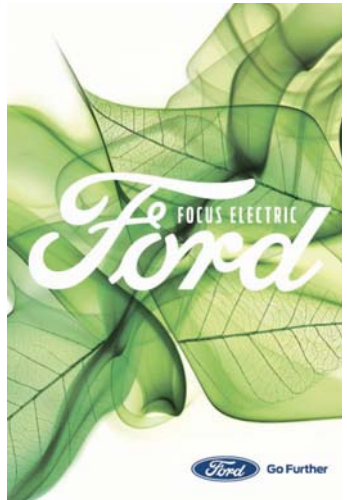
"The US economy should cope well with a less expansionary approach to monetary policy, as, unlike in the last economic cycle, consumers are well prepared for rising interest rates thanks to much lower debt," said Jorg Kramer, chief economist at Commerzbank. — AFP



HANOI: A migrant worker looking for a daily job in downtown Hanoi. Some 7.5 million people moved to Vietnam's cities between 2000 and 2010, according to World Bank figures, an urbanization rate of 4.1 percent. Only neighboring Laos and Cambodia have higher rates in East Asia, it said. — AFP

FORD INVESTING \$4.5BN IN ELECTRIFIED VEHICLE SOLUTIONS

Ford is investing an additional \$4.5 billion in electrified vehicle solutions by 2020 as well as changing how the company develops vehicle experiences for customers - all to



make people's lives better by changing the way the world moves.

Ford is adding 13 new electrified vehicles to its portfolio by 2020, when more than 40 percent of the company's global nameplates will come in electrified versions. This represents Ford's largest-ever electrified vehicle investment in a five-year period.

On the way next year is a new Focus Electric, which features all-new DC fast-charge capability delivering an 80 percent charge in an estimated 30 minutes and projected 100-mile range - an estimated two hours faster than today's Focus Electric.

The new Focus Electric, which starts production late next year, also will provide North American and European customers:

- SmartGauge with EcoGuide LCD Instrument Cluster, which offers a multitude of customizable displays that can help the driver see real-time EV power usage to help maximize vehicle efficiency

- Brake Coach, another smart feature that coaches the driver on how to use smooth braking to maximize the energy captured through the Regenerative Braking System. The more energy a driver captures through braking, the more energy is returned to the vehicle's battery

- Fun-to-drive character, with agile steering and handling engineered into the vehicle to give drivers a more connected feel to the road

Ford's shift to add electrified vehicle solutions answers increasing global trends calling for cleaner, more efficient vehicles.

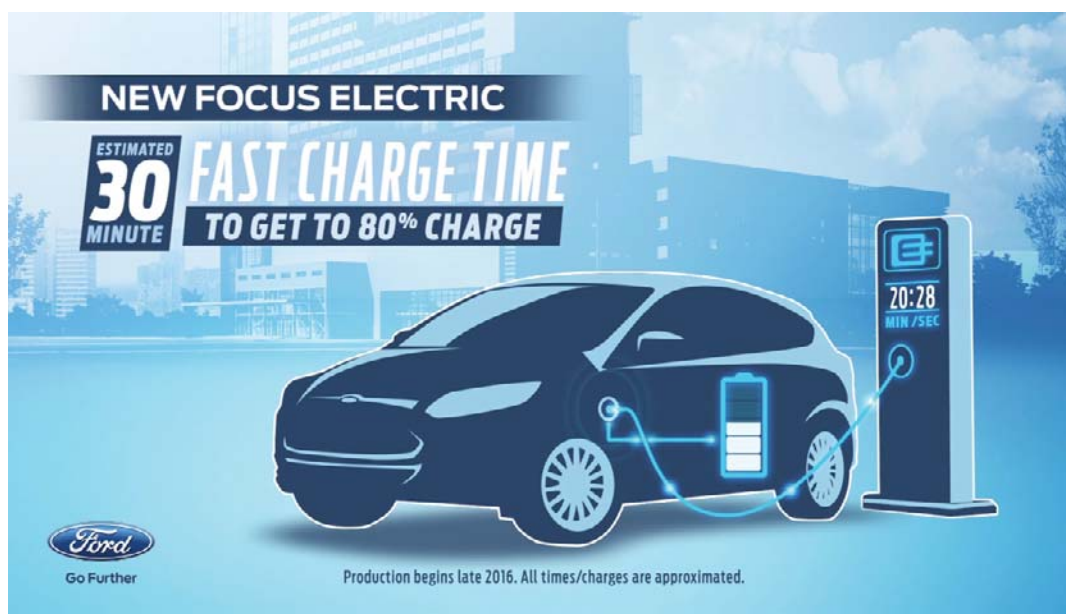
Experience-Led Design

Ford also is reimagining how to set itself apart in the marketplace by focusing on the customer experience and not just the vehicle itself. The company is changing its product development process to support the shift.

"The challenge going forward isn't who provides the most technology in a vehicle but who organizes that technology in a way that most excites and delights people," said Raj Nair, executive vice president, Product Development. "By observing consumers, we can better understand which features and strengths users truly use and value and create even better experiences for them going forward."

In addition to traditional market research, Ford is investing in social science-based research globally, observing how consumers interact with vehicles and gaining new insights into the cognitive, social, cultural, technological and economic nuances that affect product design.

"This new way of working brings together marketing, research, engineering and design in a new way to create meaningful user experiences, rather than individually developing



technologies and features that need to be integrated into a final product," Nair said. "We are using new insights from anthropologists, sociologists, economists, journalists and designers, along with traditional business techniques, to reimagine our product development process, create new experiences and make life better for millions of people." Next year, Ford is doubling the number of projects that use ethnographic research versus this year.

The team of social scientists already has spent months exploring topics such as the future of luxury transport, how people form relationships with their cars and the role of trucks in the American heartland.

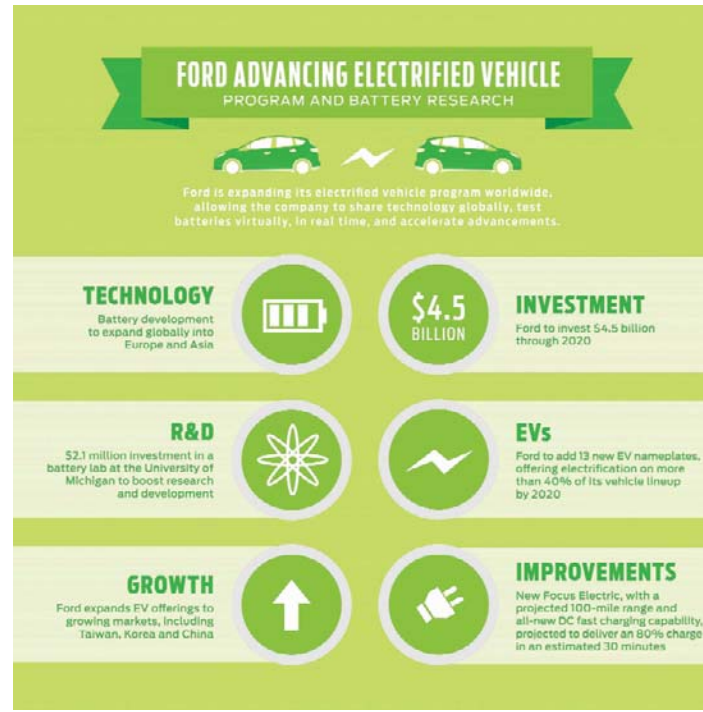
ReD, a social science-based strategy consultancy, has been innovating with consumer goods and pharmaceutical companies for a decade. ReD started working with Ford - its sole automotive client - in 2012. During the past three years, the team has invested more than 4,000

hours with thousands of vehicle users in more than 25 cities worldwide, taking 80,000 photos, nearly 3,000 hours of video and more than 8,000 pages of field notes, feeding countless insights to improve the product creation process.

"For 70 years, market research has been done by asking people for their opinion. But Ford has always been fundamentally skeptical about that. Henry Ford used to say, 'If I asked people what they wanted, they would have asked for a faster horse,'" said Christian Madsbjerg, founder of ReD Associates and author of The Moment of Clarity. "I chose to work with Ford because this approach is in their DNA and is setting the company at the forefront of this advanced and bold process, which is redefining market research and silo-busting the way the company operates."

Another new twist to the product development process is that designers no longer just sketch products but also full customer experience illustrations that visualize the experience each product is meant to deliver. The series of vignettes define a unique user journey that seamlessly integrates both hardware and software experiences.

This user experience design technique also plays an important role in developing the Ford Smart Mobility plan, which is designed to take the company to the next level in connectivity, mobility, autonomous vehicles, the customer experience and data and analytics. "As both an auto and a mobility company, we at Ford are going further than just designing the product to move people from point A to point B," Nair said. "We are considering the way customers interact with our vehicles as a unified experience, looking for ways to excite and delight customers and make their lives better."



QUALITY OF REGULATION, THE SPOKE IN THE GULF'S WHEEL

ASIYA CAPITAL INVESTMENTS COMPANY ANALYSIS

By Jordi Rof

The last release of the "Doing Business" report showed a moderate improvement in the GCC. However, the newly released results do not hide the poor performance of the region in the last five years, with the only exception of the UAE. But what does that mean? The overall index published in the report measures quality of regulation in a manner that makes it

it takes 12 procedures, 31 days and \$1,050 to do so. This translates in a score of 90.0 for the UAE and 75.4 for Kuwait in the category of creating a business.

The UAE is not only the best GCC performer, with an overall score of 75 (31st in the world), but also the only Gulf state improving consistently since 2010. The Emirates have advanced markedly in contract enforcement, protecting minority investors and in resolving insolvency

change in the compilation of information to elaborate the index. Overall, it seems that the intense reform activity and its quality is behind the notable evolution of the country, as the country performed 20 different reforms directly related to one the sub-categories of the index since 2010.

In the rest of the Gulf, the evolution is not positive. Saudi Arabia and Qatar registered a significant decline in the overall index. Saudi, for instance, improved substantially in taxation and contract enforcement. Still, the evolution was clearly negative in most other categories, and its lack of effective insolvency procedures led to the worst score in the world in this category. Kuwait, Bahrain and Oman witnessed no significant change. Government inaction, at least compared to the UAE, explains the poor performance in the rest of the GCC. Saudi Arabia and Kuwait passed only twelve and seven reforms in the last five-year period respectively, a lot less than the UAE, and two of them with a negative impact on regulation quality in each country. Qatar and Oman, carried out six and eight positive reforms respectively, while no reforms were reported for Bahrain.

There are lessons to be learnt from the case of the UAE. Nowadays, the scores of most GCC countries are mediocre, particularly compared to other high-income economies. However, regulation quality can be improved in relatively short periods of time provided the right reforms are passed and properly implemented, as in the case of the Emirates. Higher institutional quality is a necessary condition for the emergence of a pro-business environment in which the non-oil sector is able to thrive. Ending with the dependence on oil depends heavily on removing the unnecessary regulatory burden that the private sector is still facing.



NBK AWARDED BY VISA FOR BEING THE FIRST BANK TO LAUNCH 'VERIFIED BY VISA'

KUWAIT: National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) has been awarded by Visa for being "the first bank to launch "Verified by Visa" for Debit Cards in Kuwait". The award recognizes NBK for its commitment to delivering superior value to its customers by providing a secure banking environment.

Salah Al-Fulajj, NBK-Kuwait Chief Executive Officer and Mohammed Al Othman, NBK Deputy General Manager, Consumer banking Group received the award from Ihab Ayoub, Visa General Manager, Middle East and North Africa, at NBK's Head Office, in the presence of executives from NBK and Visa.

Commenting on the occasion, Al-Fulajj said "this distinction underpins the excellence of NBK's services and its pioneering position in delivering innovative products through a secured banking environment."

"NBK is committed to providing its customers with the best banking products and services by building on the long-time relationships with world leading partners such as Visa," added Al-Fulajj. "With the growing number of online payments globally, we want to make sure that our customers' internet purchases are as secure as possible. NBK customers can now enjoy both comfort and protection when using their cards while shopping on

international websites."

In his turn, Ayoub said: "We are pleased to confer the National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) with this award for being the first bank to launch "Verified by Visa" for Debit Cards in Kuwait. As the global leader in electronic payments, Visa's cards are designed to appeal to different market segments and we are delighted that NBK's suite of Visa products provides cardholders with the highest level of protection against unauthorized usage when shopping online."

NBK Secure Shopping is a free, quick and secure payment process that works simply by using a passcode. The NBK Secure service adds an additional level of authentication by confirming customer identity with a dedicated passcode that makes internet shopping safer.

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 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 register from this service when using their debit cards.



possible to compare it across countries. Ten different categories are considered in the gauge, such as starting a business, getting credit, paying taxes or resolving insolvency. Then, these topics are tested by performing the same action in the different legal systems. For instance, it takes six procedures, eight days and about \$600 to start a business in the UAE (Dubai). In Kuwait,

procedures. An important driver behind the positive evolution of the three categories has been higher quality and more agility of the legal system, which reduced the necessary average days needed to complete the procedures. The UAE also registered significant deterioration in the categories of cross-border trade and credit regulation, but mainly due to a methodological

INVESTMENT PROFESSIONALS EXPECT LOW OIL PRICES: CFA INSTITUTE SURVEY

KUWAIT: CFA Institute, the global association of investment professionals, has launched the results of its first CFA Institute GCC Societies Survey, based on feedback from more than 200 GCC-based CFA charterholders and members from Bahrain, Kuwait, and the United Arab Emirates. The survey highlights economic, investment and employment trends and challenges in the GCC region.



Elaborating on these findings, Rafik Hafez, President of CFA Society Kuwait, stated: "The CFA Institute GCC Societies Survey provides useful insights into the opinions and expectations of some of the most senior finance and investment professionals working in the GCC region. The economic outlook for 2016 seems uncertain, with the vast majority of respondents (81 percent) expect low oil prices to impact the GCC economy. Despite this uncertainty, the possibility of the introduction of Value-Added Tax (VAT), and human

resources are dominant themes.

Views on employment opportunities for finance professionals in the GCC market are fragmented. While 41 percent of respondents expect employment opportunities to decrease, 37 percent of respondents expect opportunities to remain the same. As the economy's potential cools, the majority of respondents express concern about the increased cost of conducting business with the possible introduction of VAT, as well as companies' ability to attract, retain, and maintain the cost of quality talent."

Five key findings from the survey include:

1. The majority of respondents (61 percent) believe that the possible introduction of a Value-Added Tax (VAT) to GCC countries will increase the cost of doing business and compliance for firms. This will discourage foreign direct investment (FDI), according to 17 percent of respondents.
2. Low oil prices will be the main factor affecting the GCC economy in 2016, according to 81 percent of respondents. Regional conflict is expected to be the second factor, according to 10 percent of respondents, followed by the slowdown in the Chinese economy,

according to 6 percent of respondents.

3. Real estate, hospitality, and the construction sectors will drive investment over the next two years, according to nearly half (48 percent) of respondents, followed by diversified industrial products (12 percent) and transportation and logistics (12 percent).
4. More than half of respondents (51 percent) feel that levels of trust from regulators and financial institutions in the investment industry are higher than during the financial crisis of 2008-2009. Levels of trust have remained the same, according to 34 percent of respondents, and 15 percent of respondents feel that they are lower than before the crisis.
5. Sharia finance will continue to see development in the region, according to more than half of respondents (64 percent).

Methodology

An online survey was conducted from 26 October to 9 November 2015. 218 CFA Institute members and charterholders in three countries across the GCC participated in the survey, including: Bahrain, Kuwait, and the United Arab Emirates.

BURGAN BANK ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF YAWMI ACCOUNT

KUWAIT: Burgan Bank announced yesterday the names of the lucky winners of its Yawmi account draw, each taking home a prize of KD 5,000.

The lucky winners for the daily draws took home a cash-prize of KD 5,000 each, and they are:

1. Abdulhameed Ali Mohd Al Qabandi
2. Abeer Ibrahim Yousef Al Rushoud
3. Laila Ghareeb Ali Al Hussain
4. Ilham Tegmouss
5. Mohammad Abdullah Ali

To further add to the anticipation of Yawmi account customers, Burgan Bank now offers a Quarterly Draw with more chances to win higher rewards, entitling one lucky customer to win KD 125,000 every three months. The Yawmi Account now offers Daily and quarterly Draws, the Quarterly Draw requires customers to maintain a minimum amount of KD 500 in their account for 2 months prior to draw date. Additionally, every KD 10 in the

account, will entitle customers to one chance of winning. If the account balance is KD 500 and above, the account holder will be qualified for both the quarterly and daily draws.

Burgan Bank encourages everyone to open a Yawmi account and/or increase their deposit to maximize their chances to becoming a winner. The more customers deposit, the higher the chances they receive of winning.

For more information on opening a Yawmi account or about the new quarterly draw, customers are urged to visit their nearest Burgan Bank branch and receive all the details, or simply call the bank's Call Center at 1804080 where customer service representatives will be delighted to assist with any questions on the Yawmi account or any of the bank's products and services. Customers can also log on to Burgan Bank's www.burgan.com for further information.

GULFNET UNVEILS SERVICES TO MEET EVERY SME'S NEEDS

KUWAIT: In its efforts of providing the latest technology to small and medium enterprise (SME), Gulfnet Communications, one of Kuwait's leading technology providers, recently introduced its highly distinctive SMEs package which offers a multitude of services catered to meet the needs of every Small and Medium Enterprises' needs.

Business owners can now fast-track their businesses with a variety of specially tailored services which include: Managed end-to-end IP Telephone Services, Email management, Comprehensive managed Web Hosting Services,

E-Fax Solutions, LED display screens, security and access control system, Data connection services, and internet services. Additionally, customers can choose the Internet speed, which suits their business enterprise from a range of 1 to 8 Mbps.

Dr Ahmad Salih Gulfnet's Chief Executive Officer commented: "Today's announcement reinforces our pioneering position in introducing technology services and solutions that help our clients to expand their business more easily and at a lower cost. Gulfnet has always been a firm supporter to businesses and their success, and thus has extended its services to enable small

and medium business owners to scale the heights of success through a range of services.

Backed by our broadband services and capabilities, business owners can now rest assured that their businesses are equipped with the tools and resources to establish a website, find new customers, and grow their businesses." The company's technology service offers businesses the smartest way to connect to the Internet. Together with the SMEs services and packages, Gulfnet's high speed Internet and technology services were designed to enhance entrepreneurs' business efficiency and increase productivity.



Dr Ahmad Salih - Gulfnet's Chief Executive Officer.

TURNING POOP INTO PLASTIC AT PARIS CLIMATE TALKS

LE BOURGET, France: A small piece of dung was on proud display at global climate-saving talks in Paris, just a few steps away from being transformed into a plastic bottle or fuel for a car. Along with scraps from slaughterhouses and dinner tables, it is the raw material for an innovative process to turn waste into a range of new products.

"This is the third Industrial Revolution. It changes the world from using oil products to using biomass," Regis Nouaille, founder of biotech startup Afyren, told AFP at the UN conference where 195 nations agreed a historic climate rescue pact.

His company was one of dozens that showed off pioneering green technologies, including a wood chip-powered generator and an inventive device for bringing electricity to remote villages.

Nouaille explained that waste like dung, animal parts or sugar beet leftovers can be doused with a cocktail of 50-100 naturally-occurring micro-organisms to prompt a chemical reaction. The process produces natural compounds, which Nouaille called "building blocks" that are extracted in a process pioneered by his company. Once the substance is refined in a process similar to the one for oil-it can then be used as the raw material for making plastic, petrol or even cosmetics.

Though the technology is a pilot effort, Nouaille said the goal is to roll it out on an industrial scale.

Just down the aisle in the sprawling convention centre was the incongruous scene of a thatched hut flanked by a several-metre tall metal pole topped with a streetlight and solar panel. It was part of a system called nanogrid that its developers say could help bring light into the lives of some of the more than 620 million Africans who do not have electricity. "So with electricity they will be able to develop new businesses and to develop themselves," said Boris Durand, a product manager with nanogrid's maker Sunna Design.

"We give them the tool and after people create their own development."

'Trash into treasure'

At the system's core is a solar panel that generates power both for the attached streetlight-which Sunna says provides both safety and a social centre in remote villages-and the nanogrid.

Durand said the system produces enough power to light up eight homes that would otherwise have been lit only with candles. The company provides the equipment and installs it. "They (users) pay 10 cents per day to get electricity at home," said Durand.

Weaning humanity off oil, gas and coal while moving towards a low-carbon future was a key element of the Paris talks. It turns out you can start doing that with a few unwanted logs.

A machine showed off at the conference heats up fuel such as woodchips or nutshells to the point where they give off highly-flammable gases carbon monoxide and hydrogen, but do not actually catch fire. "The flame is essentially a waste of energy," said Sara Norris, an engineer and saleswoman with the machine's maker All Power Labs. "We're basically just harnessing the smoke." — AFP

IOT CREATES A NEW WORLD OF OPPORTUNITIES: CISCO OFFICIAL

'IT'S ABOUT BETTER EDUCATION, HEALTHCARE AND JOB OPPORTUNITIES'

By Islam Al-Sharrah

DUBAI: Dramatic transformations are now gaining momentum across every industry and city, creating a new world of opportunities that are 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 to Dec 8. The event showcased more than 20 digital cities and connected industry solution deployments made possible by IoT.

In an interview with Kuwait Times, Inbar Lasser-Raab, Vice President, Products & Solutions Marketing - Enterprise Segment, Cisco Systems, spoke about the company's networking solutions, mobility, cloud technology and Internet of Things (IoT) products and solutions. Excerpts:

Kuwait Times: The Internet of Things is rapidly taking over the world. Should we allow it to control our lives?

Inbar Lasser-Raab: When we first started the IoT people said that it will take jobs away because you are going to automate things. This was exactly how the reaction was during the industrial revolution. So one of the main concerns that came up when we started the IoT forum was that if it's going to take jobs away and affect lives negatively. We said these are the same fears that were voiced during the industrial revolution and people were afraid that going from manual to automated is going to take jobs away.

Contrary to the fears of many, it was actually improving the standards of life of people. It's about bringing a better healthcare, better education system and better processing. There are a lot of opportunities to create new jobs and we feel that it is a positive thing for the world.

KT: What about individual privacy? How will our information be shared?

Inbar Lasser-Raab: That comes a lot with a big concern over generating more data that could help people track you more. The younger generation is more open about technology than the older generations who were more concerned about data. We have to trust the system. Yes there are some concerns but if you don't take that risk technology gives you, you cannot enjoy the advantage. The world is progressing in a better way and this has its concerns.

KT: How secure is our information on the cloud. Who will have access to it, and more importantly, who can have access to it?

Inbar Lasser-Raab: Obviously. You put data on a device and that device can be breached. Similarly, you put a lot of data on the cloud and there is a possibility that people can breach it. So we spend a lot of time to work on security and develop a security system. It is not only the technology but it is also the intelligence that we are collecting around the world to understand the economy and dynamics of the market. It's a race of the smarter. Is it the hacker or the people that are building this technology to protect the data the winner? We hope that we are smart enough to build those technologies to be able to stop the hackers.

We used to say that the biggest hack comes from within and not from outside. I think it's changing but definitely we are going to create policies that can manage what people can access. That's why I keep saying that it is security in the context where I'm in a certain department I will have access to everything I need from my department. But I will have no access to financial department. This is how we set the policy inside the organization in order to control contextually who can access what kind of information and in what time. The biggest security breach happened for companies who didn't have these policies.

KT: Do you think self-driving or driverless cars will ever become a reality?

Inbar Lasser-Raab: Personally, I think everything is possible. But fully self-driving



Inbar Lasser-Raab

cars may not be possible. McKinsey did some research on transportation on reducing number of car accidents. They found out that 90 percent of accidents are caused by human error. There are a lot of things technology can enable. Technology can help in self-driving cars partially and self-driving cars will help in reducing number of accidents.

KT: No country from the Middle East features in the top 25 countries with IoT devices online. Is this likely to change anytime soon?

Inbar Lasser-Raab: I think there are some bright minds and you can see what Dubai can do. But Dubai is different. The people in Dubai are the same people of the Middle East who have the capability to innovate and to put their effort into action. I think the possibilities are endless and one of the opportunities for the underdeveloped areas is that we build new infrastructure in countries that had none. Their infrastructure can be state-of-the-art so that it is really up to the governments to be innovative and think about how they want to switch to new technology and come up as Dubai did.

KT: What about Kuwait?

Inbar Lasser-Raab: When I compare the two countries, I don't see much difference between Dubai and Kuwait. Kuwait is wealthy enough and developed enough that can absolutely build its infrastructure. So if you have any connection in Kuwait to bring the IoT, it will be a great opportunity for Kuwait.

We are planning a few major things. One of them is the IoT steering committee. We have 100 members in this committee and we meet every month. We talk about how to work together and what types of forums to bring in so that we know clearly where we can get involved. We are also investing a lot in this technology as you can see in the IoT system, automation and software building. The third major area is the application building by which we can expose the interfaces and the enterprises and show how we can attract the application developer to come and build applications. We organized a hackathon last week in Dubai so that people could come and invent application for the IoT.

KASPERSKY LAB PREDICTS END OF WORLD FOR APTs

DUBAI: Kaspersky Lab's experts revealed their predictions for 2016, which are based on the expertise of the Global Research and Analysis Team, the company's 42 top security experts, located all over the world. Each member contributed unique expertise and, in 2015 alone, their insight and intelligence resulted in detailed reports on 12 APT actors, "speaking" different languages, including French, Arabic, Chinese, Russian, English, among others.

"2016 will also see more players entering the world of cyber-crime. The profitability of cyber-attacks is indisputable and more people want a share of the spoils. As mercenaries enter the game, an elaborate outsourcing industry has risen to meet the demands for new malware and even entire operations. The latter gives rise to a new scheme of Access-as-a-Service, offering up access to already hacked targets to the highest bidder," said Juan Andrés Guerrero-Saade, Senior Security Expert, Global Research and Analysis Team, Kaspersky Lab.

Kaspersky Lab's experts anticipate that in 2016 we will see significant evolution in cyberespionage tradecraft. First, there will be a dramatic change in how APTs are structured and operated. It is expected to see a decreased emphasis on 'persistence', with a greater focus on memory-resident or fileless malware, reducing the traces left on an infected system and thereby avoiding detection. Besides the experts see that there is less urge to demonstrate superior cyber-skills, so return on investment will rule much of the nation-state attacker's decision-making. Therefore there will be an increase in the repurposing of off-the-shelf malware rather than investment in bootkits, rootkits and custom malware that gets burned by research teams.

Consumer threats

In a more long-term perspective, there is an expectation that more newcomers will enter the APT space. Cyber-mercenaries will grow in number as more parties seek to gain from online attacks. These are expected to offer attack expertise to anyone willing to pay, and also to sell to interested third-parties digital access to high-profile victims, in what could be called an 'Access-as-a-Service' offering.

Consumer threats will also evolve.

According to experts ransomware will be gaining more ground on banking Trojans and is expected to extend into new areas such as OS X devices, often owned by wealthier and therefore more lucrative targets in addition to mobile and the Internet-of-Things.

Cybercriminals are constantly looking for new ways to may their victims pay. Therefore, alternative payment systems such as ApplePay and AndroidPay, as well as stock exchanges are expected to become growing targets for financial cyber-attack.

In 2015 Kaspersky Lab experts witnessed a rise in the number of DOxing, public shaming and extortion attacks, as everyone from Hactivists to nation-states embraced the strategic dumping of private pictures, information, customer lists, and code to shame their targets. Sadly, Kaspersky Lab expects this practice to continue to rise exponentially in 2016.

In order to be able to minimize the future risks connected with cyber-attacks of the future, businesses should create and deploy a complete security strategy. It is important to educate staff about cybersecurity, implement multi-layered Endpoint protection with extra proactive layers and protect all elements of infrastructure, patch vulnerabilities, mind everything that is mobile and implement encryption for communication and sensitive data. Companies that have high risks of encountering cyberattacks should consider creating a dedicated Security Operations Center.

Individuals should invest in a robust security solution for all devices and switch to encrypted communication. However, they should not solely rely on technology. Studying the basics of cybersecurity and exploring options that come with the protective solution can save from many incidents. Besides with more and more of our lives being exposed online - it might be useful to revise online habits, as once the information is uploaded it stays online forever and can be used against you or your company.

The full text of the "2016 Prediction: It's the end of the world for APTs" report is available on the Securelist website. To look back at what the Kaspersky Lab experts expected to see in 2015, please read the article from Kaspersky Security Bulletin 2014: Predictions 2015 and A look into the APT crystal ball.



High water at the Eastern Scheldt storm surge barrier (Oosterscheldekering) in Oosterschelde. Had nature been left to take its course much of the Netherlands would be a muddy swamp and the tiny coastal nation would never have risen to be the euro-zone's fifth largest economy. — AFP

GOING DUTCH TO HELP CONQUER THE RISING SEAS

ZEELAND, Netherlands: Had nature been left to take its course much of the Netherlands would be a muddy swamp and the tiny coastal nation would never have risen to be the euro-zone's fifth largest economy.

More than half of the country's 17 million people live in low-lying at risk areas, but thanks to hard work, perseverance and a lot of technical savvy they snuggle safely behind an ingenious network of 17,500 kilometres (10,800 miles) of dykes, dunes and barrages. After struggling against the seas for hundreds of years, the Netherlands prides itself on being the "safest delta" on the planet and now exports its expertise around the world. As water levels rise thanks to climate change and turbulent weather patterns unleash fierce storms, Dutch know-how in protecting low-lying areas has turned the country into the leader in its field. "It's thanks to our history," Infrastructure Minister Melanie Schultz van Haagen told AFP. "We have been battling for centuries to hold back the seas."

Just like the legend of the boy who stuck his finger in crumbling dyke, necessity has been the mother of invention.

Dutch companies now account for some 40 percent of the global dredging business open to international competition. "Water is not so much a threat, but an asset. It can bridge economy and ecology," said Henk Ovink, the country's special representative on water issues. More than 70 percent of the country's gross domestic product is produced on land at risk of flooding. Amsterdam's sprawling Schiphol airport the fifth busiest in Europe-should by rights be a playground for fish.

Floods trauma

The turning point for the Netherlands came in 1953 when devastating floods swept in from the North Sea killing 1,835 people and leaving 72,000 homeless in the southwest. Traumatized and shocked, the Dutch decided the only way forward was to improve their sea defenses.

"Now Holland's level of protection is 100 to a 1,000 times better than most other countries," said Bart Schultz, a researcher at the UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education based in Delft. The Eastern Scheldt storm surge barrier is a gargantuan construction stretching an impressive nine kilometres (five miles) between the southern islands of Schouwen-Duiveland and Noord-Beveland.

Thanks to a series of massive sluice gates it can completely close off the mouth of the estuary, preventing the unpredictable North Sea from surging through. But simpler solutions also work. A huge man-made sand bank, bigger than 200 football fields, was inaugurated in December 2011 just south of The Hague. Like a pregnant belly it juts out into the sea from the beach, and swept by the winds and tides protects the beautiful dunes behind from erosion. According to the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the oceans rose some 19 centimeters (seven inches) from 1901 to 2010. They predict sea levels will now rise from 26 to 82 centimetres by 2100 compared with the end of the 20th century. And the world's burgeoning and resource-rich delta zones where some 10 percent of the world's population lives are at the greatest risk, according to the Delta Alliance organization.

It's here that Dutch technology has proved so valuable. Some 2,500 Dutch firms work in the water industry, doing some 17 billion euros of business every year, said Lennart Silvis, director of the Netherlands Water Partnership. After Hurricane Katrina ripped through New Orleans in August 2005, the Netherlands played a huge role in reconstructing the city's sea defenses. That led to an increased cooperation with the United States, and when Hurricane Sandy hit New York and Jersey in 2012, Dutch help was again called upon.

"There is often huge interest after a disaster. But we would like to see greater preventative work which will help protect people in the long term," said Schultz van Haagen. In Southeast Asia, Dutch experts have worked to shore up defences from Jakarta to the Mekong delta. "Obviously we need to protect against the water, but there are other aspects of urban planning such as purification and access to drinking water, or even how to build roads," said Silvis.

Learning to live with the water has also spurred creative thinking-Dutch experts are researching how to farm with salt-water, or how to produce energy by mixing salt and fresh water.

From building floating platforms off the Philippines to restoring wetlands areas in Kenya and Uganda, it seems there are no limits. And there's even a little room for some luxury, when it comes to mastering the seas. Sand islands shaped into a palm-tree and a network of islands formed like a map of the world off Dubai are the work of the Dutch international dredging company Van Oord. — AFP

SCIENTISTS WELCOME CLIMATE PACT BUT STILL ALARMED

LE BOURGET, France: Climate scientists Saturday welcomed a pact to battle global warming as a major political advance, but warned of a gaping hole—the lack of a detailed roadmap for cutting greenhouse gases that cause the problem. The new accord, embraced by 195 nations, aims to cap warming to “well below” two degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit) above pre-industrial levels, and to “pursue efforts” to limit the increase to 1.5C. “This is an historic agreement,” said Steffen Kallbekken, director of the Centre for International Climate and Energy Policy.

“But this ambitious temperature goal is not matched by an equally ambitious mitigation goal,” he said, using the scientific term for the drawing-down of heat-trapping gases. To have a two-thirds chance of limiting warming to two degrees, emissions would have to fall by 40-70 percent by mid-century, according to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the UN’s climate science body. And to reach the 1.5C target also embraced in the newborn pact, those mid-century cuts would have to be even deeper: 70 to 95 percent.

Without these hard numbers—dropped from an earlier draft—the climate pact “does not



LE BOURGET, North of Paris: Foreign Affairs Minister and President-designate of COP21 Laurent Fabius (center), raises hands with Secretary General of the United Nations Ban Ki Moon (second left) and France’s President Francois Hollande (right) after adoption of a historic global warming pact at the COP21 Climate Conference in Le Bourget, north of Paris. — AFP

send a clear signal about the level and timing of emissions cuts,” Kallbekken cautioned.

Many scientists highlighted the imbalance created by boosting the ambition of the temperature target on the one hand, while removing the yardsticks against which progress toward that goal could be measured, on the other. “How are we going to reach our objective unless we set out in the right direction?” asked Professor Bill Collins at the University of Reading in southern England, pointing to the need to slash CO2 output by 70 percent before mid-century. “Until governments accept this, we should restrain our optimism.”

Keveh Madani, a professor at Imperial College London, said international summits were better at setting aspirational goals than laying out a pathway for achieving them. “What matters more is how to get to the target,” he noted. Some major emerging nations—especially India—were reluctant to include quantifiable milestones that could constrain their use of fossil fuels in growing their economies. But scientific reality is unyielding, said Miles Allen at Oxford University. Stabilizing greenhouse gases “in the second half of this century will require net carbon dioxide emissions to be reduced, in effect, to

zero,” he said.

“It seems governments understand this, even if they couldn’t quite bring themselves to say so.” Other scientists voiced concern about the fact that the new accord allows several years to pass before ramping up emissions reduction efforts. “For all that is encouraging in the agreement, the time scales—or the lack thereof—are worrying,” said Ilan Kelman of University College London. “Little substantive will happen until 2020 whilst clear deadlines for specific targets are generally absent.”

Jean Jouzel, a leading French climate scientist and a former vice chair of the IPCC, said timing was critical. “Above all, we can’t wait until 2020 — acting before then is essential, we have to be very pro-active,” he told AFP.

‘1.5C tokenism’

Jouzel and others also questioned the feasibility of the 1.5C target, saying it could only be achieved by overshooting the mark and then pulling back, which could take decades or longer. The global thermometer has risen nearly 1C (1.8F) so far, they noted, and CO2 already lingering in the atmosphere will still push it up, even if the world stopped emitting greenhouse gases tomorrow. — AFP

BILLIONS IN CLIMATE AID PLEDGES HAVE ‘WILD WEST’ ACCOUNTING

‘THE REPORT IS RIGOROUS, TRANSPARENT AND CONSERVATIVE’

LE BOURGET, France: There’s a lot of money in climate financing. Six years ago, rich nations pledged that by 2020 they would provide \$100 billion a year in aid, loans and private money to help poorer nations cope with climate change and wean themselves off fossil fuels. This week in Paris, they’re pledging even more, and discussing whether developing nations like China need to pony up, too.

But what exactly are they paying for? In the wild west of climate finance, the funding includes things like a “love movie festival,” research on elephant sounds and even new coal plants. When it comes to climate money, expert after expert says, don’t believe most figures. No one is saying money is being misspent, but they are saying it is being misreported, making it sound bigger than it really is. “Developed countries inflate the figure; they count everything they can find,” said Romain

Weikmans, a researcher at Brown University’s Climate and Development Lab. “It’s really a process of lying the more you can.”

At a 2009 climate summit, rich nations pledged to ramp up funding for poor ones to \$100 billion a year by 2020 to fund a trillion-dollar transition to clean energy. In a high-stakes game of poker in the weeks and months running up to this year’s summit in Paris, developed nations have upped the ante to help get closer to that 2020 goal. In the past year alone, pledges rose by at least \$10 billion, according to a review of United Nations data by The Associated Press. US Secretary of State John Kerry made a big splash Wednesday when he announced a doubling of US aid for poor countries to adapt to global warming, now at \$860 million a year.

But University of Zurich’s Axel Michaelowa, who studies climate aid grants, found “there was a huge misrepresentation. Governments were actually really not able to report properly” on aid that was supposed to help countries reduce carbon dioxide emissions. His study, conducted on specific climate grants four years ago, showed a list of “projects without any conceivable climate change connotation,” such as Belgium funding for a “love movie festival” in the early 2000s in Africa, a US-funded study on Savannah elephant sounds, and uniforms for park guardians in Central America with aid from Spain.

Climate vulnerability

For their website Adaptation Watch, Weikmans and Brown University environmental studies pro-

fessor Timmons Roberts studied 5,201 projects mentioned by developed nations and found that 3,444 of them “did not explicitly link project activities to addressing climate vulnerability,” Weikmans said. “Climate finance accounting is the wild west,” Roberts said. Two other experts used the same “wild west” phrase, which some developed nations’ representatives object to. Weikmans used Belgium as an example. While praising efforts by the Belgian government to account for spending in a transparent way, Weikmans said a few years ago a 33 million euro pledge suddenly doubled on the books “thanks only to methodological changes in accounting.”

Simon Buckle of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), wrote a report, tallying how much of the \$100 billion-a-year target has been pledged. It’s about \$62 billion a year as of 2014, his report said. India, however, looked at the same report said the real number was probably less than \$1 billion a year. It issued a report of its own calling the OECD document full of “inflated numbers.” In an interview with the AP, Indian Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar dismissed the OECD report as “a double-counting exercise.” He said actual climate finance flowing to developing countries was much smaller.

“It’s absolutely dismal,” he said. “There is no finance on the table.” Buckle told The Associated Press: “I’ll stand by it to the death.” Others are standing at his side. In an email sent to some negotiators in the climate talks when the report was released in October, US chief climate negotiator Todd Stern hailed the report as “rigorous, transparent and conservative” and said it supersedes all other documents. He said it showed that the developed nations have made “significant progress” toward the \$100 billion goal. So is it \$62 billion or less than \$1 billion?

Subnational governments

“You couldn’t get further apart than that,” said Roberts, the environmental studies professor. “Unfortunately the truth is probably somewhat in between.” He estimated somewhere in the range of \$20 to \$30 billion. Michaelowa, of the University of Zurich, said: “If I could give my personal guess I would say \$40 to \$50 billion.” Much of the question centers on what should you count. A lot of the money comes in the form of loans. While it seems OK to count loans that are given at a discount rate

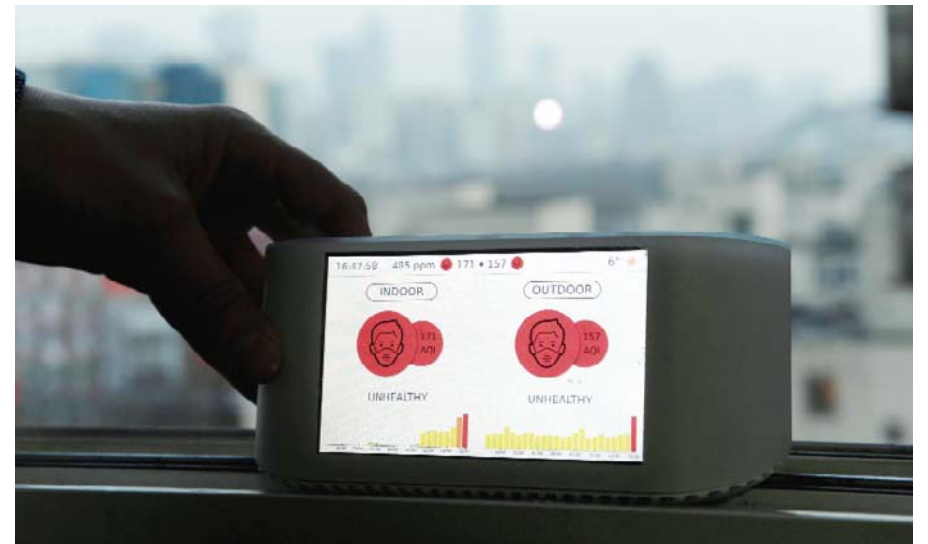
or zero interest because that helps the nation, many of the loans are given at market rate, meaning they aren’t really aid, said Tim Gore of Oxfam International.

Many say those market-rate loans, often called non-concessional, shouldn’t be counted because they have to be paid back with interest. When the money is paid back, does the loan no longer count or is it negative aid? Magdy Martinez-Soliman, the United Nations Development Program’s assistant administrator, said some countries — or even subnational governments like Mexican states — wouldn’t be able to get loans, so even market-rate loans help because they let these governments do something valuable, like build infrastructure. Another issue is that some loans categorized as being primarily or significantly about climate aid aren’t at all, and many don’t even mention the word climate, Gore and others said.

Adaptation finance

The OECD’s Buckle challenged that. “We were quite tough in the definition of what we would count,” he said, adding that the report removed all double-counting and tallied only about half the money from multi-national development banks. The OECD report also noted that Japan and Australia incorrectly tried to count aid to build high-tech coal power plants. Burning coal is the biggest man-made emitter of heat-trapping gases. One thing Buckle’s report highlighted was that only 16 percent of the money is going to adaptation, which is meant to help countries adjust to a warmer world with rising seas. Most of the money is spent on mitigation — trying to lessen warming by reducing the burning of fossil fuels. In 2009, when the \$100 billion goal was set, developed nations said they wanted a balance of mitigation and adaptation finance. African nations at the Paris conference called for a double of the percentage of adaptation spending to 32 percent and Martinez-Soliman said ideally it should hit 50 percent.

That’s the money the US just doubled its pledge to help. So how much has each country promised in aid? Despite efforts at the current summit to make reporting more transparent, the pledges remain a closely guarded secret until countries issue reports in January. “Trying to solve the question of who’s pledging what and what’s being delivered,” said Karen Orenstein of Friends of The Earth, “is kind of like solving a puzzle that’s a major black hole.” — AP



BEIJING: In this photo taken on December 11, 2015, Yann Boquillod displays an Airvisual air quality monitor. — AFP

SURVEILLANCE SECRET WEAPON IN CHINA POLLUTION STRUGGLE

BEIJING: In the future, China will shut down a factory before it even pollutes—or so it hopes, as it deploys big data in the fight against bad air. In Beijing’s environmental bureau, a team of engineers tend to giant mainframe computers that keep a watchful eye on the city’s pollution. Using everything from factories’ infrared profiles to social media posts, the machines can call up three-day pollution forecasts with resolution of up to one kilometer squared and detect trends up to 10 days out.

The computer program, developed by IBM, is one of several high-tech measures, ranging from drones and satellites to remote sensors, that China is deploying to deal with its chronic pollution. It seeks to solve an incongruous reality: In a country where security cameras are ubiquitous and Communist authorities operate a vast public surveillance system, accurate information about pollution remains scarce even to officials.

As a result, Beijing and its neighboring provinces “can’t coordinate joint defense and joint control” of their anti-smog efforts, leaving rogue companies to “secretly discharge and secretly dump,” said Chen Long, chief executive officer of Encanwell, which develops air quality monitoring and early warning systems. The company is trying to achieve total pollution awareness: the ability to know, with perfect accuracy, where haze comes from and use that information to predict and preempt its future sources.

‘APEC blue’

China has found itself in a double bind in the face of a relentless assault from bad air that put the capital on its first-ever air quality red alert this month. Ahead of the 2008 Olympics, China closed factories across the region, halting construction and pulling half of all private cars off the roads. It was an effective strategy, but came at an estimated cost in the hundreds of millions of dollars. Ensuring blue skies for major events such as last year’s APEC summit, the World Athletics Championships in August and a World War II anniversary parade, required a similar brute force approach that inflicted collateral damage on the economy in the country, where growth is slowing.

Failure to act, on the other hand, runs the risk of inflaming public discontent—a perpetual source of concern for the government, part of whose claim to legitimacy rests on maintaining an image of supreme competence. “It’s a complicated problem. It has an impact on society, on industry, on the economy, on health,” said Herve Robin, chief technology officer of Airvisual.com, a China-based social enterprise developing tools for a global pollution monitoring network. Choking pollution descended on Beijing twice in the past two weeks, and the country’s meteorological bureau expects it may come twice more before the month is out. “If each time the weather conditions are not good for pollution, they shut down everything, then it would be every week,” Robin said. — AFP

CHINA’S EFFORTS ON CLIMATE DEAL DUE TO ITS POLLUTION

BEIJING: China’s push for a global climate pact was due in part to its own increasingly pressing need to solve serious environmental problems, observers said yesterday. China, the world’s biggest source of climate-changing gases, was blamed for obstructing the last high-level climate talks in Copenhagen in 2009. This time around, it sent strong political signals it wanted a deal ahead of and during the Paris negotiations that ended Saturday with the agreement to keep global temperatures from rising another degree Celsius (1.8 Fahrenheit) between now

and 2100.

“Environmental issues have become much more important to the Chinese public and therefore to the Chinese government,” said Dimitri de Boer, head of China Carbon Forum, a Beijing-based nonprofit organization.

Since 2009, the public has gone from not knowing much or caring about environmental issues “and mainly being focused on wanting to make some money, to now being very concerned with environmental issues and taking that on par with wanting to make money,” he

said. China’s cities are among the world’s dirtiest after three decades of explosive economic growth that led to construction of hundreds of coal-fired power plants and an increase in car ownership.

China was reminded of its severe environmental challenges during the Paris conference when the capital, Beijing, issued its first red alert for pollution under a two-year system because of heavy smog. The city ordered limits on vehicles, factories and construction sites and told schools to close. China pushed for a deal because of its own problems and because the effects of climate change are becoming clearer each year, said Dr Jiang Kejun, senior researcher at the Energy Research Institute under the National Development and Reform Commission, China’s top economic planning agency.

Message clear

The message on climate change “is very clear — we must do something — and in the meantime the domestic policymaking process is getting more environment-oriented,” Jiang said. The air pollution in Beijing is putting pressure on policymakers and China is moving toward a low-carbon economy anyway, he said.

To build momentum for a deal, China and the United States, the world’s two biggest carbon emitters, last year set a 2030 deadline for emissions to stop rising. This June, Beijing promised to cut carbon emissions per unit of economic output by 65 percent from 2005 levels. In September, Chinese President Xi Jinping pledged \$3.1 billion to help developing countries combat climate change. “That’s huge,” said de Boer. “They may well be a developing country, but they are also clearly ready to start sup-



BEIJING: Women wear masks for protection against the pollution as they walk along a street on a polluted day yesterday. — AP photos

porting the least-developed countries in terms of their climate mitigation and adaptation efforts.”

Xi attended the opening ceremony of the Paris conference two weeks ago along with other leaders — and made a last-ditch effort in phone talks with President Barack Obama on Friday to get a global deal, according to China’s official Xinhua News Agency. He told Obama that their countries needed to work together to ensure an agreement was reached “in the interest of the international community,” Xinhua said. Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Hong Lei said that China’s push for a successful conclusion to the Paris negotiations “fully shows that China is dealing with climate change issues as a responsible big country.”

Beijing came under criticism for obstructing the 2009 Copenhagen talks when some participants complained China and India stymied

global emissions reduction efforts, possibly for fear they might hamper economic growth. Now, the world’s second-largest economy has emerged as a leader in curbing greenhouse gas emissions by investing in solar, wind and hydro power and even reducing its coal consumption last year as it attempts to clean up its polluted cities.

It is also already nurturing more self-sustaining growth as it refocuses its economy away from energy-hungry heavy industry to consumer spending and technology and making energy efficiency gains. Dr Olivia Gipper, a climate politics researcher at the London School of Economics, said that China’s actions in the run-up to the conference indicated that it had “a very high willingness to do something,” which sent an important signal to other countries.

“It was like an opener for the overall negotiations to go forward,” she said. — AP



BEIJING: A scrap collector salvages material from a demolished neighborhood near a chimney spewing smoke in China.

EASA HUSAIN AL-YOUSIFI & SONS CO INTRODUCES THE REVOLUTIONARY IPL MACHINE FROM PANASONIC

KUWAIT: Easa Husain Al-Yousifi & Sons Company and Panasonic Corporation, announced the launch of their IPL machine (Intense Pulsed Light) in Kuwait at an event hosted at the VIP Reham Gallery in Kuwait city, which was attended by a number of Society figures and Customers of Al-Yousifi Company in addition to the Directors and Management of Easa Husain Al-Yousifi and Panasonic with presence of media figures.

The IPL technology uses a spectrum of light that is transmitted through a transparent window from the product which is gently placed over the skin and effectively removes the hair.

Panasonic IPL hair removal system delivers flashes of light when sliding the IPL on the skin. The user just needs to push and slide the device, pressing the head onto the skin and the light flashes activate automatically. This light travels through the skin until it strikes the hair shaft or the hair follicle. The light is then converted into heat, destroying the hair-producing papilla. These flashes of light are produced at an interval of 3 seconds. With regular treatment, the skin will become progressively smoother and more hair-free, even in areas where regrowth is resistant to other methods.

Commenting on the new IPL hair removal system, Akira Iwai, Director of Kuwait Panasonic Office -: "The ES-WH80 is perfect for working women who do not have the time for salon or laser treatments. It is also useful for anyone desiring a painless, cost-effective and convenient hair removal solution in the comfort of their home. The IPL removal system can effectively reduce the growth of unwanted hair without damaging your skin."

Panasonic IPL ES-WH80 has an easy-to-grip ergonomic design, weighing only 341gms letting one enjoy an effortless and convenient operation anytime. Its design helps to remove unwanted hair from any part of the body easily. Its long-life Li-ion batteries provide over 600 flashes on a 3hr charge or it can also be used for over 320 flashes with a 1.5hr charge making it flexible to use as per the needs of the user.

That's not all, after the full capacity usage of the bulb for a certain number of flashes, easy and convenient replacement option of the bulb is provided, enabling further re-use of the product.

The IPL is effective not only against unwanted hair but also liver spots. Because the IPL improves skin texture and tightens pores, removing unwanted

hair with IPL has also the effect of beautifying the skin. After IPL, the skin's turnover is promoted and as a result, stagnant melanin is discharged, skin drabness is reduced, and the skin is more beautiful. In addition, because IPL stimulates the dermis, the tension on the skin is improved and open pores are contracted.

With 5-intensity settings, users can select the required setting for their skin depending on area, skin tone and hair type. A higher IPL level is recommended for areas with thick black hair and fair skin. For parts of the body that have thicker hair growth, or when hair removal effect is weak, IPL is recommended more frequently, up to once a week. The hair removal time varies according to the application surface area and the way the IPL hair remover is used. Shaving before IPL yields best results as the hair follicles receive the full effect of the IPL flashes. IPL after shaving care makes pores virtually imperceptible and the skin becomes smoother too. ES-WH80 offers safe and effective treatment for arms, under arms, legs and bikini line. Hair removal with IPL is safe, gentle on the skin, long-lasting and is less expensive than opting for hair removal treatments at laser medical centers.



NEW LAWS TO EASE DOCTOR SHORTAGE SEE LONG DELAYS, CRITICISM

JEFFERSON CITY, Missouri: A new Missouri law offered a first-of-its-kind solution to the physician shortage plaguing thousands of US communities: Medical school graduates could start treating patients immediately, without wading through years of traditional residency programs. Following Missouri's lead, similar measures were enacted in Arkansas and Kansas and considered in Oklahoma. The idea appeared to be a new model for delivering medical care in regions with too few physicians to meet needs. Yet more than 18 months after that first law passed, Missouri regulators are still trying to make it work. And not a single new doctor has gone into practice in any of the three states as a result of the new laws.

Medical programs

"You've got the need for services on one hand, and you've got a group of people that are capable of providing those services. But we're not making it happen," said Dr Keith Frederick, an orthopedic surgeon and Missouri House member who is frustrated by the delays in implementing the legislation he sponsored. There are more than 6,200 places nationwide with a shortage of primary care physicians, ranging from urban neighborhoods to entire rural counties, according to statistics from the US Department of Health and Human Services.

Universities have been launching new medical programs and expanding student enrollment in an attempt to meet an even larger projected doctor shortage caused by retirements and an increased demand for physicians under President Barack Obama's health insurance overhaul and state Medicaid expansions. Total US medical school enrollment approached 110,000 this past year, up almost one-third over a decade ago.

Residency programs, which provide an additional three to six years of post-graduate training needed for physicians to be certified, have also grown but have failed to keep up with demand. When foreign medical school graduates are added to the mix of US students, more than 8,600 applicants were denied residency positions this year through the nation's main matching service. That's an increase of more than 50 percent from 2005.

That bottleneck is due partly to a 1997

federal law that limits the growth in federal Medicare funding for residency programs. States have taken a number of steps to get more medical professionals in the field. Some have allowed specially trained nurses, physician assistants and pharmacists to assume greater roles. Others have kicked in state money to

new rules may not take effect until fall 2016, and supporters of the law are growing frustrated with each passing month that it remains in limbo.

Sara Bubenik said she graduated two years ago from medical school at Oregon Health & Science University with about \$350,000 in loans but had to retake the

which stands against any proposal that allows doctors to gain special licensing without completing a residency program.

Residency training

Instead, the AMA wants more government funding to increase the number of available residency positions, something that has proved difficult to pass in Congress. The Missouri law also is opposed by the Association of American Medical Colleges and the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine. They say medical school is not intended to prepare physicians to go directly into practice but to lay a foundation for clinical residency training.

Even some rural physicians, who could potentially benefit from the help, don't like the Missouri law. Dr Tammy Hart is the only physician in Missouri's Mercer County along the Iowa border. She opens her office at 7 am to walk-in patients with urgent needs and often ends up working on days off. But Hart views the new Missouri law as "a very poor answer" to the physician shortage. "By no means are you ready to assume being a physician when you graduate from medical school," she said.

Arkansas created a category of a "graduate resident physician," but it limits participation to people who graduated no more than two years ago and who either live in Arkansas or attended a medical school there. In Kansas, the new position is described as a "physician in training" but is even more limited, applying only to graduates of the University of Kansas School of Medicine. They could stay in that role for no more than two years.

Missouri's more expansive program has drawn interest from numerous doctors across the country, including many who are not actually eligible because they graduated too long ago. Among them is Dr Ammar Hashim, an Iraqi native who says he graduated from medical school in Baghdad in 2005 and is now a US citizen. Hashim is the chief operations officer of five Texas medical clinics but has been unable to get licensed as a US physician. If he could take advantage of Missouri's new law, Hashim said, "I would put my clothes and my kids' clothes in their bags, and we would go right away." — AP



ROLLA, Missouri: In this photo Dr Keith Frederick poses for a photo in his medical office in Rolla, Mo. — AP

expand residency positions.

Assistant physician

The Missouri law creates a license for an "assistant physician," defined as someone who graduated from medical school within the past three years and passed the first two rounds of licensing exams within the last two years, but who has not completed a residency program. The law allows them to provide primary care services in "medically underserved" areas as long as they are supervised by another physician. They can work as an "assistant physician" indefinitely, essentially sidestepping the residency requirements.

Once the program is operating, supporters expect it to serve as a prototype that will spread beyond the Midwest.

"It kind of allows us to be a trailblazer on the issue," said Jeff Howell, the government relations director for the Missouri State Medical Association. But Missouri's

licensing exams several times before passing and has subsequently been unable to get a residency position. Although the Missouri law could offer her another route, the implementation delays mean she could soon be disqualified by the law's time limits on testing and graduation. "It's heartbreaking for me, because I'm not going to be able to be a physician," Bubenik said in a telephone interview from New York, where she now is pursuing a master's degree in public health. "It's also really disappointing that I owe so much money and will never get to pay it back. I'm bound for the cycle of poverty."

The Missouri law was the brainchild of Dr Edmond Cabbabe, a plastic surgeon in St. Louis who is active in state and national medical associations. But the measure is opposed by some of the nation's most influential medical organizations, including the American Medical Association,

WORLD INNOVATION SUMMIT FOR HEALTH ANNOUNCES 2016 FORUM TO ADDRESS UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE CHALLENGE

DOHA, Qatar: The World Innovation Summit for Health (WISH), a global initiative of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development (QF), announced yesterday plans to make a powerful case for the economic benefits of investing in health with a new WISH Research Forum during its 2016 conference that will be held from 29th to 30th November in Doha, Qatar.

WISH made the announcement yesterday in support of Universal Health Coverage Day (UHC) marked on 12th December. The day is designed to urge countries to provide affordable, quality healthcare to every person, worldwide.

WISH brings together thousands of high-level policymakers, academics, and professionals, and has evolved into a significant platform for the dissemination of healthcare innovation and best practices. It is aligned with QF's mission to reinforce Qatar's pioneering role as an emerging center for healthcare innovation while also unlocking human potential.

At the 2016 Summit, WISH will present groundbreaking, evidence-based research during the 'Economic Benefits of Investing in Health' Forum that will show the impact of improved health on personal and national income. Dean Jamison, an Emeritus Professor in Global Health Sciences at The University of California, San Francisco (UCSF), will chair the forum. The research will build on the landmark 'Global Health 2035' report by the Lancet Commission on Investing in Health.

Commenting on the launch of the research, Forum Chair Prof Jamison said: "The WISH economic benefits Forum for 2016 provides a first ever effort to integrate the 3 key dimensions of health's economic input - the contribution of improved health to personal and national income, the intrinsic value of health improvements and the financial protection value of UHC. This Forum is a natural follow-on to the 2015 Forum on UHC."

The new research ties in directly with the discussion started at the

WISH 2015 Universal Health Coverage Forum, which helped guide policymakers on national health investments and pathways to achieving universal health coverage.

Commenting on the announcement, WISH's Chair Lord Ara Darzi said: "As we stressed at WISH this year, access to effective, quality healthcare without fear of financial struggle, is a basic human right. With more than one billion people around the world deprived of access to even basic healthcare services, we are determined to use the upcoming Summit to accelerate progress towards a grand convergence in global health."

The WISH 2016 Summit will feature six groundbreaking research forums that highlight and address some of the world's most pressing healthcare challenges. In addition to the Economic Benefits of Investing in Health, the forums will generate interdisciplinary, evidence-based reports on topics including Autism, Behavioral Insights, Cardiovascular Disease, Healthy Populations, and Precision Medicine, and will be chaired by internationally renowned experts. For the first time, WISH will also report on its ongoing impact locally and globally on issues previously highlighted at WISH, such as Diabetes, Accountable Care, and Patient Safety.

In addition to new health policy research forums, the Summit will also feature innovation showcases from around the world that are shaping the design, delivery, and financing of care, as well as a cohort of young innovators; emerging health care leaders under the age of 30, whose contributions to global health deserve wider recognition.

The second WISH Summit was held in February 2015, bringing together more than 1,200 delegates from 93 countries to discuss and debate practical, lasting, and innovative solutions to global healthcare challenges. WISH remains closely aligned to the vision of Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, Chairperson of Qatar Foundation.

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ETIHAD AIRWAYS RAISES SUPPORT FOR 'WE CARE YEMEN' AND SCHOOLS IN KENYA

Etihad Airways, the national airline of the United Arab Emirates, has raised approximately one million dirhams to support the 'We Care Yemen' campaign and has helped renovate two schools in Kenya as part of the airline's annual charity fundraising in cooperation with the UAE Red Crescent.

The donation was announced during the closing ceremony of the World Aviation Football Cup and the Food & Fashion Festival, organized by Etihad Airways' Sports and Social Committee, held at the Al Forsan International Sports Resort.

The football teams of 28 international airline and aviation groups participated in the event, which included a wide range of activities such as henna painting, musical entertainment, a ballet, and costume competitions. Etihad Airways provided prizes of a safari package to Kenya for the first winner and also for the runner-up.

Khaled Al Mehairbi, Etihad Airways' Senior Vice President Government and Aero Political Affairs, who also serves as Chairman of the Sports and Social Committee, said: "As the UAE's national airline, we are pleased to reaffirm our commitment to society and give back to those in need. We are delighted to collaborate with the UAE Red Crescent to serve and support these causes."

"We extend our thanks to our guests, sponsors and suppliers who participated in the generous fund raising programs during 2015 in support of those in need. Collectively,

we have given a glimmer of hope and the chance of a better future to our brothers and sisters in Yemen and Kenya."

The opening ceremony was led by the UAE National Deaf Youth Orchestra. The show also included performances by Salah the Entertainer, the winner of Arabs Got Talent 2015, Hamza Hawaswi, the winner of X Factor 2015, and the American singer, Dynasty. A kids' ballet show by Abu Dhabi-based Fusion Arts was another highlight of the event.

Charitable donations for Yemen were collected through various initiatives including the donation of Etihad Guest Miles online, an Etihad garage sale, through the Etihad football league, the donation of new school bags and stationery to Yemeni children by Etihad Airways staff, and cash donations at the Emirates Red Crescent collection boxes.

The airline's initiatives to support the 'Yemen We Care' campaign and Kenya are part of an earlier agreement on humanitarian and social cooperation between Etihad Airways and Emirates Red Crescent. The community event was attended by Her Excellency Khadija Issa Yusuf, Kenyan Ambassador to the UAE, MrHumaid R Al-Shamsi, Deputy Secretary General for International Aid of Emirates Red Crescent, DrKhwala Salem Al Saaedi, President's Representative of Women and Health Alliance International

Also attending were and Secretary General of Her Excellency Mariam Saif Al Qubaisi,

Head of Special Needs Sector at Zayed Higher Organization for Humanitarian Care and Special Needs (ZHO), Hamad Alhosani, Domestic Promotion Executive of TCA Abu Dhabi, and Mohammad Ali Khiliji, General Manager of Axiom UAE.

Etihad Airways was represented by Peter Baumgartner Chief Commercial Officer, Khaled Al Mehairbi, Senior Vice President Government and Aero Political Affairs Ali Al Shamsi, Vice President Abu Dhabi Hub, Oliver Iffert, Vice President Flight Operations, and Geert BovenSenior Vice President Airport Services. In 2015, Etihad Airways was able to raise donations of Etihad Guest miles, relief goods and cash donations worth over three million dirhams.

The two-day social event was held in collaboration with Emirates Red Crescent, Abu Dhabi Sports Council, Abu Dhabi media, Al Forsan International Sports Resort, Time Hotels, Joyful Women Organization, Al Ain Water, Bottega Verde, DusitThani Abu Dhabi, Axiom UAE, Sebamed, Fusion Arts, Gabs, Pierre Fabre, Yas Viceroy Hotels & Resorts, Novotel Al Bustan, Holiday Inn Abu Dhabi, One to One Hotels & Resorts, YasWaterworld, Al Borg Medical Laboratories, Al Jaber Optical, Mikura Pearls, Conrad Dubai, Absolute Dry, Zartux, and TilalLiwa Hotel.



AUK LAUNCHES CULTURAL CIRCLE PRIZE FOR ARABIC SHORT STORIES

By Nawara Fattahova

The Cultural Circle, in partnership with the American University of Kuwait has launched the Cultural Circle Prize for Arabic Short Story (AIMultaqa). The prize initiative aims to promote and encourage writers to pursue and master the art of writing Arabic short stories. Writers and publishers, both from this region and around the world, will be recognized for their creative contributions to Arabic short stories.

The annual prize will recognize an exceptional writer or publisher who has creatively contributed to Arabic short story writing. The winner will receive USD 20,000, a trophy, a certificate of recognition, and an opportunity

to have their winning piece translated to English for further publication. A jury comprised of accomplished writers, critics, and professors will review the submissions and determine the winner of the prize. The prize will start accepting submissions from 1 January, 2016, to 31 March, 2016.

During the press conference held on Thursday to announce the launch of the Cultural Circle Prize, Dr Nizar Hamza, President of the AUK noted that the role of the University is not limited on providing knowledge and skill important for the career success, thus it also includes the active cultural and intellectual participation. "This was the reason behind launching this Prize," he pointed out.

"The idea of this Prize was proposed by the initiative of Taleb Al-Refai, the Founder and Director of the Cultural Forum in Kuwait. The importance of this prize is not just financial, thus its unprecedented initiative of Arabic international cultural cooperation of an academic institution and private cultural forum in Kuwait. So AUK would like to thank all those who participated in launching this great work," added Dr Hamza. The prize ceremony will be held annually in Kuwait, with the presence of a number of Arab and international intellectuals, and representatives from local, Arab, and international media.



OSN STRENGTHENS RETAIL PRESENCE IN UAE

OSN, the leading pay-TV network in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, has strengthened its retail presence in the UAE to support a fast-growing subscriber base. This follows the unveiling of OSN's 2016 programming portfolio and the introduction of new technology platforms that have seen demand for OSN subscriptions spiking in the UAE.

As part of building its retail network, OSN has partnered with Sharaf DG, UAE's leading one-stop electronics destination, to offer OSN subscriptions across its network including its renovated showroom at Times Square Mall. As part of the partnership, those who subscribe to OSN will also receive a gift voucher worth AED 500 to spend at any Sharaf DG outlet.

Starting with 24 retail outlets this year, the partnership will see OSN expand its

reach to 52 outlets in the UAE which includes expansion to five malls across the Emirates including Yas Mall, Meaisem, Mercato, Fujairah and Bawabat el Sharq. OSN will also have its presence shortly at The Dubai Mall. Subscribers can now conveniently access OSN services at any of these retail outlets.

Ed Sawday, SVP Core Sales, OSN, said: "Retail expansion is part of our growth strategy to be closer to our customers and to offer them effortless access to our unmatched portfolio of premium content. We are delighted to welcome Sharaf DG as a retail partner of OSN, further strengthening our retail network and establishing us as the pay-TV network with the largest retail presence in the country."

Happy 2nd Birthday Belle



We wish you good health and all the best
Love: daddy, mommy, family and friends



ACK HOLDS 3RD STUDENTS GRADUATION PROJECTS EXHIBITION

By Nawara Fattahova

The Australian College of Kuwait (ACK) held its 3rd Students Graduation Projects Exhibition yesterday at its premises. 150 students presented 34 projects at this exhibition. This event was sponsored by 3Dutopia.

Dr Mohamed Gaith, Associate Dean, School of Engineering noted that this event presents a platform of connecting the students and faculty with partners in the industry, professional and academic institutions and associations. "Through this event we seek exchange in terms of knowledge, ideas, and skills with partners in the industry. The presented projects are in different engineering disciplines offered in ACK, namely civil, electrical, mechanical, and oil and gas engineering," he said during the event.

Gaith added "the students have displayed outstanding capabilities in engineering design and problem solving. Through our students projects we aim to present innovative sustainable solutions and create innovative viable solutions to meet the requirements of the industry and the local markets. We also aim to choose top 3 projects to register a patent for them."

Abdullah Al-Sharhan, Chairman of ACK stressed that ACK is not only providing theoretical knowledge and education thus they also provide the practical application. "We are keen to make the student be productive after he graduates. Today I witnessed many interesting projects, such as the ice-cream project, which I think be realized, and the student can establish his own company after graduation. Our student can't graduate without presenting useful project for them and the community," he pointed out.

The projects were really interesting and may very well be very useful if fully realized. For instance there were the rubberized asphalt, creativity center, design and different project managements of villas, straddling bus, design of an elevated highway bridge, multistory car parking structure, high-speed railway train, smart safety gas system, laser microphone, effective pipeline cutting tool, cooling MWIP pump housing, stability and rheological properties for crude oil emulsions, wellbore stability analysis, directional drilling design and many others. Hisham, along with four other students in semester 3 have designed the smart solar panel. This is their diploma project. "Through this project we track sunlight from sunrise and accordingly adjust to the angle until sunset, and then the board comes back to normal position while the brush starts to clean the panel. It's a self-cleaning system, and this solves the biggest problem of solar panels which is the dust that covers the surface of the panel reducing its efficiency," he told the Kuwait Times.

"The other problem that comes to solar panels is that they are fixed in one position so when the sun is moving the sun rays land on the panel for only half the time. We have specifically designed our solar panel to react to the sun rays. When there is light on the panel it will move the panel slightly up so the maximum sun light will hit the panel thus increasing its efficiency," added Hisham.



SAFIR HOTEL & RESIDENCES KUWAIT - FINTAS HOLDS FRIDAY BBQ SEAFOOD NIGHT

Safir Hotel & Residences Kuwait - Fintas held a media and corporate event celebrating the launch of the first Friday BBQ Seafood Night. The event was attended by press and media representatives and their families. The BBQ Seafood Night will take place every Friday night from 7 pm until 11 pm. The hotel's management team warmly welcomed the valued guests to the seating area in the

beach garden and the royal tent, where they enjoyed the charming atmosphere, sea breeze and jazz music.

On this occasion, the hotel's general manager, Mr Saif Eddin Mohammed said, "BBQ Seafood Night is one of the prominent hotel nights and is a unique event that is anticipated by seafood lovers. We offer an ideal venue for families, groups and individuals who enjoy dis-

tinguished food to come and spend an enjoyable time. The weekend event includes Jazz, a variety of dishes and a distinctive environment at the beach garden and royal tent.

Surrounded by wide green spaces and overlooking the Arabian Gulf, the venue promises to entertain the whole family in a relaxed and luxurious environment."

Guests were impressed with the atmos-

phere and charm of the place, the richness of the buffet dishes, the variety of fresh and grilled seafood items including the live cooking stations with multiple choices, as well as the saj corner along with many others delights. Chefs cooked various types of fresh seafood items directly in front of the guests, in addition to buffet desserts and all types of drinks and fresh juices.

Mr Wassim Mahdi, the Director of Sales and Marketing of Safir Al Fintas Hotel added, "The start of the Friday BBQ Seafood Nights season would have never been so warm and magical without the presence of valued press and media personnel to share with us such a memorable event. We appreciate their continuous support to Safir Hotel & Residence Kuwait - Al Fintas."



KOC VISITS SACGC WORKSHOP

Sabah Al-Ahmed Center for Giftedness and Creativity (SACGC) recently received a visit from KOC representatives at the center's Applied Sciences Workshop, said SACGC's general manager, Dr Omar Al-Bannai noting that the visit comes to encourage students develop their creative ideas.

Al-Bannai added that the visitors toured the center in general and the Applied Sciences Workshop in particular before both sides signed a cooperation agreement.

On his part, KOC's research and development manager, Mohammed Abdul Wahab Al-Qena'e stressed that the oil sectors fully cooperates with various Kuwaiti organizations and establishments such as SACGC with the ultimate goal of serving Kuwait and achieving leading positions in technology researches.



Discovery Channel HD

00:20	Fast N' Loud
01:10	Blood Lions - Bred For The Bullet
02:00	Hell Road Russia
02:50	Wheeler Dealers
03:40	Auction Hunters
04:05	Property Wars
04:30	Storage Wars Canada
05:00	Americana
05:30	How It's Made
06:00	Ice Lake Rebels
06:50	Kindig Customs
07:40	Fast N' Loud
08:30	Auction Hunters
08:55	Property Wars
09:20	Storage Wars Canada
09:45	Americana
10:10	How It's Made
10:35	Misfit Garage
11:25	Wheeler Dealers
12:15	Cuban Chrome
13:05	Auction Hunters
13:30	Property Wars
13:55	Storage Wars Canada
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	Deadliest Catch
18:30	Outback Truckers
20:10	Property Wars
20:35	Storage Wars Canada
21:00	Deadliest Catch
21:50	Walking The Nile
22:40	Walking The Nile
23:30	Kindig Customs

Disney Junior

19:05	H2O: Just Add Water
19:30	Violetta
20:20	The Next Step
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
23:35	Wolfblood

05:00	Follow Donal... To Vietnam
06:00	Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
07:00	Roadtrip With G. Garvin
08:00	Chopped
09:00	Guy's Grocery Games
10:00	The Kitchen
11:00	Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics
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	Roadtrip With G. Garvin
16:00	Chopped
17:00	The Kitchen
18:00	Jenny And Reza's Fabulous Food Academy
18:30	Grandma's Secret Cookbook
19:00	Chopped
20:00	Guy's Grocery Games
21:00	Food Court Wars
22:00	Mystery Diners
23:00	Ching's Restaurant Redemption
23:30	Ching's Restaurant Redemption

03:30	Valentine Warner's Wild Table
04:20	Charlie Luxton's Homes By The Sea
05:10	David Rocco's Dolce India
06:00	Food School
06:25	A Marriage Of Flavours
06:50	Exploring The Vine
07:40	Food School
08:05	The Food Files
08:30	Street Food Around The World
09:20	Valentine Warner's Wild Table
10:10	Charlie Luxton's Homes By The Sea
11:00	David Rocco's Dolce India
11:50	Food School
12:15	A Marriage Of Flavours
12:40	Exploring The Vine
13:35	Food Lover's Guide To The Planet
14:00	American Food Battle
14:30	Street Food Around The World
15:25	Valentine Warner's Wild Table
16:20	Charlie Luxton's Homes By The Sea
17:15	David Rocco's Dolce India
18:10	Food Lover's Guide To The Planet
18:35	A Marriage Of Flavours
19:05	Street Food Around The World
19:30	Valentine Warner's Wild Table
20:25	Charlie Luxton's Homes By The Sea
21:15	David Rocco's Dolce India
22:05	Food Lover's Guide To The Planet
22:30	A Marriage Of Flavours
22:55	Exploring The Vine
23:45	Food Lover's Guide To The Planet

Discovery Science

00:35	What Could Possibly Go Wrong?
03:42	Mighty Ships
04:29	Food Factory
04:52	Food Factory
05:16	Home Factory
05:39	Home Factory
06:03	How The Universe Works
06:50	Strip The Cosmos
07:37	Deadliest Space Weather
08:00	How It's Made
08:23	Mythbusters
09:08	How The Universe Works
09:53	Nyc: Inside Out
10:38	How It's Made
11:00	How It's Made
11:23	Mighty Ships
12:08	What Could Possibly Go Wrong?
12:53	Nyc: Inside Out
13:38	Mythbusters
14:23	How It's Made
14:46	How It's Made
15:10	How The Universe Works
15:57	Mighty Ships
16:44	What Could Possibly Go Wrong?
17:31	Nyc: Inside Out
18:18	How The Universe Works
19:05	Mythbusters
19:50	How Do They Do It?
20:15	How Do They Do It?
20:40	What Could Possibly Go Wrong?
21:25	How It's Made
21:50	How It's Made
22:15	Cosmic Collisions
23:00	How Do They Do It?
23:45	What Could Possibly Go Wrong?

Disney Channel

00:00	The Soup
00:30	WAGS
01:25	Sex With Brody
01:50	The Grace Helbig Show
02:20	E! News
03:15	Extreme Close-Up
04:10	The El True Hollywood Story
05:05	E! Entertainment Special
06:00	Keeping Up With The Kardashians
06:55	Keeping Up With The Kardashians
07:50	Style Star
08:20	E! News
09:15	Giuliana & Bill
11:10	#RichKids Of Beverly Hills
12:05	E! News
13:05	The Grace Helbig Show
14:05	Hollywood Cycle
15:00	Kourtney And Khloe Take The Hamptons
17:00	Stewarts And Hamiltons
18:00	E! News
19:00	Keeping Up With The Kardashians
20:00	House Of DVF
21:00	Christina Milian Turned Up
22:00	WAGS
23:00	Sex With Brody

ITV Choice

01:05	The Chase: Celebrity Specials
02:00	Emmerdale
02:55	Coronation Street
03:25	Paul O'Grady: For The Love Of Dogs
04:20	The Syndicate
05:15	Come Date With Me Australia
06:10	The Chase: Celebrity Specials
07:05	Coronation Street
07:30	Paul O'Grady: For The Love Of Dogs
08:25	The Syndicate
09:20	Peter Andre's 60 Minute Makeover
10:10	The Chase: Celebrity Specials
11:05	Coach Trip
11:35	Four Weddings UK
12:30	Come Date With Me Australia
13:25	Emmerdale
13:50	Coach Trip
14:20	Coronation Street
14:45	Peter Andre's 60 Minute Makeover
15:35	Paul O'Grady: For The Love Of Dogs
16:30	Autopsy: The Last Hours Of...
17:25	The Jonathan Ross Show
18:20	Come Date With Me Australia
18:45	Come Date With Me Australia
19:10	Coronation Street
19:35	Paul O'Grady: For The Love Of Dogs
20:00	Paul O'Grady: For The Love Of Dogs
20:30	Autopsy: The Last Hours Of...
21:25	The Jonathan Ross Show
22:20	Coronation Street
22:50	Emmerdale
23:15	Four Weddings UK

NAT GEO WILD HD

00:20	Monster Fish
01:10	Dangerous Encounters
02:00	Africa's Deadliest
02:50	72 Dangerous Animals Australia
03:45	Wild Australia
04:40	Built For The Kill
05:35	Africa's Deadliest
06:30	72 Dangerous Animals Australia
07:25	The Dark Side Of Hippos
08:20	Caught In The Act
09:15	Beardhood
10:10	Wild Australia
11:05	Wild Case Files
12:00	Why Sharks Attack
12:55	Africa's Deadliest
13:50	72 Dangerous Animals Australia
14:45	Wild 24
15:40	Caught In The Act
16:35	The Bear Evidence
17:30	Africa's Blood River
18:25	Wild Case Files
19:20	Wild 24
20:10	Caught In The Act
21:00	The Bear Evidence
21:50	Africa's Blood River
22:40	Wild Case Files
23:30	Why Sharks Attack

Disney Channel

00:00	Violetta
00:45	The Hive
00:50	Sabrina: Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
01:40	Wolfblood
02:30	Violetta
03:15	The Hive
03:20	Sabrina: Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
04:10	Wolfblood
05:00	Violetta
05:45	The Hive
06:00	Mouk
06:50	Lolirock
07:15	H2O: Just Add Water
08:05	Austin & Ally
08:30	Austin & Ally
08:55	Sabrina: Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
09:45	Jessie
10:10	Camp Rock
10:35	Camp Rock
12:20	Hank Zipzer
12:45	Didn't Do It
13:10	Frozen Fever
13:20	Violetta Recipes
13:35	Liv And Maddie
14:00	Liv And Maddie
14:30	H2O: Just Add Water
14:55	H2O: Just Add Water
15:20	Jessie
15:45	Jessie
16:10	Violetta
17:00	The Next Step
17:25	Mako Mermaids
17:50	Girl Meets World
18:15	Dog With A Blog
18:40	Gravity Falls

Disney Channel

00:00	The Soup
00:30	WAGS
01:25	Sex With Brody
01:50	The Grace Helbig Show
02:20	E! News
03:15	Extreme Close-Up
04:10	The El True Hollywood Story
05:05	E! Entertainment Special
06:00	Keeping Up With The Kardashians
06:55	Keeping Up With The Kardashians
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15:00	Kourtney And Khloe Take The Hamptons
17:00	Stewarts And Hamiltons
18:00	E! News
19:00	Keeping Up With The Kardashians
20:00	House Of DVF
21:00	Christina Milian Turned Up
22:00	WAGS
23:00	Sex With Brody

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC CHANNEL HD

00:10	Wicked Tuna: North vs. South
01:00	Ultimate Airport Dubai
02:00	Megastructures
02:55	Yukon Gold
03:50	Wicked Tuna: North vs. South
04:45	Strippers: Cars For Cash
05:40	Sea Patrol
06:35	Ultimate Airport Dubai
07:30	Seconds From Disaster
08:25	Years Of Living Dangerously
09:20	Strippers: Cars For Cash
10:15	Car SOS
11:10	Yukon Gold
12:05	The Numbers Game
14:00	Man V. Viral
15:00	Ultimate Airport Dubai
16:00	Breakthrough
17:00	Yukon Gold
19:00	Cosmos: A Spacetime Odyssey
20:00	Breakthrough
20:50	Yukon Gold
21:40	Yukon Gold
22:30	Ultimate Airport Dubai
23:20	Sea Patrol

OSN FIRST HD COMEDY

00:30	Hot In Cleveland
02:00	Silicon Valley
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
06:30	My Name Is Earl
07:00	Late Night With Seth Meyers
08:30	Last Man Standing
10:30	My Name Is Earl
11:00	The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
12:30	My Dad Says
13:00	Suburgatory
13:30	My Name Is Earl
14:00	2 Broke Girls
15:30	Hot In Cleveland
17:00	Late Night With Seth Meyers
18:00	Marry Me
18:30	2 Broke Girls
19:30	Last Man On Earth
20:30	Men At Work
21:00	Hot In Cleveland
22:00	Getting On
22:30	Togethermess
23:00	You're The Worst

NAT GEO people HD

00:10	Valentine Warner Eats Scandinavia
00:35	Food School
01:00	Exploring The Vine
01:25	Exploring The Vine
01:50	Food School
02:15	The Food Files
02:40	Street Food Around The World
03:05	Street Food Around The World

VERONICA MARS ON OSN MOVIES HD

17:00	The Ellen DeGeneres Show
18:00	Graceland
19:00	Scandal
20:00	How To Get Away With Murder
21:00	Quantico
22:00	Homeland
23:00	The Casual Vacancy
02:00	Alien 3
04:00	Falcon Rising
06:00	Christmas Twister
08:00	Toxin
10:00	I, Frankenstein
12:00	Falcon Rising
13:45	King Arthur
16:00	Getaway
18:00	Special ID-PG15
20:00	I, Frankenstein
22:00	Aeon Flux
13:00	Odd Thomas-PG15
14:45	Annie-PG
16:45	Veronica Mars-PG15
18:45	Selma-PG15
21:00	Fort Bliss-PG15
23:00	Hercules-PG15
03:55	The Sharkfighters
05:10	Into The Badlands
06:10	Hoosiers
08:05	Movers And Shakers
09:25	A Kiss Before Dying
10:55	Innocent
12:25	Hoosiers
14:20	Man In The Moon
16:00	Miracles
17:25	Limit Up
18:55	Music Of The Heart
21:00	Into The Badlands
22:00	Company Business
23:40	Bright Lights, Big City
01:25	Cadence
03:35	Untamed China With Nigel Marven
04:25	Almost Human With Jane Goodall
05:15	Deadly Islands
06:02	The Lion Queen
06:49	Rogue Nature With Dave Salmoni
07:36	Call Of The Wildman
08:00	Call Of The Wildman
08:25	The Lion Queen
09:15	Gator Boys
10:10	Treehouse Masters
11:05	Tanked
12:00	Dog Rescuers
12:30	Dog Rescuers
12:55	Bondi Vet
13:50	River Monsters
14:45	The Lion Queen
15:40	Treehouse Masters
16:35	Tanked
17:30	Roaring With Pride
18:25	The Lion Queen
19:20	Bondi Vet
20:15	Tanked
21:10	Man, Cheetah, Wild
22:05	Treehouse Masters
23:00	Bondi Vet
23:55	The Lion Queen
00:50	Gator Boys
00:00	MSNBC Caught On Camera
01:00	MSNBC Caught On Camera
02:00	Live ABC World News
02:30	Live NBC Nightly News
03:00	ABC World News
03:30	ABC World News
04:00	NBC Sunday Today Show
05:00	ABC This Week With G Stephanopoulos
06:00	NBC Meet The Press
07:00	ABC World News
07:30	NBC Nightly News
08:00	ABC World News
08:30	NBC Nightly News
09:00	ABC This Week With G Stephanopoulos
10:00	ABC World News
10:30	NBC Nightly News
11:00	Live ABC World News Now
11:30	Live ABC World News Now
12:00	Live NBC Early Today
12:30	Live ABC America This Morning
13:00	Live ABC America This Morning
13:30	Live ABC America This Morning
14:00	Live ABC America This Morning
14:30	MSNBC First Look
15:00	Live NBC Today Show
19:00	Live MSNBC Live With Tamron Hall
20:00	Live MSNBC Andrea Mitchell Reports
21:00	Live MSNBC Live With Thomas Roberts
23:00	Live MSNBC Live With Kate Snow
01:00	I Am Ali
03:00	Collaborator
04:45	Julie And Julia
06:45	Se Puder... Dirija!
08:15	Evita
10:30	Julie And Julia
12:30	Safe Haven
14:30	The Way We Were
16:30	Evita
19:00	The Darjeeling Limited
21:00	Boydhood
01:15	Wish I Was Here-PG15
03:00	Barefoot-PG15
04:45	X-Men: Days Of Future Past-PG15
07:00	Romeo & Juliet-PG15
09:00	Veronica Mars-PG15
11:00	The Imitation Game-PG15

CLASSIFIEDS



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KNCC PROGRAMME FROM THURSDAY TO WEDNESDAY (10/12/2015 TO 16/12/2015)

Programme	Time	Channel	Programme	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) ZINZANA (Emirati Film)	12:30 PM 2:30 PM 4:30 PM 4:30 PM 6:30 PM 8:30 PM 10:30 PM 12:30 PM	
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	12:45 PM 3:30 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	11:45 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 2:00 PM 4:00 PM 7:00 PM 7:00 PM 10:00 PM 1:00 AM 10:00 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	
			HOWL BUS 657 HOWL HOWL HOWL	3:45 PM 6:00 PM 8:15 PM 10:30 PM 12:45 AM	
			AVENUES-3 CLOSE RANGE CLOSE RANGE CLOSE RANGE CLOSE RANGE CLOSE RANGE CLOSE RANGE CLOSE RANGE	1:00 PM 3:00 PM 5:00 PM 7:00 PM 9:00 PM 11:00 PM 1:00 AM	
			AVENUES-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" IN THE HEART OF THE SEA IN THE HEART OF THE SEA	12:30 PM 3:15 PM 6:00 PM 6:00 PM 8:45 PM 11:30 PM	
			AVENUES-5 THE GOOD DINOSAUR CLOSE RANGE THE GOOD DINOSAUR -3D THE GOOD DINOSAUR -3D THE GOOD DINOSAUR -3D THE GOOD DINOSAUR Special Show "HOWL" CLOSE RANGE CLOSE RANGE	1:00 PM 1:30 PM 3:15 PM 5:30 PM 7:45 PM 7:45 PM 10:00 PM 12:05 AM	
			360-1 THE GOOD DINOSAUR -3D THE GOOD DINOSAUR -3D THE GOOD DINOSAUR THE GOOD DINOSAUR -3D THE GOOD DINOSAUR THE GOOD DINOSAUR	1:00 PM 3:15 PM 5:30 PM 7:45 PM 10:00 PM 12:15 AM	
			360-2 BUS 657 BUS 657 V8-2 BUS 657 BUS 657 BUS 657 BUS 657	1:00 PM 3:00 PM 5:00 PM 7:00 PM 9:00 PM 11:00 PM 1:00 AM	
			360-3 BRIDGE OF SPIES CREED BRIDGE OF SPIES CREED BRIDGE OF SPIES	11:30 AM 2:30 PM 5:30 PM 8:30 PM 11:30 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	
			HYENA ROAD HYENA ROAD HYENA ROAD	7:30 PM 9:45 PM 12:05 AM	
			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 10:30 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 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 THE GOOD DINOSAUR	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) 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	

SALE OF VEHICLES

Offers are invited for sale of 5 (five) Nos of used vehicles as per details given below on «as is where is basis.»

1. Mazda Pickup
2 Nos - year 1995
2. GMC Crew Cabin
1 No. - year 2002
3. Peugeot 207 Car
1 No. - year 2009
4. Mitsubishi Truck with Crane
-1 No. - year 1991.

The vehicles are available at Mahboola (TCIL) store for inspection.

Contact No. Mob. 66133415

Submit your offers on or before 21.12.2015

Email: selvaraj.tcil@gmail.com

Fax: 24766712

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Potturi Harsavardhana Naidu, holder of Indian Passport No: M7062597, R/o Diguvalanallaguttapalli Village, Guttapalli Post, Sambepalli Mandal, Kadapa Dist., AP, changed my name as Muhammad Arshad. (C 5095)

10-12-2015



THE PUBLIC AUTHORITY FOR CIVIL INFORMATION

Automated enquiry about the Civil ID card is

1889988

Prayer timings

Fajr:	05:09
Shorook	06:34
Duhr:	11:43
Asr:	14:32
Maghrib:	16:51
Isha:	18:14



Flight Schedule

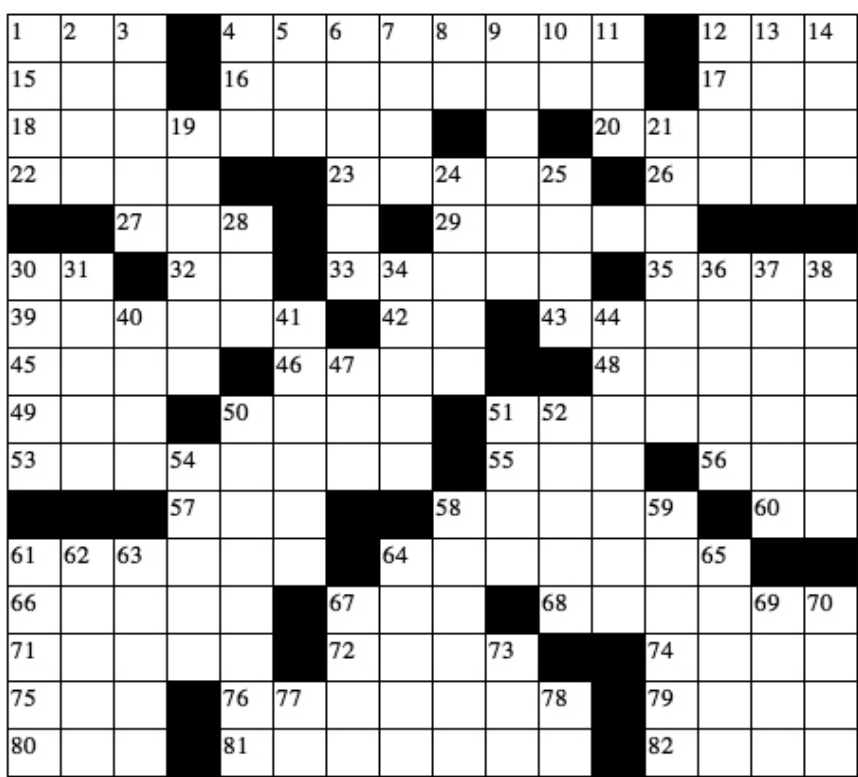
Directorate General of Civil Aviation Home Page (www.kuwait-airport.com.kw)

In case you are not travelling, your proper cancellation of bookings will help other passengers to use seats

Arrival Flights on Monday 14/12/2015				Departure Flights on Monday 14/12/2015			
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
MSC	415	Sohag	00:05	MSC	402	Alexandria	13:30
BBC	044	Dhaka/Dammam	00:05	KAC	537	Sohag	13:35
MSC	403	Asyut	00:15	JZR	176	Dubai	13:45
JZR	267	Beirut	00:30	MSR	611	Cairo	14:00
JZR	539	Cairo	00:40	UAE	872	Dubai	14:15
FDB	069	Dubai	00:55	KAC	617	Doha	14:45
RJA	642	Amman	01:05	KNE	481	Taif	14:50
THY	772	Istanbul	01:05	KAC	673	Dubai	15:00
DLH	635	Doha	01:35	KAC	513	Tehran	15:10
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	01:45	FDB	058	Dubai	15:10
PGT	858	Istanbul	02:00	QTR	1079	Doha	15:10
UAE	853	Dubai	02:30	SVA	501	Jeddah	15:45
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:30	GFA	222	Bahrain	15:45
OMA	643	Muscat	02:55	KAC	613	Bahrain	15:50
FDB	067	Dubai	03:05	KAC	773	Riyadh	15:50
MSR	612	Cairo	03:10	KNE	473	Jeddah	16:05
CEB	7694	Manila	03:15	ABY	128	Sharjah	16:25
QTR	1076	Doha	03:15	OMA	646	Muscat	16:30
KKK	6507	Istanbul	03:20	JZR	266	Beirut	17:05
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:25	ETD	304	Abu Dhabi	17:30
JZR	503	Luxor	04:25	JZR	238	Amman	17:30
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:40	FDB	052	Dubai	17:35
THY	770	Istanbul	05:55	QTR	1073	Doha	17:40
FDB	5061	Dubai	06:30	UAE	858	Dubai	17:45
BAW	157	London	06:40	JZR	538	Cairo	17:45
JZR	529	Asyut	06:50	RJA	641	Amman	17:55
KAC	412	Manila/Bangkok	07:20	SVA	511	Riyadh	18:15
QTR	1086	Doha	07:40	GFA	216	Bahrain	18:20
FDB	053	Dubai	07:45	MSR	615	Cairo	18:35
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:50	JZR	184	Dubai	18:40
SVA	512	Riyadh	07:50	SYR	342	Damascus	19:05
KAC	206	Islamabad	08:25	JZR	124	Bahrain	19:10
KAC	352	Kochi	08:30	FDB	064	Dubai	19:20
UAE	855	Dubai	08:40	ABY	124	Sharjah	19:25
KAC	362	Colombo	08:50	UAE	876	Dubai	19:30
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:00	GFA	218	Bahrain	20:15
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	09:20	KAC	353	BLR	20:40
QTR	1070	Doha	09:25	KAC	361	Colombo	20:45
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	KAC	351	Kochi	20:50
IRA	667	Esfahan	10:00	QTR	1081	Doha	20:50
OMA	641	Muscat	10:05	KAC	331	Trivandrum	21:10
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	KNE	461	Riyadh	21:10
UAE	873	Dubai	11:05	OMA	648	Muscat	21:20
AXB	889	Mangalore/Bahrain	11:15	FDB	062	Dubai	21:20
JZR	165	Dubai	11:30	DLH	634	Doha	21:45
MEA	404	Beirut	11:55	DHX	171	Bahrain	21:50
FDB	075	Dubai	12:25	JAI	571	Mumbai	21:55
MSC	401	Alexandria	12:30	JZR	502	Luxor	22:00
JZR	561	Sohag	12:45	ETD	308	Abu Dhabi	22:10
UAE	871	Dubai	12:50	KAC	301	Mumbai	22:10
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00	MEA	403	Beirut	22:20
KAC	382	Delhi	13:50	ALK	230	Colombo	22:25
KNE	460	Riyadh	13:50	FDB	5053	Dubai	22:30
KAC	672	Dubai	14:00	UAE	860	Dubai	22:30
QTR	1078	Doha	14:10	KAC	1083	Doha	22:55
FDB	057	Dubai	14:10	KAC	205	Islamabad	23:10
SVA	500	Jeddah	14:30	ETD	310	Abu Dhabi	23:15
				KAC	411	Bangkok/Manila	23:35
				FDB	060	Dubai	23:35

DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

CROSSWORD 1109



ACROSS

1. A gradual decline (in size or strength or power or number).
4. An official written record of names or events or transactions.
12. A doctor's degree in dental medicine.
15. A flat wing-shaped process or winglike part of an organism.
16. With full strength.
17. A plant hormone promoting elongation of stems and roots.
18. Tropical vine having umbels of small purple flowers and edible roots sometimes boiled as a potato substitute.
20. A grant made by a law court.
22. Not only so, but.
23. Jordan's port.
26. Type genus of the Alcidae comprising solely the razorbill.
27. Intentionally so written (used after a printed word or phrase).
29. (Norse mythology) God of light and peace and noted for his beauty and sweet nature.
30. A bachelor's degree in science.
32. A white soft metallic element that tarnishes readily.
33. Port city on southern Honshu on Osaka Bay.
35. Slightly open.
39. Great coolness and composure under strain.
42. A note appended to a letter after the signature.
43. A mineral consisting of titanium dioxide in crystalline form.
45. The Hebrew patriarch who saved himself and his family and the animals by building an ark in which they survived 40 days and 40 nights of rain.
46. A fencing sword similar to a foil but with a heavier blade.
48. United States naval officer and historian (1840-1914).
49. To an excessive degree.
53. Arranged without spaces between.
55. Nocturnal mouse-like mammal with forelimbs modified to form membranous wings and anatomical adaptations for echolocation by which they navigate.
56. Small cubes with 1 to 6 spots on the faces.
57. The residue that remains when something is burned.
60. A colorless and odorless inert gas.
61. (obstetrics) The number of live-born children a woman has delivered.
66. Remove from memory or existence.
68. Type genus of the Anhimidae.
71. Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
72. An ancient Assyrian city on the River Tigris and traditional capital of Assyria.
74. An Arabic speaking person who lives in Arabia or North Africa.
75. Black tropical American cuckoo.
76. On or of upper floors of a building.
79. Someone who works (or provides workers) during a strike.
80. A coenzyme derived from the B vitamin nicotinic acid.
81. The capital of Tajikistan.
82. A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.

DOWN

1. Posing no difficulty.
2. (Scottish) Bluish-black or gray-blue.
3. A pale rose-colored variety of the ruby spinel.
4. A run that is the result of the batter's performance.
5. The fatty flesh of eel.
6. Agile long-tailed nocturnal African lemur with dense woolly fur and large eyes and ears.
7. A republic in the Middle East in western Asia.
8. A state in north central United States.
9. An alloy of copper and zinc (and sometimes arsenic) used to imitate gold in cheap jewelry and for gilding.
10. Military action involving the use of electromagnetic energy to determine or exploit or reduce or prevent hostile use of the electromagnetic spectrum.
11. A nucleic acid that transmits genetic information from DNA to the cytoplasm.
12. The face of a timepiece.
13. Made from residue of grapes or apples after pressing.
14. An informal term for a father.
19. The second great battle of the American Civil War (1862).
21. Straggling shrub with narrow leaves and conspicuous red flowers in dense globular racemes.
24. Lower in esteem.
25. (botany) Of or relating to the axil.
28. A rotating disk shaped to convert circular into linear motion.
31. A piece of cutlery with a shallow bowl-shaped container and a handle.
34. Distance travelled per unit time.
36. A holy war by Muslims against unbelievers.
37. Paralysis of the vocal cords resulting in an inability to speak.
38. Someone who pays rent to use land or a building or a car that is owned by someone else.
40. A mountainous landlocked communist state in southeastern Asia.
41. (of a shore or shoreline) Having an extensive gently sloping area covered with sand or gravel or shingle down to the water line.
44. Innumerable but many.
47. (prefix) Coming before or being preliminary or preparatory.
50. An oval sensory end organ on the surface of the tongue.
51. Lie adjacent to another.
52. A native-born Israeli.
54. A fractional monetary unit in Bangladesh and India and Nepal and Pakistan.
58. Inhabitant of the island of Cebu.
59. The dialect of Malay used as the national language of the Republic of Indonesia or of Malaysia.
62. A particular environment or walk of life.
63. Marked by excessive enthusiasm for and intense devotion to a cause or idea.
64. Follower of Rastafarianism.
65. Deciduous shrub of North America.
67. A girl or young woman who is unmarried.
69. A flat-bottomed volcanic crater that was formed by an explosion.
70. A French abbot.
73. Support resembling the rib of an animal.
77. A radioactive transuranic element that is similar to uranium.
78. A rare heavy polyvalent metallic element that resembles manganese chemically and is used in some alloys.

STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

Today should find you with the ability to take charge and tackle tasks that require real discipline and organization. You may, however, have some serious or contemplative moments. Family members or friends may have to call out your name, if they want to get you to respond to their words. By this afternoon, you will have completed all your tasks. There is a lot of motivation to help the younger members with their tasks. Someone passing by your house may get the feeling of a party instead of work. You have an opportunity to join up with others in a few cultural activities this afternoon. You enjoy meeting a variety of people. There could be a museum, art gallery or very large flea market/charity drive today. Laughter and music is easy to find.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

You may find it a bit hard to organize or push your own ideas at this time. Everything may seem as though it is falling apart or coming unglued. Be patient and let the chaos dissipate. Clashes are possible with an older person but only if you become involved in the dispute. Remember, everyone is entitled to personal ideas. Perhaps you could just listen and be most inspiring in that way. Follow through on a promise that you made earlier. This could be a great day for thinking and ideas. You have plenty of mentors and can provide much comfort to those that just want to talk. You may want to explore a few ideas later today. Also, perhaps a short trip or a special phone call is in order. This time the conversation is in a sharing mode. You have a loving spirit.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You will benefit from taking an inward direction, turning away from the outward world a bit and allowing new ideas and information to filter through. Accepting compliments from someone is usually a nice experience this time is no exception. Someone you do not know flatters you on your preferences or possessions. Keeping an eye on your money, you shop to fill the refrigerator with some of your family's favorite foods today. You may find it very easy to enjoy and value your own life circumstances or to feel especially kind towards a friend or loved one. This evening is a good time to think and study-you have a liking for new ideas. You may find yourself engrossed in a long conversation, writing a letter or making a special phone call.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

This is a great day with lots of energy. This is the day to start new projects or push forward with those projects already begun. You may enjoy a sense of creating your own opportunities. You may decide to do volunteer work in a children's clinic. You could answer phones, file, log in medicines and donations, run errands or prepare information packets on those important immunizations. Diet and exercise somehow mean more now, as you just want to feel good about yourself and the way that you do things. A sense of belonging to something bigger than the merely personal becomes a greater focus in your life. You attach a lot of importance to friendships and you enjoy taking part in a group celebration this evening.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

Some frustrations could exist at home but they disappear quickly. There are many things for your family to experience today and it might be a good idea to write the choices of activities down on separate pieces of paper and have them draw or choose. Divide them into two jars: one marked responsibilities and the other jar marked wishes. Divide the responsibilities evenly, even if it is not a thing you or someone else usually does, and then pull out a number of wishes. Now, a fun day has been created. Mysteries and arguments and difficult-endless-tasks have come to an end. Now you have cooperation and laughter throughout the whole day. Learning and passing on to others what you have learned or experienced will keep the doors of communication open.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Family, home and the other connections in your life give you a sense of mission. There is growth and gain through these things. This is generally a fruitful period for real-estate investments. Seeking advice with this subject would be good. Knowledge and communicating take care of a natural need to learn. You should benefit appreciably from allowing your unique qualities to grow. Some new solutions to problems that may have confounded you before now may become evident at this time. A new idea or invention comes to your attention that will make someone's life in your family much easier; some sort of easy can opener would be convenient for those that do not see well. Your dreams can become your next reality.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

You will flourish by pursuing your dreams of how life could be. Don't be afraid to create a plan and see the completed project-make those dreams real. An increased need to be nurtured is a larger-than-usual element in your life. You could be feeling the need to care for others or to have them care for you, possibly on a public as opposed to private level. This may be the beginning of some volunteer opportunity. You enjoy viewing and showing off the older parts of your city and may decide to join a heritage guild. You enjoy teaching about the historic buildings, music, food, crafts and exhibits. These things reflect the process of growth to today's lifestyle in your city. You might enjoy being a tour guide for your city after you retire or on weekends.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

Your days at home have been quiet lately and this is another good Monday to relax and prepare for the week ahead. This morning you enjoy friends and a gathering at religious services. Lunch could be served after the services or a group of you may decide to go to a restaurant for the noon meal. Work, achievement and ambition are all things that mean a great deal to you and this time of relaxation gives you renewed energy with the enthusiasm you need to return to work next week with fresh ideas and fresh energy. A bookstore with lots of used books is a great place to spend the afternoon. Quiet time this evening may consist of soaking in a hot tub of water with special care to the feet. Share a massage with a loved one and embrace the good times.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 19)

Your guidance is needed now and you are wise in determining the avenues of support that the advice-seeker may need. This could mean a friend within your religious group or a neighbor-you are happy to help. This afternoon you work on a budget. Others in your family want and agree to help make things easier. There may be some part-time work activity going on during the weekends. What you want to spend during the holiday and what is realistic to spend is an important point to ponder just now. All this talk about money and other people's problems does not put a dent in a most fun day ever. You find yourself on the receiving end of a long line of well-wishers, at a well-planned party-perhaps a surprise!



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

This would be an ideal time for surrounding yourself with friends and young people and for having a good time. You are comfortable with your particular situation and enjoy support from those around you. It may be that time of the year, when you and your friends visit each other just to see the decorations at each other's homes and enjoy the afternoon. Perhaps the visits will begin in one home and progress to others for what is called a progressive dinner party. The end would be for dessert and a hot drink and opening gift packages, if appropriate. You should be feeling very healthy and ready for most any activity. It is difficult to connect with peers when one is not focused. This current activity is perfect for nurturing friendships.



Aquarius (January 20-February 18)

Fondness and appreciation for the past and for your roots in life take on a greater meaning and importance for you now. Distant family members may be visiting from a distant land. Research goes into finding a family crest or in finding a gift that will help keep the memories of this time fresh. Making your home situation most pleasant and attractive plays a part in this. Of course, the sale or purchase of real estate could bring you much gain before this cycle is through; if you are looking to sell your home. You may find it easy to enjoy or value your own life situation today or you could find yourself feeling especially kind-hearted toward a friend or loved one. A visitor in your home pays you a nice compliment on your preferences.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

You are revered for your ability to make commonsense decisions that affect others. You just somehow know what the community wants and needs. Being adopted or knowing someone that is adopted, or just enjoying the company of young people, creates the desire to volunteer your sunday afternoons to a pregnancy and adoption center in or near your town. You could be helpful in the outreach and intervention program for adolescents. You might also help to sort and tag clothing items, organize the shop, design window arrangements and perform cashier duties for the thrift shop. You are good at getting your message over to others and may be called upon to do just that. Your timing is perfect when it comes to being helpful for others.

Wordsearch Puzzle

Autumn

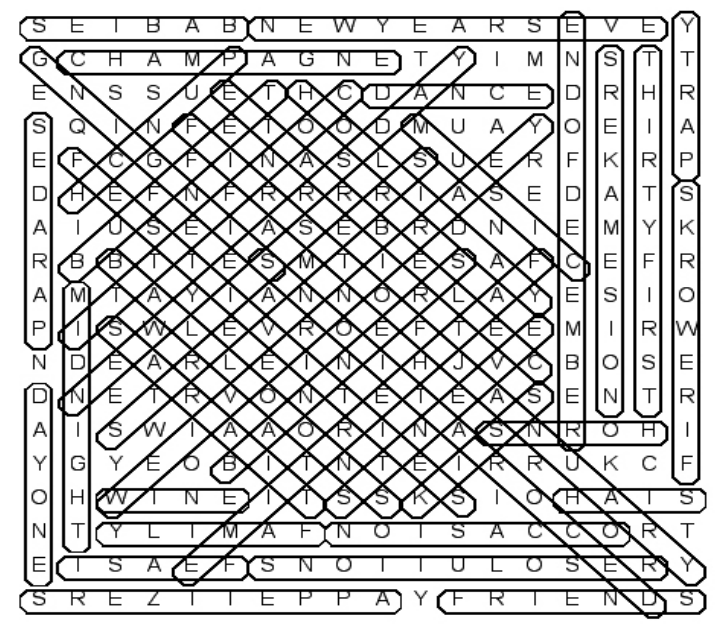
Find and circle all of the Autumn words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell a secret message - an Albert Camus quotation.



- | | | | |
|----------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| ACORN | EQUINOX | NOVEMBER | SEPTEMBER |
| APPLE | FALL | OCTOBER | SHORTER DAYS |
| BIRD MIGRATION | FARMING | ORANGE LEAVES | SQUASH |
| BLOWING LEAVES | FEAST | PIE | SWEET POTATOES |
| BLUSTERY DAY | FROST | PUMPKIN | THANKSGIVING |
| CANNING | HALLOWEEN | RAKE | TURKEY |
| CHESTNUTS | HARVEST | RED LEAVES | WINDY |
| CHILLY | HAYSTACK | SCARECROW | YELLOW LEAVES |
| COLD | HICKORY NUTS | SCHOOL | |
| CROPS | LONGER NIGHTS | SEASON | |

Yesterday's Solution

Happy New Year



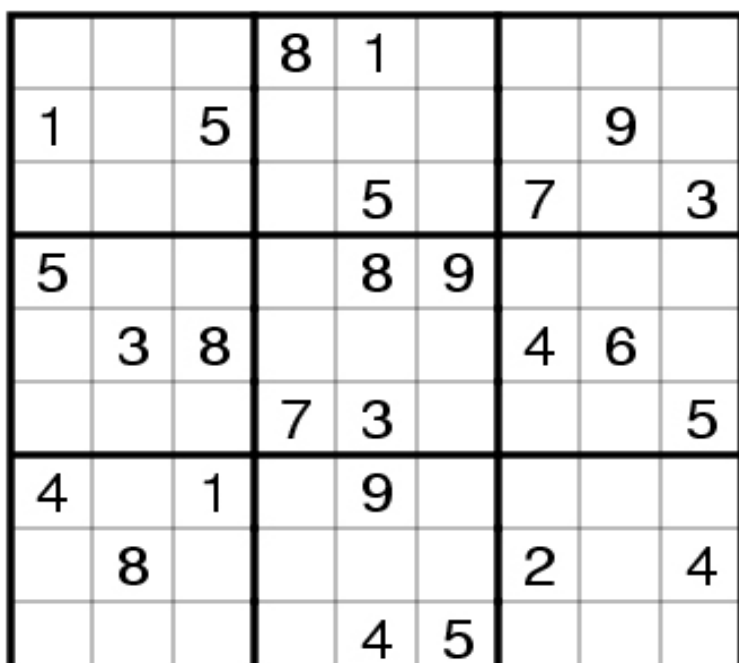
- | | | | |
|------------|------------------|---------------|----------------|
| APPETIZERS | DECORATIONS | HATS | PARADES |
| BABIES | END OF DECEMBER | HOLIDAY | PARTY |
| BALLOONS | EVENTS | HORNS | PUNCH |
| BANNERS | FAMILY | KISS | RESOLUTIONS |
| BUFFET | FATHER TIME | MIDNIGHT | SINGING |
| CELEBRATE | FEAST | MUSIC | STREAMERS |
| CHAMPAGNE | FESTIVITIES | NEW YEARS DAY | THIRTY FIRST |
| CONFETTI | FIREWORKS | NEW YEARS EVE | TIRAS |
| DANCE | FIRST OF JANUARY | NOISEMAKERS | WINE |
| DAY ONE | FRIENDS | OCCASION | YEAR IN REVIEW |

The hidden message is: TIMES SQUARE IN NEW YORK CITY

Yesterday's Solution



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
Khaldiya	24848075
Kaifan	24849807
Shamiya	24848913
Shuwaikh	24814507
Abdullah Salem	22549134
Nuzha	22526804
Industrial Shuwaikh	24814764
Qadsiya	22515088
Dasmah	22532265
Bneid Al-Gar	22531908
Shaab	22518752
Qibla	22459381
Ayoun Al-Qibla	22451082
Mirqab	22456536
Sharq	22465401
Salmiya	25746401
Jabriya	25316254
Maidan Hawally	25623444
Bayan	25388462
Mishref	25381200
W Hawally	22630786
Sabah	24810221
Jahra	24770319
New Jahra	24575755
West Jahra	24772608
South Jahra	24775066
North Jahra	24775992
North Jleeb	24311795
Ardhiya	24884079
Firdous	24892674
Omariya	24719048
N Khaitan	24710044
Fintas	23900322



PHARMACIES ON 24 HRS DUTY

GOVERNORATE	PHARMACY	ADDRESS	PHONE
Ahmadi	Sama Safwan Abu Halaifa Danat Al-Sultan	Fahaee 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

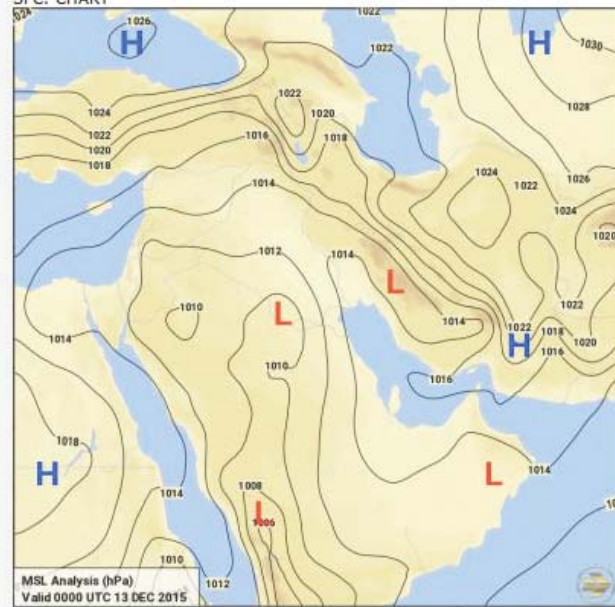
Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

Issued 13/12/2015-07:00 LT UTC +3hr

MAX Temperature 24 °C

By Day : Partly cloudy with variable wind changing to light to moderate south easterly wind, with speed of 12 - 35 km/h
By Night : Partly cloudy with moderate wind in general south easterly wind, with speed of 20 - 38 km/h with a chance for scattered rain later on

SFC. CHART



Four-Day Forecast

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Expected Weather	partly cloudy + raising dust+scattered rain	sunny	sunny	sunny
Min Temp °C	12	08	06	07
Max Temp °C	23	17	17	18
Wind Direction	south easterly changing to westerly	north westerly	north westerly	variable
Wind Speed km/h	20 - 45	10 - 32	08 - 28	06 - 22

All times are local time (GMT+3) unless otherwise stated

Warnings NO CURRENT WARNINGS

Kuwait Forecast

Station	MIN °C REC	Max °C EXP
KUWAIT CITY	14	24
KUWAIT AIRPORT	09	24
ABDALY	11	23
BUBYAN	11	20
JAHRA	12	24
FAILAKA ISLAND	11	22
SALMIYAH	15	20
AHMADI	15	20
JAL ALIYAH	11	20
QAROH ISLAND	19	21
UMM AL-MARADEM	18	22
NUWAISIB	11	25
WAFRA	09	24
MANAGISH	10	23
SALMY	10	23
MUTRIBA	10	23

Recorded Yesterday at Kuwait Airport

Max Temp (°C)	19
Min Temp (°C)	06
Max Rel Hum (%)	97
Min Rel Hum (%)	35
Max Wind Speed (km/h) and Direction	18 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 Dr. Abdallah Al-Mansoor 25622444 Dr. Samy Al-Rabea 25752222 Dr. Masoma Habeeb 25321171 Dr. Mubarak Al-Ajmy 25739999 Dr. Mohsen Abel 25757700 Dr. Adnan Hasan Alwayl 25732223 Dr. Abdallah Al-Baghly 25732223	Plastic Surgeons Dr. Mohammad Al-Khalaf 22547272 Dr. Abdal-Redha Lari 22617700 Dr. Abdel Quttainah 25625030/60 Family Doctor Dr Divya Damodar 23729596/23729581 Psychiatrists Dr. Esam Al-Ansari 22635047 Dr Eisa M. Al-Balhan 22613623/0 Gynaecologists & Obstetricians DrAdrian arbe 23729596/23729581 Dr. Verginia s.Marin 2572-6666 ext 8321 Dr. Fozeya Ali Al-Qatan 22655539 Dr. Majeda Khalefa Aliytami 25343406 Dr. Ahmad Al-Khooly 25739272 Dr. Salem soso 22618787 General Surgeons Dr. Amer Zawaz Al-Amer 22610044 Dr. Mohammad Yousef Basher 25327148 Internists, Chest & Heart Dr. Adnan Ebil 22639939 Dr. Mousa Khadada 22666300 Dr. Latefa Al-Duweisan 25728004 Dr. Nadem Al-Ghabra 25355515 Dr. Mobarak Aldoub 24726446 Dr Nasser Behbehani 25654300/3	Paediatricians Dr. Khaled Hamadi 25665898 Dr. Abd Al-Aziz Al-Rashed 25340300 Dr. Zahra Qabazard 25710444 Dr. Sohail Qamar 22621099 Dr. Snaa Maarroof 25713514 Dr. Pradip Gupare 23713100 Dr. Zacharias Mathew 24334282 Dermatology Dr. Mohammed Salam Bern University 23845955 Dentists Dr Anil Thomas 3729596/3729581 Dr. Shamah Al-Matar 22641071/2 Dr. Anesah Al-Rasheed 22562226 Dr. Abdallah Al-Amer 22561444 Dr. Faysal Al-Fozan 22619557 Dr. Abdallateef Al-Katrash 22525888 Dr. Abdallah Al-Duweisan 25653755 Dr. Bader Al-Ansari 25620111 Neurologists Dr. Sohal Najem Al-Shemeri 25633324 Dr. Jasem Mola Hassan 25345875 Gastrologists Dr. Sami Aman 22636464 Dr. Mohammad Al-Shamaly 25322030 Dr. Foad Abdallah Al-Ali 22633135	Endocrinologist Dr. Abd Al-Naser Al-Othman 25339330 Dr. Ahmad Al-Ansari 25658888 Dr. Kamal Al-Shomr 25329924 Physiotherapists & VD Dr. Deyaa Shehab 25722291 Dr. Mused Faraj Khamees 22666288 Rheumatologists: Dr. Adel Al-Awadi 25330060 Dr. Khaled Al-Jarallah 25722290 Internist, Chest & Heart DR.Mohammes Akkad 24555050 Ext 210 Dr. Mohammad Zubaid MB, ChB, FRCP, PACC Assistant Professor Of Medicine Head, Division of Cardiology Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital 25339667 Consultant Cardiologist Dr. Farida Al-Habib MD, PH.D, FACC 2611555-2622555 Inaya German Medical Center Te: 2575077 Fax: 25723123
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US director Francis Ford Coppola (center) poses with winners during the closing ceremony of the 15th edition of the Marrakech international film festival in Marrakech.

Coppola jury prizes complete MARRAKECH COMPETITION



Jury member Olga Kurylenko, left, gives the best actor award to Gunnar Jonsson for the film "Virgin Mountain".



Gunnar Jonsson, center, poses after winning the best actor award for the film "Virgin Mountain" with jury members, Olga Kurylenko, left, Richa Chadda, 2nd right and Amal Ayouch, right.

In a landmark decision that nevertheless caught the inclusive spirit of 2015's 15th Marrakech Festival - if somewhat overshadowing other awards - a Francis Ford Coppola-chaired jury gave its Jury Prize - and effective second biggest award - to all the 15 films in competition. In what was termed a "special announcement," on stage and visibly moved Coppola cited the competition titles and their merits in brief descriptions one by one, concluding "this year's jury prize is for cinema itself."

"These are times human beings can accomplish any goals by working together," Coppola said. In that spirit, the jury had decided to give a collective plaudit, which was "new and fresh," he argued, before reading out a one-sentence description of each and every competition title. The Coppola jury decision serves to highlight a competition that is purposefully diverse in the geographic origins of titles and forefronts talent to track that has caught attention during 2015. 12 of the 15 movies in competition, ranging from Jonas Cuaron's "Desierto" to Brazilian Gabriel Mascaro's singular "Neon Bull," which won Best Direction, are first or second films.

Marrakech's top plaudit, its Golden Star Festival Grand Prize, went to Beirut-set comedic crime thriller "Very Big Shot," from Lebanon's Mir-Jean Bou Chaaya. One of the most commented-on debuts at Marrakech, which bowed at Toronto, "Very Big Shot" caught attention both for its "Argos"-echoes and, inevitably after the Paris and San Bernardino attacks, violence set in an Arab world context, though "Very Big Shot" plays out for most of its length as a crime caper.

Gunnar Jonsson took best performance by an actor for "Virgin Mountain," from Iceland's Dagur Kuri; best actress went to Belgium's Galatea Bellugi for "Keeper," another talked up first feature - like "Very Big Shot" - directed by Guillaume Senez. Mascaro's sensual "Neon Bull" turns on a cowpoke who's a wannabe fashion designer, but is more an original - and sexed-up and sensual - social portrait than traditional aspiration drama.

Already praised for his "extraordinary performance" by Variety's Ronnie Scheib, Jonsson plays a gentle giant who falls in love in "Virgin Mountain." In "Keeper," "evinced huge potential" for helmer Senez, said Variety's Andrew Barker, Bellugi plays a pregnant teen whose same-aged b.f. is determined to keep the child.



Actress Galatea Bellugi poses for photographers after winning the best actress award for the film "Keeper".

Marrakech's 2015 competition took in eight feature debuts - Visar Morina's Kosova-to-Germany emigration drama "Babai," admired at Karlovy Vary, Stephen Dunn's LGBT title "Closet Monster," which was Toronto's 2015 Best Canadian Feature, Sundance hit "Cop Car," from Jon Watts, Senez's "Keeper," Sina Ataeian Dena's ironically titled "Paradise," about a young teacher embroiled in bureaucracy in Iran, Raam Reddy's Indian village-set drama "Thithi" and Kazakh Zhassulum Poshanov's "Toll Bar," set against the background of the rich-poor divide in Almaty. Also in the Marrakech competition mix were four second features: "Desierto," an novel Mexico-US border immigration action thriller, "Neon Bull," already a prizewinner at Venice Horizons and Rio, Moroccan Jawad Rhalib's emigration drama "Rebellious Girl," and Busan-screening "Steel Punk," about a young homeless, from South Korea's Park Suk-young.

"Virgin Mountain," Michael Noer's "Key House Mirror" and coming-of-age drama "Lingering Memories," from Japan's Keiko Tsuruoka, completed the competition. Coppola's jury took in helmers Anton Corbijn ("Life"), Jean-Pierre Jeunet ("The Young and Prodigious T.S. Spivet"),

Naomi Kawase ("Still the Water"), actor-director Sergio Castellitto ("You Can't Save Yourself Alone"), actress-producer Olga Kurylenko ("Quantum of Solace"), and thespes Richa Chadda ("Gangs of Wasseypur") and Amal Ayouch ("The Gospel of Mark"). One of the biggest events in the Arab and Africa film world, the 15th Marrakech Festival ran Dec 4-12.

GOLDEN STAR FESTIVAL GRAND PRIZE
"Very Big Shot," (Mir-Jean Bou Chaaya, Lebanon, Qatar)
JURY PRIZE
All films in competition
Best Direction Prize
Gabriel Mascaro ("Neon Bull," Brazil, Uruguay, Netherlands)
Best Performance by An Actress
Galatea Bellugi ("Keeper," Belgium, Switzerland, France)
Best Performance by An Actor
Gunnar Jonsson ("Virgin Mountain, Iceland, Denmark)
Cinecoles Short Film Prize
"La Jeune fille qui venait de nulle part" (Reda Jai, Morocco)—Reuters



Italian actress Valeria Golino.



US director Francis Ford Coppola, president of the Jury of 15th Marrakech International Film in Marrakech, speaks during the closing ceremony.



Mirjean bou Chaaya pauses for photographers after winning the Jury prize grand prize award for the film "Very Big Shot".



Brazilian director Gabriel Mascaro poses after winning the best directing prize award for the film "Neon Bull".



Leila Hadioui arrives at the closing ceremony.



Jonas Cuaron pauses for photographers after winning the Jury prize given to each film of the competition except the grand prize award for the film "Desierto".



Sina Ataeian Dena pauses for photographers after winning the Jury prize given to each film of the competition except the grand prize award for the film "Ma Dar Behesht".



Zhassulan Poshanon poses for photographers after winning the Jury prize given to each film of the competition except the grand prize award for the film "Toll Bar".



Japanese director Keiko Tsuruoka poses with her trophy after winning the jury prize for the film "Lingering Memories".



Joe Jonas, left, from the band DNCE performs at Z100's iHeartRadio Jingle Ball 2015 at Madison Square Garden on Friday in New York. —AP photos



The Weeknd performs at Z100's iHeartRadio Jingle Ball 2015.



Nick Jonas performs at Z100's iHeartRadio Jingle Ball 2015.



Shawn Mendes performs at Z100's iHeartRadio Jingle Ball 2015.



Selena Gomez performs at Z100's iHeartRadio Jingle Ball 2015.

The Weeknd, Nick Jonas, Lovato shine at Jingle Ball concert

The Weeknd celebrated his breakout year from critical darling to full-blown pop star at iHeartRadio's "Jingle Ball" concert in New York City. The Grammy-nominated singer headlined Friday at Madison Square

Garden, and even left out expletives during his set of songs, which was explosive and energetic. He sang familiar radio hits like "Can't Feel My Face" and "The Hills" in front of the feverish crowd, as did Nick Jonas, Selena

Gomez, Charlie Puth, Fifth Harmony and Shawn Mendes. Demi Lovato was a vocal powerhouse in front of the loud audience and offered words of encouragement to the young fans. Other performers included 5 Seconds of

Summer, Hailee Steinfeld, Calvin Harris and Zedd. Fetty Wap performed his hit "Trap Queen" and silenced the audience when he ended his set with an expletive. —AP

Dubai Fest: Director Majid Al-Ansari on his 'Rattle the Cage'

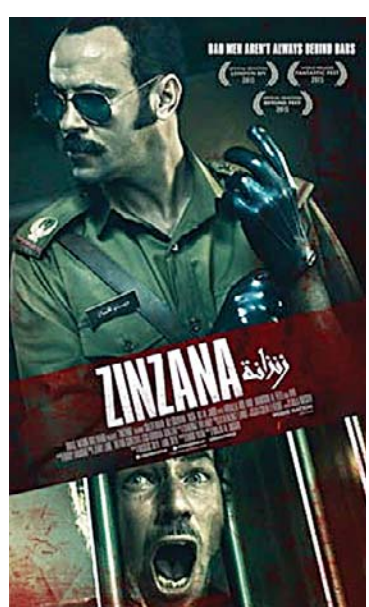
Young Emirati director Majid Al-Ansari's debut feature film "Rattle the Cage" - titled "Zinzana" in the Arab world - is a neo-noir with a Tarantino-esque touch considered the first genre movie of this type to come out of the United Arab Emirates, where accomplished helmers are few. The well-received pic being launched from the Dubai Film Festival into the Middle East is fully financed by prominent Abu Dhabi-based media company Image Nation, which is driving the nascent local film industry. Al-Ansari spoke in Dubai about how he pulled off the rare feat of making an Emirati pic that's likely to travel.

Reuters: The movie is based on a script by two American screenwriters, Lane and Ruckus Skye. How did you get the script?

Majid Al-Ansari: It all started with the Black List. I went through plenty of scripts from there. I'm a genre fanatic, especially Asian cinema. So when I read it, it really stuck with me. In the beginning I had doubts about setting it in the Arab world, but the more I thought

about it, the more I said: 'we'll make it work! We had to finesse it a bit, but I think we managed. It's really very character driven and touches on issues that are global, like addiction and family values, and that's what I love about it.'

Reuters: The film takes place "somewhere in Arabia" in a prison



cell and there is plenty of power abuse and torture on the part of a psychopathic police officer. Though you've set it in 1987, it would certainly be conceivable to read a political connotation somewhere in the film. Did that ever cross your mind?

Al-Ansari: Honestly no. I wanted to do "Zinzana" because I thought it would be a cool movie to watch. I didn't want to get into the politics of this region where, of course, there is a lot to highlight in that respect. There are a lot of films from the Arab world that are about the social and political issues that we have. I wanted "Zinzana" to be just the opposite of that, almost a counterbalance to the movies that most other Arab filmmakers are doing.

Reuters: As I understand it, Image Nation fully financed the film, which is pretty amazing. How did that happen?

Al-Ansari: I started working in film in several Abu Dhabi entities as an intern a while ago, then slowly from there I got accepted into the formative program at Image

Nation and from there I worked with Participant Media and on Nawaf Al-Janahi's "Sea Shadow." Then I shot my first short, and [Image Nation CEO] Michael Garin and others thought that was great. But they wanted me to first learn the business side before I would get to direct. I did that for two-years-and-a-half. Then when "Zinzana" came along I pitched it to them, and got [to direct] it.

Reuters: You have great production values and an amazing cast. Did you get to choose who you wanted on your crew and cast, or did Image Nation do all of that?

Al-Ansari: I got the cinematographer I wanted, Colin Leveque, and the team really kind of guided me to get the talents. It was a collaboration, that's how Image Nation is.

Reuters: What are the distribution prospects outside the Middle East, where it's being released by Vox?

Al-Ansari: We have IM Global selling it internationally outside the U.S. and Cinetic Media for North America.

Paolo Sorrentino on making 'Youth'

After Paolo Sorrentino won the 2014 foreign-language Oscar with "The Great Beauty," he segued into "Youth," his English language equally lush pic, which just scored top prizes at the European Film Awards, including a best actor nod for Michael Caine. Sorrentino recently spoke in Rome with Variety about making the film in which Caine plays a retired orchestra conductor in reflective



Paolo Sorrentino

mode at a posh Alpine spa. "Youth" just had its Middle East premiere at the Dubai film festival, one of many fests it launched from after world premiering in May in Cannes.

Reuters: Compared with "The Great Beauty" this seems like a much more tender film. Yes, it's true. I didn't want to make a complicated movie like "The Great Beauty," which touches a lot of themes, symbols, satires. Instead, this wanted to be a warm movie on a theme that I had not explored before, which is: "how do we envision ourselves in the future?"

Paolo Sorrentino: I was passionate about the idea of how two 80-year-olds [played by Caine and Harvey Keitel] envisioned themselves in the future. But it's meant to be a warm, tender movie; sentimental in the good sense of the word.

Reuters: You've worked with cinematographer Luca Bigazzi ever since your second film, "The Consequences of Love." How much has he contributed to your aesthetic? And what type of work did he do on "Youth"?

Sorrentino: We work very well together. We've made six movies and now we are making "The Young Pope" TV series, which is like five movies in one. We experience things the same way. With time I've drawn from him and he's drawn from me. We see things the same way, with very minimal differences. We don't even talk that much about how to light a shot. It's as though we both know that the other one knows. What Luca initially brought to me was an aesthetic of darkness that I did not know - and I got to know it in "The Consequences of Love." But in time, paradoxically, he became sunnier and I became darker. In "Youth" the setting, the environment, was very important. To have a unity of setting. So we let the setting and the Spring season carry us.

Reuters: Can you tell me about working with your production designer on "Youth," Ludovica Ferrario?

Sorrentino: I've known Ludovica for a long time. She's an architect, which is very useful for me. She has a sense of proportions, of geometry. There is lots

of geometry in cinema, nobody ever talks about this. And architects know geometry. On top of that, to use an old-fashioned term, she's a classy lady with an innate good taste. That helps me a lot and it keeps me in check when I 'degenerate' - either because I'm tired or for other reasons - and try to force something that's not right.

Reuters: You've also been working with the same editor, Cristiano Travaglioli, since "Il Divo." I know editing is a really key part of the process for you.

Sorrentino: Yes, the first edit run for me is crucial. I don't watch dailies because they make me agitated. I never do re-shoots, I've never shot a scene over again. Several years ago I talked about directing with the Cohen brothers who told me something that illuminated me. They told me: 'making a movie is like a sports match; you have x number of days; x amount of time and the performance has to take place in those days and with those time constraints. You can't cheat; you can't get extra time! It's a very smart rule. So when I get to the editing stage, it's a great moment because I see all this material, some of which I don't even remember because I shot it months earlier.'

Reuters: What I've heard about you as a director is you know what you want, you are really fast in making decisions and you are very prolific. And the amazing thing is you never went to film school!

Sorrentino: Yes. But as far as knowing what I want, when I started out I faked it. Precisely because I hadn't gone to film school I wasn't that believable, even to myself. So I thought if I show I'm insecure everybody will take advantage of me to get their paws on my things and say: 'let yourself be guided since you don't have experience.' So right from the start I pretended I knew what I was doing. Then, slowly, by working this assuredness became real. But I have my doubts, I just don't show them.

Reuters: As far as confidence goes, you've been working with some superstars lately - Michael Caine, Harvey Keitel, Jane Fonda in "Youth," Diane Keaton in "Young Pope," and you don't seem very intimidated, frankly.

Sorrentino: Well at first, with the first superstar I worked with, Sean Penn, I was very intimidated. But he helped me a lot. In our conversations before we started he conveyed very clearly to me the concept that he trusted me, because of the script and my previous movie, and our conversations. And no matter what I might have heard about him, if he trusted someone there weren't going to be any problems. And that calmed me. I'm not intimidated by great actors because they are the ones it's easiest to work with.

Reuters: The dynamics between characters in "Youth" are quite clear, as are the characters themselves. But there is one character, legendary footballer Diego Armando Maradona, that not all American reviewers seem to have identified. In your Oscar speech you thanked Maradona, so he must play a pretty important part in your work.

Sorrentino: Aside from all the things I've said

'American Horror Story' Actress Rose Siggins Dies at 43

"American Horror Story: Freak Show" actress Rose Siggins has died at the age of 43. According to TMZ, the actress died from complications from kidney stone surgery. Siggins reportedly contracted an infection that spread through her body. She died Saturday in a Denver hospital. Siggins had sacral agenesis, a genetic disorder that caused her kidney and pancreas problems throughout her life. A GoFundMe account has been set up in her honor. She is survived by two children.

Siggins portrayed Legless Suzi in the fourth season of "American Horror Story," which aired from 2014 to 2015. She's the second actor from "Freak Show" to die this year, following the death of Ben Woolf, who played Meep. Her cast mates took to Twitter to express their sympathy. —Reuters



Rose Siggins



The Rockettes, eight decades of NY Christmas glamour

The Rockettes prepare to tumble down in the 'Parade of the Wooden Soldiers' during the 2015 Radio City Christmas Spectacular at Radio City Music Hall. —AFP photos



The Rockettes tumble down in 'Parade of the Wooden Soldiers'.



Rockettes perform the 'Parade of the Wooden Soldiers'.



Rockettes prepare to perform their 'Rag Dolls' number.



Rockettes prepare to go on stage.



The Rockettes perform their 'Rag Dolls' number.



The Rockettes perform their 'Rag Dolls' number.

Kicking their legs and dancing in perfect unison since 1933, the Rockettes are an iconic New York Christmas institution watched by one million people each year at the biggest indoor theater in the world. The Radio City Christmas Spectacular is performed up to five times a day from November 13 to January 3 at Radio City Music Hall at Rockefeller Center, America's most popular Christmas destination.

It's a 90-minute show of music, ballet, ice skaters, dancing Santas,

graph the Christmas Spectacular.

Keep the show fresh

The other constant is a living nativity scene that includes three camels, a clutch of sheep and a donkey, as shepherds and wise men pay homage to Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus. The animals live in the building, and each morning sometime between 5:00 and 6:00 am the camels are taken for a stroll around Rockefeller Center, Branam said. "The show is based on tradition, which is great, but every year



Rockettes prepare to perform their 'Rag Dolls' number.

3D cinema, fireworks, Christmas window displays that come to life, and streamers and snowflakes bursting from the ceiling. There is a Nutcracker with a teddy bear fairy godmother. Santa Claus flies through the clouds on a sleigh ride only to turn up in the audience, before whisking two children to the North Pole. The theater is all art deco opulence, with thick carpets, 6,000 silky smooth seats and an enormous stage that oozes Golden Age glamor, where some of America's greatest entertainers have performed.

Together with the Christmas tree at Rockefeller Center, the Rockettes are a cornerstone of the winter holiday season, with New York expected to welcome 5.3 million visitors. "I was taken by my family to see the show when I was a little girl and I know looking out to the audience that repeat families make it part of their holiday tradition too," said Samantha Beary Burns, a Rockette for seven years.

"You kind of pinch yourself, is this really my life?" she said. "Coming to New York at Christmas it is truly an experience that no one should miss." One number, "Parade of the Wooden Soldiers," which sees 36 dancers collapse like dominos, has been performed every year since 1933 with the same choreography and the same costumes. "It's an audience favorite," said Julie Branam, the first Rockette to direct and choreo-

graph the Christmas Spectacular. "We're always trying to think of ways to keep the show fresh." The Rockettes have two casts of 40 dancers but put only 36 dancers on stage for each number. The minimum age is 18 and each April the performers have to re-audition to keep their place. They rehearse six hours a day, six days a week for six weeks. Once the show opens, each woman performs four shows a day, six days a week. The dancers range from 5 foot six (1.67 meters) to five foot 10 (1.78 meters), with the tallest women performing in the middle of the stage, spreading gradually out to create the illusion that they are all the same height.

"They make it look so easy when it is so difficult," says Branam. "They are so highly trained, it really is every form of dance and they're athletes on top of it." During the performance there are eight costume changes: the fastest allows the dancers only 78 seconds to get out of their soldier costumes into little dresses, white fur hats and fur-trimmed coats.

Burns said her favorite number is "The 12 Days of Christmas," in which the dancers portray the various objects from the famous holiday song. "It shows our personalities," she explained. "It really shows our athleticism as professional dancers and I think it highlights the history and the iconography but it's still contemporary." — AFP



A man dressed as Beaker the Muppet as a Santa waits for the start of the annual SantaCon pub crawl.



People dressed in holiday garb walk through the streets of Williamsburg.



A woman dressed as a Santa's elf collects donations.

Thousands in costumes revel at festive SantaCon



A man dressed as a Santa drinks a cocktail at a club called Verboten during the annual SantaCon pub crawl in the Brooklyn borough of New York City. —AP/AFP photos



Men dressed as Santa chilling at a bar called The Hall.

Santas came by the thousands, reindeer formed a kick line and oversized elves cavorted with saucy Mrs Clauses as a police helicopter circled overhead. Welcome to SantaCon, the annual Christmastime costume-parade-meets-pub-crawl that was hoping this year would persuade New York it's more nice than naughty. "Look out for your reindeer. Look out for your elves," organizers advised the crowd as Saturday's festivities began with a mix of safety messages and psyching-up. "Can I get a 'ho'?"

Before long, over a thousand costumed revelers were headed off to bar-hop and make merry through Brooklyn and Manhattan. Jessica Carr and Victoria Pirolli had turned themselves into snow globes, each encasing her head and torso in bubble-umbrella-like plastic, with a foam rubber base around the hips. The two science teachers from New Jersey said they were at their fifth SantaCon for the creativity, not the carousing that earned the event an out-of-control reputation in recent years. Organizers said the event also raises tens of thousands of dollars for charity.

"We have fun," Pirolli said. "We don't pee in bushes or anything." Tracing its origins to a prankish, anti-consumerist gathering in San Francisco in 1994, SantaCon has mushroomed into events in hundreds of cities, with New York's generally the biggest. It's also drawn criticism, particularly after the 2012 and 2013 celebrations generated two arrests, 85 summonses for disorderly conduct and other offenses, and online videos of brawling St Nicks. A spokesman for the New York Police Department said there were no reported arrests Saturday evening and organizers say there were no arrests or summonses last year.

Pressured to clean up SantaCon's act, organizers began telling police their plans in 2013. This year, they released their route days ahead of time, got a permit to assemble at Brooklyn's McCarren Park and even agreed to tweet police advice about pedestrian safety. And SantaCon's lawyer, Norman Siegel, said Saturday the group aimed to self-police anyone who got out of line.

Still, a dozen city and state officials publicly



A crowd of people dressed as Santa gather for a group photo.

aired concerns about potential binge drinking and bad behavior. Police Commissioner William Bratton on Friday warned "anybody who wants to come into the city and raise hell dressed up as Santa Claus - we're not going to tolerate it." NYPD Chief James O'Neill suggested the event was a burden at a time of height-

ened security concerns after attacks by extremists in Paris and elsewhere. "We are in trying times all throughout the world, and to have to expend more resources on an event like this, at times, it's frustrating," O'Neill said. To four-time SantaCon-goer Michael Fincher, troubled times were an argument for the cele-

bration, not against it. "With what's going on in the world today, we need something lighter," said Fincher, a retail worker from Middlesex, New Jersey.

Something lighter - or light-saber, in the case of the Lambert family, decked out in a Santa-meets-"Star Wars" theme. Including 4-

year-old Aliana as Princess, yes, Sleight. "It incorporates family values, if you seek them out," said Steven Lambert, who said his Manhattan family would skip the bar scene and be home by noon. "Its origins are based on festivity, regardless of religion or beliefs. That's the fun of being a New Yorker." — AP

Babycottons holds grand opening of its Promenade Mall store

Babycottons, a children's wear retail company whose cornerstone products include baby's first layettes complemented by a full range of other baby and kids clothes and accessories, held a big event to mark the grand opening of its second store located on M2 level of the Promenade Mall on the Third Ring Road in Hawalli.

Coinciding with the event is the launch of its winter 15 collection clothing line. As part of the festive and cheerful occasion, an impromptu fashion show was held at the shop in front of VIP guests and valued customers. The models at the fashion were the children of customers themselves, who were all invited to try on the new winter collection.

Positioned within the affordable but high quality segment of children's clothes, the babycottons collection include clothing, accessories, shoes and perfumery items for newborn through size six for both girls and boys.

The key differentiator of babycottons' against other children's apparel shops is



the premium pima cotton, which is found only in Peru, being used in its clothing line. Pima cotton is very soft and safe to use especially on sensitive newborn children up to the age of six years.

"As the first babycottons franchise in

the entire Middle East, we are truly proud to hold the grand opening of our second shop in Kuwait at the Promenade Mall," said Dima Nuseibah, the Operations Manager of babycottons in Kuwait. "Following the initial tremendous



response to the soft opening of this shop in July, we saw it fit to express our sincere gratitude to customers through this fulfilled grand opening event.

"As we remain steadfast in our commitment of providing only the finest, fashionable yet affordable clothing that will surely make children feel comfortable under any weather condition in Kuwait, this store will constantly increase its offer-

ing and choices for the benefit of today's discerning customers," he/she added. "We are therefore excited to welcome more customers into our Promenade Mall shop, with a promise that they will surely find one more items to their liking and always come out of our store with a big smile."

Babycottons' first shop in Kuwait is located at The Avenues Mall on the 5th Ring Road in Al-Rai.



KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysian Muslim women take a selfie in front of a Christmas tree at a mall in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, yesterday. The spirit of Christmas is felt very much in Muslim-dominated Malaysia, as shopping malls in Malaysia have decorated their premises with Christmas trees, lights, Santa Claus and carols as a chance to boost year-end sales.—AP



SWITZERLAND: Swiss author Pierre Smolik poses with crafted wings covered with swan feathers made for a final film by English comic actor and filmmaker Charlie Chaplin never completed in Corsier-sur-Vevey, western Switzerland.



People hold a book by Swiss author Pierre Smolik entitled "The Freak, the last film of Chaplin". —AFP photos

'The Freak', a Chaplin masterpiece that never was

A large crate tucked away in a musky storage room reveals a treasure: a pair of meticulously crafted wings covered with swan feathers made for a final film Charlie Chaplin never completed. The seminal filmmaker had the surprisingly heavy contraptions made for his daughter Victoria, whom he envisioned in the role of "The Freak"—a winged girl who brings hope to humanity, but also exposes its deepest flaws. "It seemed to me to be a very beautiful fairytale. Something that maybe only a man of his age can imagine, can dream. A very charming dream," Chaplin's now 69-year-old son Michael told AFP, his dark eyes sparkling as he recalls reading his father's script back in the 1970s. Comic genius Charlie Chaplin, whose iconic films like "The Kid," "Modern Times," "The Great Dictator" and "City Lights" are admired and loved the world over, was planning something very different for what he intended to be his last picture. A book published this week in Switzerland, where Chaplin spent the last 24 years of his life, for the first time gives a full account of the unfulfilled project. Author Pierre Smolik says he was able to consult archives containing hundreds of pages of Chaplin's notes detailing the evolution of the project, two scripts, dialogues and a synopsis, as well as pictures that together give a picture of what his final film may have looked like if he had finished it.

Mythical, winged girl

After what turned out to be his last finished film, "A Countess from Hong Kong" flopped in 1967,



Swiss author Pierre Smolik poses with his book "The Freak, the last film of Chaplin".

Chaplin was distraught, but immediately dove into a new project, "The Freak," Smolik told AFP. The famous filmmaker wrote the synopsis for the story in 1969, at the age of 80, and worked on the project for another two years at his sprawling, idyllic estate, Manoir De Ban, overlooking Lake Geneva. He had the wings made, and even held a few rehearsals at a studio in Britain with his 18-year-old daughter Victoria, whom he wanted to embody the mythical lead character.

The film was meant to tell the story of a winged girl, a "freak" born to a couple of British missionaries, who one day falls onto the roof of a professor working in Chile. He takes her in, names her Sarapha, and sees his house become of pilgrimage site for invalids who see the girl as an angel who might provide a cure. But Sarapha is kidnapped and brought to London, where she is put on display before a crowd hungering for miracles.

She escapes, is captured and forced to prove she is human before she is finally released. Sarapha decides to fly home to Chile, but does not make it. She plunges into the Atlantic and dies. "When reading it, one can glimpse what this 'Freak' would have been: a subtle mixture of the tale, the fable, the dream, the amusing, tender or satirical comedy, black humour, the tragedy, the nightmare, suspense, poetry..." Smolik writes.

So why was it never completed? Smolik, who grew up near Chaplin's estate and occasionally ran into the filmmaker as a boy, says there is no single explanation. "He was quite old, and his wife did not want the shoot to weigh on his health," the author said, pointing out that Chaplin was a perfectionist who worked himself ragged on all of his films. But there was also the more mundane problem of finding someone willing to insure the complex project, he said.

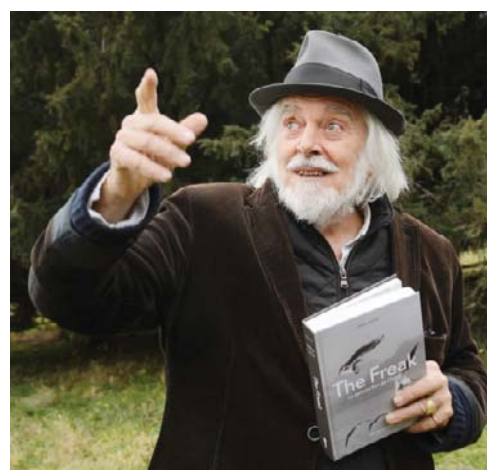
Family secret

After Chaplin's death in 1977, "the family generally was very protective about the script. They didn't really want it to fall into other hands," Michael said, explaining why so little was made of it previously. "It was kept more or less as a secret," he said. That was until 2010, when Smolik, who had already written a book about Chaplin and knew the family, asked if he could take a

look at the documents. "It's Pierre who pulled the wings out of the box again," Michael said.

Among the documents Smolik discovered a few sequences of film, never published, shot by Chaplin's wife Oona in the garden of his Swiss estate in 1974. In the book's afterword, Victoria and Michael describe how Chaplin's family and friends had gathered at Manoir de Ban, when the old wheelchair-bound man suggested Victoria get the wings out of the cellar and put them on.

"Once he saw her with the wings on it was really quite amazing," Michael said, recalling how his father "got up out of his wheelchair and came down and said: 'No, no, you're not doing it right!' And he became a film director again." But, he added, "It was kind of sad too, because obviously he was not going to make that film." After filming the final scene, with Victoria dramatically crashing on the lawn instead of into the Atlantic, the wings were packed up for good. But the public can soon catch a glimpse of the now yellowing feathered contraptions. They will go on display at a new Charlie Chaplin museum opening at Manoir de Ban next April.—AFP



English comic actor and filmmaker Charlie Chaplin's 69-year-old son Michael gestures with a book entitled "The Freak, the last film of Chaplin".

Banksy stresses Steve Jobs' Syria link with migrant oeuvres

Renowned street artist Banksy has created a trio of oeuvres to publicize the plight of migrants at the infamous "Jungle" camp in Calais, northern France, including one depicting Steve Jobs. One work painted at the camp itself shows Jobs, whose biological father was a Syrian immigrant to the United States, holding an early Apple computer terminal and a bin liner of personal possessions.

Some 4,500 people were cramming the camp, to which Banksy recently made a donation and where he painted his latest works near a clutch of tents housing them. Few of the migrants, mostly from strife-torn Syria, knew who Banksy or Jobs were but the artist explained he had depicted the latter in his trademark black polo to underline the late computing king's connection with the country.

"We're often led to believe migration is a drain on the country's resources but Steve Jobs was the son of a Syrian migrant," said Banksy in a rare public statement. "Apple is the world's most profitable company, it pays over \$7bn (£4.6bn) a year in taxes - and it only exists because they allowed in a young man from Homs," added Banksy, who painted two other works in downtown Calais, including his own take on French painter Gericault's "Raft of the Medusa".

Instead of the Argus vessel which picked up a handful of survivors of the Medusa after their frigate was shipwrecked in 1816, Banksy's version shows a car-ferry representing those which make daily cross the English Channel and which remain inaccessible to would-be migrants eyeing a new life in Britain. On Banksy's website and underneath the Jobs picture is the caption, the son of a migrant from Syria.

Under the Gericault pastiche is the slogan, "we're not all in the same boat." The third painting on a Calais beach, which Banksy also published Saturday on his website, shows a child with windswept hair, a suitcase at his feet, jingly peering at the distant British coast through a telescope on



This picture taken yesterday shows a street art graffiti representing Steve Jobs, founder and late CEO of Apple, by elusive British artist Banksy at the migrant camp known as the "Jungle" in Calais, northern France.

which a vulture is perched, looking at him. On Saturday afternoon, the artwork was largely covered up with a plank of wood—a temporary measure designed to "protest the artist's works" according to Calais city hall. A Banksy work can often fetch hundreds of millions of euros (dollars) from ardent collectors.—AFP



A street art graffiti by elusive British artist Banksy of the famous painting 'The Raft of the Medusa' (Le radeau de la meduse) by French artist Gericault (1791-1824), in the city center of Calais, northern France.—AFP photos