

Inside MoCI's customer protection department



Cameron admits mishandling offshore revelations



'Man in hat' at Brussels airport bombing identified



Aguero, Nasri give Man City win over West Brom



US WARNS OF 'THREATS' TO TURKISH TOURISTIC SPOTS

POLICE DETONATE BAG IN ISTANBUL'S TAKSIM SQUARE



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High Tide
01:57 & 13:29
Low Tide
07:57 & 20:29



150 FILS

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40 PAGES

POLICE BUST FAKE MEDICINE RING

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: Capital financial crime detectives arrested two Egyptians with half a million counterfeit medical pills that they sold for less than a quarter of the actual price, claiming they were genuine. An expert from the health ministry said that the medicines were fake and that genuine drugs were only given on doctors' prescriptions, because abusing them may cause death. After consulting medicine agents in Kuwait, he reiterated that they were counterfeit.

Interrogating the suspects, they said they bought them from a Bangladeshi, who was arrested, who said that he got the medicines from an Indian woman, who led police to a group of peddlers storing the medicines in a warehouse in Souq Mubarakia, which was raided and the medicines confiscated. A case was filed and the suspects were referred to relevant authorities.

Counterfeit or knockoff drugs are medicines that do not match the description on the label of the containers that hold them. They may be contaminated, or may contain the wrong active ingredients, the correct active ingredient in the wrong amounts, or no active ingredients at all. Counterfeits may also be out-of-date drugs that have been repackaged with new expiration dates. Drugs can also be considered counterfeit if they contain the right ingredients in the right amounts, but they are not made by the manufacturer described on the label. All kinds of drugs can be counterfeited, including prescription and non-prescription medicines.



KUWAIT: Security officials inspect counterfeit medicines seized yesterday.

ISTANBUL: The US embassy in Turkey yesterday warned of "credible threats" to tourist areas in Istanbul and the resort city of Antalya, intensifying fears in a country hit by four suicide bombings this year. The fresh alert comes a day after Israel reissued a warning to its citizens to avoid Turkey or "leave as soon as possible", citing an imminent risk of an attack. The US alert comes three weeks after a suicide bomber struck a popular shopping street in the heart of Istanbul - killing four people and injuring dozens - in an attack which authorities blamed on the Islamic State group.

"The US Mission in Turkey would like to inform US citizens that there are credible threats to tourist areas, in particular to public squares and docks in Istanbul and Antalya," read an emergency travel warning published on the US embassy's official website.

Turkish police later carried out a controlled explosion of a bag left in Istanbul's popular Taksim square yesterday, a witness at the scene said. Police cordoned off Taksim, a square lined with hotels and restaurants frequented by tourists, while a member of the police bomb squad was seen opening what appeared to be a bag, the witness said. The bomb squad later detonated it in a controlled explosion, causing a loud boom to echo across the square, the witness said.

A police officer at the scene later confirmed it was a bag, but no further information about the incident was immediately available. Before the explosion, two Reuters reporters in central Istanbul saw an extremely heavy police presence, with security tight, ahead of an Organization of Islamic Cooperation Summit this coming week. Roads were sealed off near some major hotels and police units were deployed outside foreign consulates in Istanbul, including the German and Italian missions.

Continued on Page 13



MANAMA: US Navy sailors drive a boat during the International Mine Countermeasure Exercise (IMCMEX) organized by the US Navy at US Navy Fifth Fleet base in the Bahraini capital yesterday. — AFP

OBAMA URGED TO HELP FREE ACTIVISTS IN GULF

US LEADS MARITIME EXERCISES

DUBAI/ABU DHABI: Eleven non-governmental organizations have called on US President Barack Obama to help free human rights defenders in Gulf monarchies, ahead of a summit with their leaders later this month. In an open letter published yesterday by the Gulf Center for Human Rights (GCHR), signatories urged Obama "to press for the release of all detained human rights defenders across the Gulf region who are imprisoned solely due to their peaceful and legitimate human rights work."

"Instead of working with human rights defenders to combat extremism and build tolerant societies, authorities in the GCC countries have jailed dozens of them, in some cases for life, simply for exercising their right and duty to promote and protect human rights via freedoms of expression, association and peaceful assembly," it said.

The letter's signatories - including Reporters Without Borders, Human Rights First and Front Line Defenders - reminded Obama of his "promises made in 2011 to support popular movements for reform across the region". Obama is to attend a Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) summit in Riyadh on April 21, which is to focus on the fight against jihadist groups and regional conflicts according to the White House.

The summit will follow one with Gulf allies in Camp David in May last year, which Saudi King Salman did not attend amid angst over Washington's efforts at the time to reach a nuclear deal with the kingdom's rival Iran. Visiting Bahrain on Thursday, US Secretary of State John Kerry told authorities in the Sunni-ruled kingdom accused of discriminating against the country's Shiite majority that respect for human rights was "essential". The GCC includes the monarchies of Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Kuwait, Oman and Bahrain.

Meanwhile, the US Navy is leading a 30-nation maritime exercise across Middle Eastern waters which it says will help protect international trade routes against possible threats, including from Islamic State and Al-Qaeda. The exercise, which is partly being held in the Arabian Gulf, comes as tensions run high between Gulf Arab countries and Iran over its role in the region, including its support for President Bashar Al-Assad in Syria's civil war, for the Houthis in the Yemen conflict and for Hezbollah in Lebanon. The International Mine Countermeasures Exercise (IMCMEX) started on Monday with a symposium in Bahrain where the US Navy's Fifth Fleet is based, in part as a bulwark against Iran.

Continued on Page 13

SAUDI KING, AZHAR IMAM URGE UNITY

EX-US HOUSE SPEAKER HASTERT ABUSED 5 BOYS

WASHINGTON: Stunning new details have emerged of ex-House speaker Dennis Hastert's alleged molestation of boys as young as 14, a precipitous fall from grace for a man once second in line to the US presidency. The 74-year-old Republican lobbyist, once among America's most esteemed political figures, agreed to pay \$3.5 million to one of his youngest victims, federal prosecutors said in a court filing detailing for the first time abuse allegations by five former high school wrestlers he coached. He pleaded guilty in October to illegally structuring bank withdrawals over 4.5 years that prosecutors identified as hush money.



Dennis Hastert

Hastert told government agents he was being extorted by someone falsely accusing him of abuse, but recorded conversations between him and the person identified in Friday's filing as "Individual A" cast doubt over his claim. Prosecutors suggested Hastert be handed a six-month sentence at an April 27 hearing, taking note of his ill health - he suffered a stroke after pleading guilty - but stressing that he could continue to receive medical care and medication while in prison.

Continued on Page 13

CAIRO: Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud and the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar Ahmad Al-Tayeb called yesterday for unity among all Muslims against growing challenges in the Islamic world. This call came after a first-time visit of its kind for a Saudi monarch to the Al-Azhar institution, where the king and the grand imam discussed, among other things, means of combating extremism and terrorism, said a statement issued by the Al-Azhar.

Both dignitaries emphasized the need for both Saudi Arabia and Al-Azhar to guard the core values of Islam, while rejecting religious extremism. They stressed the imperative "to disseminate the culture of peace, tolerance, and

peaceful coexistence", said the statement, adding that "Saudi Arabia and Al-Azhar would remain steadfast partners against terrorism."

Al-Tayeb expressed his profound appreciation for the laudable role Saudi Arabia continually plays vis-a-vis issues dear to the minds and hearts of the Muslim world, a role that upholds the fundamentals of promoting peace and shared coexistence. On his part, the Saudi monarch praised the Al-Azhar institution for promoting tolerance and discrediting extremism and terrorism. The Saudi guest toured the institution's facilities and expressed admiration for them. He is currently on a five-day visit to Egypt. — KUNA



CAIRO: Grand Imam of Al-Azhar Sheikh Ahmed Al-Tayeb (left) and Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz (center) visit the mosque at Al-Azhar headquarters yesterday. — AFP

ANGLICAN LEADER SON OF CHURCHILL SECRETARY

LONDON: The leader of the world's Anglicans, the Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby, revealed his shock yesterday at discovering he is the illegitimate son of Winston Churchill's last private secretary. Welby, the spiritual head of the Church of England and of the wider global Anglican Communion of 85 million Christians, said the news had come as a "complete surprise". But the 60-year-old cleric insisted he was not disturbed by it.



Justin Welby

"In the last month I have dis-

covered that my biological father is not Gavin Welby but, in fact, the late Sir Anthony Montague Browne. This comes as a complete surprise," Welby said in a highly unusual statement issued

through the Church of England. "This revelation has, of course, been a surprise, but in my life and in our marriage Caroline and I have had far worse," said the archbishop, whose first child Johanna died in a car crash in 1983, aged seven months. "I know that I find who I am in Jesus Christ, not in genetics, and my identity in him never changes."

Welby had always thought that his father was Gavin Welby, a whisky salesman and son of a Jewish immigrant, who died in

1977. But The Daily Telegraph newspaper revealed yesterday it had pieced together evidence suggesting that Montague Browne was actually his father. The broadsheet then discussed its findings with Welby, who decided to take a DNA test to disprove the claim. A comparison between a swab from his mouth and hair samples from Montague Browne, who worked for Churchill between 1952 and 1965, showed a 99.9779 percent probability that they were father and son. — AFP

EGYPT, KUWAIT DISCUSS PROMOTING PARLIAMENTARY COOPERATION

CAIRO: Means of promoting bilateral cooperation were the focus of the meeting on Saturday between visiting Kuwaiti National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem and Egypt's Speaker of House of Representatives Ali Abdulal. The meeting was held on the sidelines of the 23rd conference of the Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union (AIPU). The two sides also dealt with key dossiers on the conference's agenda.

Ghanem stressed the important role of Egyptian parliament at Arab, regional and international levels, inviting Abdel Aal to visit Kuwait. Meanwhile, Abdulal underlined the momentous role of Kuwaiti parliament, lauding Ghanem's role in supporting policies of integration and closeness among Arab countries. The meeting was attended by MPs Faisal Al-Shaya, Auda Al-Ruwai, Humoud Al-Hamad, Dr Khalil Abul and Kamal Al-Awadi.

Meanwhile, Kuwait's Ambassador to Egypt Salem Al-Zamanan underlined his



CAIRO: National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem meets with Egypt's Speaker of House of Representatives Ali Abdulal. —KUNA

country's eagerness to effectively partake in development projects in Egypt. Kuwaiti public and private institutions are keen on

backing and partaking in development projects in Egypt out of deep belief of the importance of solidarity between the two

Arab countries, Zamanan told reporters on the sidelines of a ceremony to inaugurate two Kuwaiti-built mosques in Al-Beheira Governorate. He added that Kuwaiti charitable projects in Egypt is a clear evidence of the strong relations between the two nations.

Governor of Al-Beheira Mohammad Ali Sultan welcomed the Kuwaiti diplomat and dignitaries attending the ceremony. He expressed gratitude for Kuwait's government and non-government institutions for their support to development in Egypt. He lauded the Ambassador's efforts to strengthen relations between the two sisterly countries. The ceremony was also attended by Egyptian Minister of Endowments and Islamic Affairs Mohammad Mokhtar Jomaa, Deputy Director General of Kuwait's Zakat House Mohammad Falah Al-Otaibi, Director General of Kuwait's Charitable Projects Bureau Ismail Al-Kandari and several senior Egyptian officials. —KUNA

Local spotlight

A RICH TRIP TO OMAN



By Muna Al-Fuzai

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I went on a short visit to Oman last week for the first time, and despite the trip being brief, I was able to learn a lot about a country that is worthy of greetings and commending. I came back from the trip with the idea that Oman today is a unique Arabic model and a very civilized, intellectual and beautiful place strongly moving towards development and the future. If we had to choose an example for us, we should look at Oman and its history to know how to build a nation and learn more about respecting expat and citizen rights.

Oman is located in West Asia. It has a strategic location and is the third largest country in terms of area in the Arabian Peninsula. The most prominent characteristic of Oman is quietness, as it is characterized by political and economic stability. It ranks 23rd in oil reserves in the world and 27th in gas reserves.

Oman ranks 64th among the largest economies of the world. It also ranks 59th in the list of the most peaceful countries in the world, according to the Global Peace Index. Indeed, this is natural, as Oman is a high-income country and this has its effects on the level of state services for the population in terms of ensuring quality and sustainable human development.

I have read a lot of articles about the Sultanate of Oman and what caught my attention were some comments criticizing Oman's policy of staying away from the region's conflicts, despite being part of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). I say well done to the sultanate. In fact, His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said has established a base in international relations and diplomacy rooted in security and stability.

Oman's policy is that war is not the way to resolve disputes of whatever nature, and this was the route to a climate of internal and external stability by maintaining excellent relationships with everyone. Oman has no need to make deals to purchase weapons out of fear of the risk of internal or external threats. People are living quietly there and have nothing to worry about.

Oman has a Shura Council - I am now more convinced that Arabs do not need anything more than that. Here we are being burned because of conflicts of the so-called National Assembly and its decisions and I no longer believe that in our small countries we need more than a shura council. Look at Oman, where everyone lives happily without the need to intervene in what they do not understand or appreciate. Omanis have achieved a lot for their country and the world more than us.

Oman has made significant progress in building a modern state through deliberate steps emphasizing Omani heritage in its relations with others and the basis of this political legacy is the mutual respect and non-interference in the affairs of others, as well as not to accept the intervention of a third party in their affairs. This is the pivotal base of the foreign policy of Oman, which for a long period has been characterized as modern and rational, where it has maintained relationships with everyone in the region and the West. We need to recognize and respect that Oman succeeded in gathering Iranian and American extremists at the same table in Muscat in 2013.

Omani citizens abroad have a very good reputation. They are well-known for being disciplined as students and tourists. Oman's decision to stay away from sectarian conflicts is a sound decision, as everybody can see how other countries are suffering from the consequences of these policies that are based on division and dissent among society members, which inevitably will lead to collisions and corruption.

My trip to the Sultanate of Oman was short but rich.

In my view

SHEIKHA FRAIHA, MOTHER OF KUWAITIS



By Abdullah Buwair

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Under the auspices of the chairwoman of the Kuwait Society for the Ideal Family, chairwoman of the Girls Sports Club and goodwill ambassador Sheikh Fraiha Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah; the mother of Kuwaitis and Arabs, sister of HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad and HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad, the society recently celebrated honoring the ideal mother and the ideal family for 2016.

Talking about Sheikh Fraiha Al-Ahmed is not an easy task because we will never talk enough to do her justice. She has endless achievements and remarkable presence on various occasions, namely national ones. She was there on signing my book 'The Humanitarian Leader' (the Arabic version) on Jan 19 last year, her presence on celebrating the first anniversary of naming His Highness the Amir as a 'Humanitarian Leader' and Kuwait as a 'humanity center' by the UN. She also attended many other patriotic occasions such as many opening ceremonies at the cultural village. She does this out of her feelings of nostalgia and love of Kuwait's heritage. She is also keen on holding various seminars to boost family awareness concerning many negative phenomena that can adversely affect the lives of our children.

Sheikha Fraiha is also known as the 'Hope of the Disabled', because she believes that real disability is that of the mind and thought. Therefore, she strictly refuses describing people with special needs as 'disabled' or 'handicapped', because she believes they may have more vision, insights and determination than their healthy peers. Accordingly, she always takes their side and visits them in and outside Kuwait where her missions abroad can hardly be void of a visit to people with special needs.

Arab and foreign diplomats posted in Kuwait have called her the 'ambassador of all ambassadors' and an 'international ambassador' because of her keenness on boosting and cementing relations with various countries through inviting them on various national and religious occasions to exchange views and get acquainted with other peoples' traditions and customs and bridge the gaps between those peoples. "Each citizen in Kuwait is an ambassador of his country," she says. What I want to say is that Sheikha Fraiha has always been very generous with time and effort, and is keen on taking part in various occasions. She never disappoints anybody. May Almighty Allah protect the sheikha of all sheikhs.

ARAB MEDIA FORUM TO HONOR DISTINCTIVE YOUTH

KUWAIT: Forthcoming Arab Media Forum (AMF) will be distinguished with youth participation and a chain of sessions tackling their role at various levels and abusive cyber rhetoric. AMF's Secretary General Madi Al-Khamees said during a press conference yesterday that themes of the workshop, the 13th edition, had been selected on bases such as society's needs, taking into account the media role in various realms. Media figures and experts taking part in the AMF discussions panels, seminars and workshops, will tackle "trends of the public opinion and decision makers, the Arab media crises, the media role in economic development, sports media issues, how to deal with online jibes, among other topics on the long agenda," Khamees said.

The 13th forum, scheduled on May 1-2 under patronage of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak



KUWAIT: Arab Media Forum's Secretary General Madi Al-Khamees speaks during the press conference. —KUNA

Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, will get started with a meeting grouping young journalists and

media personnel. The youth are granted special status during the activity; they will take part in the workshops and the seminars and a number of them will be honored, Khamees said.

Some 200 Kuwaiti and Arab school and academic-level students have been invited to the broad workshop. The forum will honor distinguished journalists and media figures, young Kuwaitis and Arabs who have played a distinctive role in humanitarian and volunteering fields.

It will cap with a cultural-poetry soire, named 'the night of Suad Al-Sabah', the renowned Kuwaiti poet and composer. Kuwaiti singer 'Nawal' will sing some of Drd Suad's poems, and the Lebanese singer Majeda Al-Roumi will add to the gleam with her presence and signing. The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan has been selected as the honorary guest of the forum. —KUNA

ACADEMICIAN PARTICIPATES IN UNSAFE COMPUTING CONFERENCE

KUWAIT: Western-American Social Science Association holds its 58th annual conference in the United States between April 12-17 with the participation of a large number of academics and researchers from the United States and various countries around the world.

Kuwait University will be represented in the conference, which is one of the important academic events, by Communications Professor at Kuwait University Dr Anas Al-Rushaid, who will highlight on perceptions of Kuwaiti and UAE students about unsafe computing practices and threats of internet software and ways to solve them.

The research was conducted on university students in Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates to find out their

perceptions about unsafe computing practices and threats of internet software and ways to address them.



Communications Professor at Kuwait University Dr Anas Al-Rushaid

The importance of research comes due to the great technological development in light of the increasing use of the internet to pay bills, download software and games and communicate with others, bringing with it disadvantages relating to the security of the internet and the emergence of viruses, spyware and other dangerous software.

The research calls on internet users to learn about the latest technological developments before falling into danger as the research aims to find out if internet users fear the risks they face on the internet or that their habits in the use of computers have changed because of those risks and the steps they have taken to maintain a safe environment. —KUNA

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In my view

STATIONS



By Talal Al-Ghannam

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Good morning dear brothers and sisters, and I wish all a blessed week to come. In this article, I would like to change the style of my writing a bit to make it more fun to read, and would like to narrate experiences I had encountered personally with some of what I call 'Stations'.

The Taxi Station: One time I thought of taking a taxi for a short ride. I wanted to see for myself how those helpless taxi drivers are humiliated and put down by some irresponsible, conceited, arrogant young officers who have just graduated from the police academy and want to show off their mad skill on taxi drivers. I picked up a taxi from Eqaila area heading to Mubarak Al-Kabeer, which is a few blocks away. As soon as I entered the car and it drove a mile away, a police car flashed the light and started the siren as if there was an invasion. The taxi driver and myself had our seat belts fastened and the driver was adherent to the traffic laws and regulation in terms of the signal light and driving on the specified lane with no single violation. The policeman yelled through the microphone saying: Taxi pull over "yalla yalla," meaning 'quickly.' The taxi driver pulled over as requested and remained in the car as per the law. The policeman was not yet satisfied, and repeated shouting at the driver: "Come out of the car and approach the police car," which he is not supposed to do as the law says. I told the taxi driver no problem, break the law for their sake this time. So when the poor man walked out of the car, the policeman ran quickly to the taxi and said: "Are you deaf? Can't you hear me yell at you to come to me?" So, after that he was given a citation for obstructing traffic and lack of cooperation with policemen. What can we say?

The Bus Stop Station: Another experience also happened to me when I decided to take a bus ride again after 38 years from the last time I had been in a bus to see for myself the misery of bus passengers. I for a purpose parked my car somewhere behind the bus stop and decided to ride in the marvelously-decorated public bus. But before riding the bus, the biggest misery was in the behavior and attitude of some maniac bus drivers who in many cases drive by you like a bullet without stopping at the bus stop, unless there they see a beautiful woman standing there, that is. You would see a long lineup of buses waiting if there were women. I had to wait for at least 15 minutes until I found a less-crowded one. As soon as I entered the bus and gave the driver a KD 5 note he frowned and yelled "Mafi khurdah" meaning no change. "It is not my fault you must make sure to have enough cash with you for these circumstances," I replied. I told him "keep the KD 5 with you till we reach the destination and by then you should have enough cash." Finally he accepted but really it was a misery. The other thing is the bad odor inside the bus and the filthy and torn seats. The bus must be cleaned after every journey and sprayed with perfumes regularly to satisfy the passengers, many of whom would keep their noses closed and breathe from their mouths till they reach their destination. One last thing I had noticed that most of the bus drivers never stop completely when picking up or dropping off passengers as the bus would keep moving, making the passenger feel as if he or she is jumping from a cliff. But who cares?

The Auction Station: In Kuwait, this modern and rich country, we have no decent car auction. Can you believe that? Yes, it is true. The auction is erected illegally after Jahra area in an isolated dusty yard with no proper entrances or exits. I doubt whether many of the auctioneers there even have valid licenses to practice their jobs. If the car is actually worth KD 1,000, you would be lucky if you can sell it for KD 500. So many want to take advantage and try to make fault with the car so that you would sell it very cheaply. I always ask myself this question, where are the big companies which seek to invest in establishing a most sophisticated car auction here in Kuwait? I am sure that the government would not hesitate to give the land on a build-operate-transfer (BOT) system for a reputable company to build a nice auction with all facilities including traffic department, insurance, cafes, mobile shops, security, etc. You might as well sell your car through a 'car for sale' application.

Till the next article insha Allah

19,143 FOLLOW-UP CARDS FOR ILLEGAL RESIDENTS

KUWAIT: The Central Apparatus for Illegal Residents announced yesterday the issuance of 19,143 new follow-up cards for illegal residents during the first three months of 2016. Director of Card Management in the apparatus Tariq Mohammed Al-Buajin said that the card is dispensed within a few days from the date of submitting the application.

He added that the apparatus issued in the same period 640 'To Whom It May Concern' certificates for the various state institutions, stressing keenness of the apparatus in speeding up issuance of these certificates and deliver them to the applicant by hand in the following day.

He pointed out that the cards administration conducted 586 criminal fingerprints during the same period through the automated fingerprinting system, explaining that the application of this system helped save time and effort on the central apparatus. —KUNA

934 REAL ESTATE LOANS OFFERED IN MARCH

KUWAIT: The Kuwait Credit Bank (KCB) offered 934 real estate loans in March, worth KD 27.3 million, it said yesterday. Portfolio loans last month hit 31 worth KD 307,000, the KCB added in a statistical report. Up to 37 loans were presented to build on private plots of land, worth KD 2.2 million. Similar government loans were 148, worth KD3.4 million.

According to the report, the KCB provided 38 loans worth 2.5 million to buy houses, and 11 ones for building home, worth KD 296,000. People with special needs were offered 396 loans amounting to 3.4 million. Referring to the portfolio loans, total property expansion loans stood at 24, worth KD 237,000 while a total of seven renovation loans amounted to KD 62,000. —KUNA



KUWAIT: Raul Dado oversees the OAV at the Philippines embassy yesterday. (Left) Filipinos in Kuwait on queues to cast vote during the start of a month-long OAV.

—Photos by Ben Garcia



FILIPINOS IN KUWAIT START OAV, HOPE FOR RADICAL CHANGE

By Ben Garcia

KUWAIT: A 30-day period given to Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) to cast their vote for president, vice president, senators and a party list representative under the Overseas Absentee Voting Law kicked off yesterday at the Philippine Embassy in Faiha. Hundreds of Filipinos thronged the embassy as early as 7 in the morning to cast their votes, bringing with them hopes of radical change in terms of governance and creation of laws that could improve the lives of Filipinos. The process started at 8:20 am and the first 100 voters were a group of supporters of a well-known candidate from Mindanao.

Philippine Consul General Raul Dado, who is overseeing the Philippine embassy elections, explained the delay was technical. "All vote counting machines must be set to zero before casting of votes, and we have to show to members of the media and other representatives all the machines set to zero," Dado explained. "This is a good start in Kuwait, and I noticed the excitement on the faces of all Filipinos coming here early in the morning to cast their vote for their favorite candidate. This will continue every day until May 9," Dado said.

Five candidates

Five candidates are running for president - Jejomar Binay, Miriam Defensor Santiago, Rodrigo Duterte, Grace Poe and Mar Roxas. The presidential election in the Philippines is slated for May 9, but overseas Filipinos are given a month's period to cast their votes at their missions abroad.

One of the early voters interviewed by Kuwait Times said he voted for a president who would rightfully fight for the rights of every Filipino without considering his/her religion, affiliation and status in life. "I voted for a president

who will uprightly elevate the country's dignity to run the country in the best way possible, eliminate corruption, refuel our economy and once and for all get rid of drugs and criminality in the country among others," said Antonio Cadiz Barojabo.

About 10 million Filipinos work abroad - but only 1.3 million are registered as Overseas Absentee Voters (OAVs). In Kuwait, there are 200,000 Filipinos who are eligible to vote, but only around 49,000 are registered and can vote in this year's election.

Straight path

Another voter said he wanted a continuity of the 'straight path' governance being promoted by the current administration. "Although he is not a perfect president, he is committed to ending the war in Mindanao through his BBL - I would rather support his advocacy by choosing someone who will continue what he started if that person wins," said Maryam, a Muslim Filipina and a native of Mindanao.

Earlier, Philippine Ambassador to Kuwait Renato Pedro Villa reminded the Filipino public that the canvassing of votes (on May 9) will be open to poll watchers and representatives of political parties at the embassy. "We want to show the transparency of the embassy on May 9, and we will canvass the votes publicly. Our challenge in our post is to be able to encourage at least 30-40 percent of the voters to vote. We want to ask the support of employers to allow their Filipino workers, if they are registered, to come out and vote for their government officials," the envoy said.

In order to vote, Filipinos must be registered as OAVs at their respective embassies or consular offices, proceedings which took place at the embassy a few years back. Voting will continue until May 9, 2016. The Overseas Absentee Voting Act is a law in the Philippines passed on Feb 13,



2003 which provides for a system for citizens of the Philippines residing or working outside the Philippines to vote in an election. The process is being implemented by Commission on Elections (COMELEC) with the help of the Department of Foreign Affairs.

FATWA DEPARTMENT APPROVES PLAN TO TURN ELECTRICITY MINISTRY INTO AUTHORITY

PARLIAMENT TO DEBATE GRILLING TUESDAY

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: The Fatwa and Legislation Department has approved restructuring the Ministry of Electricity and Water and turning it into an authority instead of a ministry, well-informed sources said. The issue will soon referred to the Cabinet to be studied by the ministerial economic committee, before it can be discussed in the National Assembly in the next parliamentary term, the sources added. Turning the ministry into an authority is considered the first step before privatizing its facilities including power plants and water desalination units, and services such as supplying energy and collecting fees.

Grilling motion

Meanwhile, the sources said that the government intends to discuss the grilling motion filed against Minister of Commerce and Industry Yousef Al-Ali by MPs Ahmed Al-Qudhaibi and Mubarak Al-Harees on Tuesday in the minister's presence and without asking for a postponement. This is a tactical maneuver by the government to buy more time to convince MPs to change their minds about



the new electricity consumption tariffs proposed by the government, the sources explained.

PAAAFR's budget

The parliament's budgets and final statement committee is scheduled to dis-

cuss the Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources' (PAAAFR) budget for 2016-2017 in the presence of representatives from the finance ministry, the State Audit Bureau, Civil Service Commission (CSC) and the auditors' apparatus. In this regard, informed sources

said that the committee has a lot of remarks about violations to be raised during the meeting.

Construction materials

Responding to remarks made about the northwest Sulaybiyah residential project, the Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW) stressed that it selects the best construction materials in building its projects and that all electricity fittings matched standard specifications as per contracts signed with the contractors. The authority also stressed that all water pipes had been thoroughly checked under high pressure pumped water.

Traffic fines

Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, UAE and Bahrain have started banning Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) travelers from leaving their borders without paying fines for traffic violations they commit in any member state. Informed sources said that the ban is imposed automatically, making the payment obligatory in order to leave. The ban also includes visiting expatriates who will have a special number attached to their passports on entry and linked to any traffic violations they commit, the sources added.

FIRE BURNS 1,000 SQ M BASEMENT

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: A fire broke out in a 1,000 square meter basement of a Sabah Al-Nasser house Friday night, said security sources, noting that firemen from Jleeb, Ardhiya, Sabhan, Salmiya and the Kuwait City rushed to the scene after the fire was reported. The source added that the basement was full of furniture, lumber and other inflammable materials. The house had to be evacuated to fight the fire. Except for three thermal stress cases, no casualties were reported.

Smoke inhalation

Residents of a Khaitan building yesterday escaped death when a fire broke out in a third floor apartment, said security sources, noting that firemen rushed to the scene and controlled the fire. Five people suffered from smoke inhalation and were treated onsite by paramedics.



KUWAIT: Smoke comes out of the basement of a Sabah Al-Nasser house where a fire was reported Friday night.



Smoke coming out of an apartment in Khaitan yesterday.

Photo

of the day



KUWAIT: Patriotic slogans and signatures scripted on Kuwait's flag. — KUNA

Special Report

Inside the commerce ministry's customer protection, supervision departments

Consumer is our priority: Assistant Undersecretary

By Nawara Fattahova

KUWAIT: As part of its responsibilities, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry is in charge of consumer protection and inspection of various commercial activities. Kuwait Times spoke to Eid Al-Rasheedi, Assistant Undersecretary for Supervision and Consumer Protection at the ministry, to shed light on some issues related to consumers.

Work organization

There are two important departments at the ministry - the customer protection and supervision departments. "All other departments support the work of the sector. Regarding customer protection, there are inspectors who inspect stores to ensure they are following and respecting laws and regulations. These inspections are in all fields, including foodstuff, construction products, services, price gouging, inspecting co-ops and supermarkets and all other stores and malls to serve the consumer, who is our priority," Rasheedi told Kuwait Times.

laws and regulations and the way of dealing with consumers and the public. Also, most inspectors have to pass a course in the English language," Rasheedi noted.

Consumers can also call the hotline 135 that receives complaints 24/7. "The call center receives complaints, gives advice or forwards complaints to the centers according to the governorate in charge. The staff advise the caller of the correct procedure he has to follow in his complaint, and we can also take legal action in some cases," he said.

- After concluding training courses, inspectors receive certificates and some get judicial powers.
- Some stores announced 80 percent discounts on some items but the inspectors could not find those items.
- The ministry has set stricter regulations for sales. These rules are in favor of consumers as we seek the best for them.
- I would like to advise people not to buy from social media and unknown sources.

Numerous commercial inspection centers are spread all over Kuwait covering all governorates, and they work in two shifts - mornings and evenings. "There are also emergency teams working under our umbrella in Kout, Sideeq and Jahra, who work during holidays and during periods when other centers are closed, such as between 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm. We are in charge of anything related to the consumer," he added.

The inspectors are well-trained. "After concluding training courses, inspectors receive certificates and some get judicial powers. We have increased the number of inspectors for better control and inspection. These courses teach the inspectors all

Sales

The Consumer Protection Department is in charge of giving approval for holding sales and their conditions. "During January 2016, the ministry issued 213 licenses for free offers and other promotions, which includes 183 free gifts, 26 free prizes and four real estate offers. The ministry also issued 620 discount licenses including 428 sales for companies, 52 special offers at supermarkets, 114 special offers at stores, 24 advertised sales and two for distributing vouchers and coupons. The total number of discount licenses for 2015 was 8,488, while the total number of discount licenses for free offers were

6,606 in the same period," he pointed out.

Licensing these promotions is in favor of the consumers, who get a better chance to buy their needs at cheaper prices. "When a company or store wants to hold a sale, they have to submit their requests to the ministry. Through this procedure, the ministry can assess the credibility of the store, as some stores may hold fake sales without informing us. The inspectors then check the original price and the discount if it is correct. We have found violations as some stores announced 80 percent discounts on some items but the inspectors could not find those items, so they were penalized as this is considered misinformation. Also, another store manipulated prices when it advertised the price of a product for KD 1, but the inspector found it was being sold for KD 1.500 or KD 1.200," Rasheedi said.

"These cases led to setting regulations for sales. In the past, any store could announce sales without restrictions or permission of the ministry, so there wasn't any control. This year, the ministry has set stricter regulations for sales. These rules are in favor of consumers as we seek the best for them," explained Rasheedi.

Social media

The ministry has also issued regulation number 27/2016 which includes all current and future social media, where people are not allowed to announce special offers without a license. "Otherwise, the seller will be penalized. This applies to individuals. In case of cheating or misleading, the affected consumer can submit a complaint and we then take action in cooperation with the ministry of interior to find his location and send him summons to attend the investigations," he stated.

"I would like to advise people not to buy from social media and unknown sources, as people do not know where the food was prepared or cooked. We are now working closely with the municipality to eliminate this phenomenon. This also applies to other products which may turn out to be fake. The small projects that are supported by the government are different, as these are licensed and legal," said Rasheedi.



KUWAIT: Eid Al-Rasheedi, Assistant Undersecretary for Supervision and Consumer Protection at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry speaks to Kuwait Times.

— Photo by Joseph Shagra

Consumers can also complain against licensed vendors selling on social media. "Such a seller is easier to reach as he is registered with the ministry and we can reach him faster. If he doesn't show up after being summoned, we ask the police station to summon him," he added.

Complaint statistics

The number of complaints filed at the inspection sector was 2,820 in 2015. The hotline 135 received 37,000 calls in 2015, which includes asking for information, complaints and filing cases. The ministry also undertook deterrent actions that included recalling 59 models of vehicles from agents during 2015, a total of 48,759 vehicles," he noted.

According to him, the procedure of complaining against a garage for instance starts with getting the invoice and warranty and submitting it to the consumer protection center, which transfers the vehicle to the technical checking department of the ministry of interior, which issues a report. If this report shows there is a defect, the inspectors try to solve the case amicably, and if this doesn't work, the case will be transferred to the commercial prosecutor.

"I advise people to buy food from licensed restaurants and not unknown sources for their own safety. Also, for all items, I advise consumers to keep receipts of their purchases. We are working here to serve the consumers," concluded Rasheedi.

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القلم Al-Qabas

DASHTI AS AN EXAMPLE

By Ahmad Al-Sarraf

It is not possible to account for the number of politicians who climbed the ladder of religion, or shrouded themselves with sectarianism, either to get rich or to achieve their goals and political aspirations, as the number is too big.

MP Abdulhameed Dashti began his political life by running for the National Assembly during the period that followed liberation, but did not succeed over several rounds, and I wrote about him, his financial and behavioral history, as well as his "degrees" in a number of columns, and my criticism of him and most of his behaviors was more than harsh, and I do not believe that anyone criticized him the way I did, to a point that his adversaries used what I wrote to get at him, and this did not please me, because those are no less extreme and religiously partisan than him.

With the increase of religious strife here and in the region, and the increase in regional polarization, the man discovered like others have done before him that exaggeration in sectarian extremism may be the easiest means and most guaranteed way to reach people's minds, especially those who are absent among them, to gain their votes.

The formula was successful and hundreds reached the green seat, and became, with all their failures in life, among the major politicians, controlling the way we live and legislators of our laws. The flames of extremism increased, as the region is burning with sectarian wars, that prompted some religiously extreme politicians, who are much far from that in their private lives, to increase the severity of their polarization of this party or that, especially after they've seen in it an opportunity to increase their popularity and instill it in the public and simple voters, for whom the slogans of sectarian oppression or being afraid of others find a place in their minds.

What I would like to say is that Dashti represents for me, with his previous life history, political activity, opinions and stands, all that I hate or do not want, and I was the most critical of him over 20 years. I am not from his party, nor am I considered from his sect, but all what I have here, in view of all this sectarian struggle, and this strange extremism and revengefulness towards his latest stands, is to stand against all those who are calling for stripping his parliamentary membership, revoking his right of citizenship and calling him a traitor, not only because the man did not commit a crime that deserves such feelings of hatred and adversarial stands towards him, but also because those demanding his punishment are no less sectarian and extreme than him, so the Assembly should not be dragged by such extreme calls!

What we forget sometimes is that we are exposed every day to what this MP has faced in the form of hatred and punishment, so we should not make it a precedent.

— Translated by Kuwait Times



Kahled Al-Jarallah

POSITIVE INDICATORS ON YEMENI TALKS: JARALLAH

KUWAIT: Deputy Foreign Minister Kahled Al-Jarallah said that there are positive indicators about the Yemeni peace negotiations due to be held in Kuwait on April 18 under the United Nations' supervision. He added that the UN would supervise the agreements to be reached, while Kuwait would only host the negotiations. Jarallah also expressed hopes that those positive indicators would lead for the best interests of Yemen, namely in terms of a cease fire agreement that is due to take effect as of today. — Al-Jarida



القلم Al-Qabas

BU KHALID, WHAT IS THE MESSAGE?

By Qais Al-Usta

We were, still and will continue to support major efforts of the interior ministry towards more than one case, and we have expressed this clearly through more than a column. This lauding included the interior minister more than once, but the actions of the ministry towards some recent cases began raising several question marks about the message the ministry wants to send to the Kuwaiti people, as publishing a picture of handcuffed persons over various media who are charged with damaging public facilities or attacking some of the state's symbols by someone whose mental health is yet to be determined is something exaggerated.

We confirm here that we are against attacking state symbols, and we previously got into political battles in this regard, but the latest measures went beyond all

limits and lines Kuwait people have known for years. If the minister wants to implement the law, he is welcome, but this strength in implementation should be applied to everyone who stole and embezzled, should be applied on everyone who damaged the streets and smashed our windshields with flying gravel, on those arrested on state security charges and on all who embezzled billions and manipulated tenders and contributed to hinder establishments.

Bu Khalid, I tell you as a sincere and loving person, Kuwait is not what we saw last week. While we insist on the law implementation principle, being strict on

some people to scare the rest should not be applied in this country.

Was the message delivered? I hope so.

— Translated by Kuwait Times

This strength in implementation should be applied to everyone who stole and embezzled

MUNICIPALITY OFFICIALS 'MANIPULATE' CONSTRUCTION VIOLATIONS

KUWAIT: At a time when Kuwait Municipality Director Ahmad Al-Manfouhi opened fire at construction violations and promised to take violators to court, some senior municipality officials seem to have found a loophole that led the municipality to lose considerable numbers of cases by manipulating court verdicts that order immediate removal of violations.

In this regard, sources at the municipality said that some officials had been manipulating legal documents and delaying municipality work by responses they made to some court inquiries claiming that demolition violating constructions was impossible list the whole building might collapse. "Accordingly, owners filed petitions to the court to



Ahmad Al-Manfouhi

only pay the fine of KD 400-500 without removing the violation," explained the sources. Further, the sources said that

some municipality officials were covering up for so many such violations where municipality officials are involved with real estate owners. "However, Manfouhi gave direct orders to list similar cases and refer them to prosecution," the sources concluded.

In other news, Kuwait Municipality has recently contacted the health ministry to inquire about the time needed before the bones of dead people decayed into dust, source said. The inquiry was made to replace old graveyards and cemeteries and use them as public facilities, the sources added. The sources also noted that the municipality had contacted The Ministry Of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs seeking fatwa about the same issue. — Al-Rai, Al-Anbaa



KFH PATRONIZES PHOTO TALKS FORUM

KUWAIT: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) patronized the 'Photo talks' forum as part of its social responsibility and efforts to hone the youth's skills and support their initiatives. The forum that included general lectures for experts in the photography field witnessed a huge turnout from photographers and participants who exchanged thoughts and ideas with other participants. The lec-

tures were given to attendees to broaden their knowledge of photography. It is worth noting that KFH is keen on participating in such events that meet the youths' aspirations and contribute to their success. 'Photo talks' is regarded as the largest annual photography forum in the region and the platform for demonstrating photography success stories.

BURGAN BANK SPONSORS STUDENTS' TRIP TO USA

KUWAIT: Burgan Bank announced its sponsorship of the Mass communication students of Kuwait University trip to the USA - Hollywood, which will take place from May 17th - 28th, 2016.

The 10-days program will be focused on showcasing the different techniques of filmmaking and production of movies and shows in real life. This will involve field visits and behind-the-scenes tours to the world's famous production, television, and film studios in the biggest channels and companies in the USA namely, Paramount Pictures, Universal Studios, Columbia Pictures Studios, Warner Brothers Studios, The Paley Center for Media, The National Broadcasting Company (NBC), and CBS Television Network.

The bank's keenness to support the Mass communication students of Kuwait University in this educating trip stems from its firm belief that education enriches the quality of life in our community and in youth and to support the involvement of creativity in all its forms and shapes within young Kuwaiti students.

Burgan Bank highlighted that its role in sponsoring such events is sprung from its belief that the current generation are the major contributors to

tomorrow's successful and vibrant business, social, and cultural environment. Through this sponsorship, the bank is displaying its commitment towards helping students in Kuwait get valuable experience in Media & entertainment industry in the city that serves

as the creative hub for movie and television production as well as news and much more. With this hands-on experience, students will be able to creatively reflect this knowledge on their own community and local film-making industry as a whole.



Crime

Report

Woman arrested for offering illegal domestic help services

KUWAIT: A woman was arrested in South Surra for offering domestic help services illegally. A citizen had reported that he had given an Indian woman KD 250 to provide a nurse for his elderly mother, but she vanished, said security sources. The sources added that initial investigations showed that the woman was well-known to South Surra residents, and that she usually provided them with domestic labor and private nurses. The sources added that the woman was known to be greedy and that she usually overcharged her clients, especially if she learnt that the original housemaids had run away. Many complaints had been filed against the woman.

Liquor possession

A citizen was arrested in Salmiya with possession of 56 bottles of homebrewed and imported liquor, said security sources. Case papers indicate that on stopping the man to check his ID, he seemed very nervous, which called for searching his vehicle, where policemen found the liquor. A case was filed. Meanwhile, a citizen and a Saudi national were arrested with 81 illicit pills, said security sources.

Verbal insults

Two citizens, a man and a woman who live in the same building in Sabah Al-Salem exchanged verbal insults in a fight over old unsettled scores, said security sources, noting that they both raced to the police station to exchange accusations and file cases. Further investigations are in progress.

Scorpion sting

An Egyptian man working near Salmi land border exit was stung by a scorpion and had to be medevacked in a critical condition to Jahra Hospital for immediate treatment.

Ex-husband charged

A female citizen recently accused her ex-husband of stealing her mobile phone to examine its contents. The woman informed Rumaihiya police that her ex-husband picked up their daughter and after leaving, she discovered that her mobile phone was missing. A case was filed and the man is being summoned for further investigations.

Resisting arrest

A citizen in his twenties was arrested for refusing to show his ID to a police patrol, said security sources, noting that on checking on him at the station, the man turned out to be wanted for fraud. The man is also facing charges of resisting arrest and insulting policemen.

Landmine found

A landmine leftover since the Iraqi invasion was found along Salmi highway, said security sources, noting that a special bomb squad rushed to the scene to handle the mine. — Al-Rai

News

in brief

Panel asked to 'speed up' visa fees increase

KUWAIT: The Ministry of Interior sent a letter to the National Assembly's Interior and Defense Committee, requesting that they speed up discussing and enforcing the new fees for residency and visit visas as well as traffic violation fines. A report last week had suggested that the new visa fees, which would double under the proposed plans, could be adopted by June. The ministry says that increasing the visa fees, which remained unchanged for 40 years since they were enforced, serves the country's efforts in diversifying sources of income. — Al-Rai

Expats to own shares in co-ops?

The Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor (MSAL) is studying the possibility of allowing expatriates to subscribe to cooperative societies' funds (purchasing shares), said Hamad Al-Mutairi, Director of the ministry's subscription and elections department. This would allow expats to receive profits but not have the right to run or vote in boards' elections. The ministry considers applying this system in areas with high expat density such as Salmiya and Hawally. — Al-Rai

No military photos

KUWAIT: The cabinet gave orders last Thursday to ban military, police and national guard personnel from posting their pictures in uniform on social media. All personnel are also banned from posting military-related news and pictures of camps on all social network services. Those who violate this condition would be subjected to legal accountability and dismissed from duty. — Al-Qabas

MPW budget

KUWAIT: The Ministry of Public Works (MPW) requested a total budget of KD 799,087 million, up from KD 780,313 million in the 2015/2016 budget. The next budget includes KD 550 million for projects and maintenance, and KD 212,266 million for salaries. — Al-Jarida

Labor inspection

The Manpower Public Authority plans to establish units to inspect national labor in the private sector around Kuwait. The department would cover units distributed in Kuwait's governorates, and which unit would contain a section that oversees the process of inspecting on national labor. This would come as part of a comprehensive strategy through which the authority plans to restructure its departments, according to sources. — Al-Anbaa



Abrini arrest highlights Paris, Brussels attacks links

IS FREES MOST OF 300 ABDUCTED CEMENT WORKERS

IMPROVED ECONOMIC OUTLOOK BOOSTS OBAMA APPROVAL

MAKING HIM WELL ABOVE BUSH

WASHINGTON: As many people in the United States hold their noses in the search for the next president, they're increasingly warming to the president they already have. Buoyed by some good economic news and a surge of goodwill from his base of supporters, President Barack Obama is seeing his approval rating rise. That puts Obama, who leaves office in January, in a position to remain a force in the political debate at a point in his final term when some of his predecessors faded into the background.

For the first time since 2013, half of those questioned approve of the job Obama is doing in office, according to an Associated Press-GfK poll. The survey found the apparent uptick in approval extended across issues, including foreign affairs, immigration and, most notably the economy, where people said they felt slightly better about their own prospects and Obama's stewardship.

Asked about their opinion of Obama more generally, those surveyed were more likely to give him a positive rating than any of the candidates for president, Republican or Democrat.

Terry Trudeau, 66, said he preferred Obama to "all of them" running for the White House. "One of the qualities I like is he's been able to work with other countries and make deals," Trudeau said, citing Obama's climate change pacts with China as an

example. "Donald Trump will never be able to do that. He would try to bully them."

Comparing him to Bush

Obama's numbers remain modest compared with his predecessors, he's well above Republican George W. Bush, who had about a 30 percent approval rating at this point in his presidency, but below Democrat Bill Clinton's roughly 60 percent, according to polls conducted by Gallup. Still, where each of those second-term presidents largely sat on the sidelines during the races to replace them, Obama is poised to stay in the game.

Approval ratings generally are tied to how people feel about the economy. Obama has enjoyed and promoted a steady trickle of positive economic news. The survey showed people were slightly more likely to describe the economy as good and slightly more optimistic about their own financial situations than they were in February.

Still, 54 percent characterize the economy as poor. While the poll found an increase in approval among Democrats and with people under 50, there is no evidence that Republican opposition is thawing or that the president has become a less polarizing figure. Only about 1 in 10 Republicans expressed a positive opinion of Obama or the job he's doing.

"I just feel that he's out of touch with what's going on. I feel like he's more concerned with his legacy than making change," said Angela Buckmaster, a 47-year-old Republican from Lansing, Michigan. Still, the numbers may help explain some of Obama's recent swagger and why it's likely to continue as he tries to rally his party behind its eventual 2016 nominee - Hillary Clinton or Bernie Sanders. Obama has been quick to take aim at the Republican candidates. This past week, he called front-runner Trump's latest immigration proposal "half-baked." The president seized the spotlight with a new rule and aggressive critique aimed at corporate tax dodgers, risking riling Wall Street but capitalizing on the populism of the moment.

He has put himself at the front and center of the fight over the Supreme Court, returning on Thursday to the law school where he once taught and portraying the Republican blockade of his nominee to replace conservative Justice Antonin Scalia as a threat to democracy. Obama also conducted his first interview as president with "Fox News Sunday," a favorite show for conservatives.

Using his final days

The White House says Obama always planned to squeeze every last minute out of his two terms, regardless of his popularity.

Aides have promised more policy announcements, particularly economic initiatives, as several efforts long in the works come to fruition. Also, he probably will be a force in the campaign, working to fire up his core coalition of young, African-American and Hispanic voters, and backers in industrial states, where he has continued to show strength.

Eighty-one percent of those questioned in the poll say the economy is a very or extremely important issue to them personally, compared with the 74 percent who say that about health care or the 69 percent about the threat posed by the Islamic State group.

People were split 49 percent to 49 percent, in their approval or disapproval

of Obama's handling of the economy. But that divide was a slight improvement over the 44 percent approval in February. On other issues, views of Obama are not as rosy. More in the survey disapprove than approve of his handling of world affairs, the threat from IS, immigration, and health care. But on each measure, Obama has improved at least slightly since February.

The AP-GfK Poll of 1,076 adults was conducted online March 31-April 4, using a sample drawn from GfK's probability-based KnowledgePanel, which is designed to be representative of the US population. The margin of sampling error for all respondents is plus or minus 3.3 percentage points.— AP



WASHINGTON D.C.: President Barack Obama reacts while playing tennis during the White House Easter Egg Roll at the White House. — AP

KUWAIT BEAUTIFUL & GREEN STUDENTS ART COMPETITION

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HELLO ARTISTS...

Welcome to the Student's Art Competition. I hope you are ready to paint a beautiful painting and win wonderful prizes. The theme for your painting must be related to planting and greening, basically anything pertaining to our environment. We are looking for a great painting. So, please pick up your color pencils, paint brushes, crayons or whatever you prefer and start drawing and painting.
Good luck to you, our young artists.

- Competition is open to ages from (6 - 8) (9 - 11) (12 - 14) and (15 - 17) and Special needs.
- The competition is open for all schools in Kuwait (Government and Private)
- The competition will start on March 10th and will continue till April 14th 2016.
- 10 winners from each category will receive valuable prizes.
- All participants will receive a certificate of appreciation.
- All schools participating in the competition will receive an appreciation plaque.
- Any school or individual interested to participate in this competition is welcome to visit the office of Kuwait Times and collect the drawing sheets.
- Drawing sheets will be given to schools FREE of charge.
- Only drawing sheets provided by the Kuwait Times will be allowed.
- You can use any kind of color pencils, paint brushes or crayons.

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MEXICO DETAINS WOMAN ON FBI'S 'MOST WANTED' LIST

MEXICO CITY: Mexican officials said they have captured a woman on the FBI's "Ten Most Wanted" list who US officials say ordered the murder of a romantic rival who had been dating her former lover.

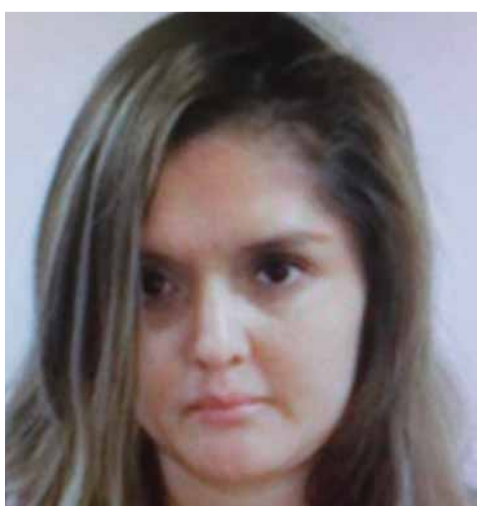
Brenda Berenice Delgado Reynaga, 33, was detained at a home in the northern city of Torreon, in Coahuila state, Mexico's attorney general's office said late Friday. Delgado, a Mexican citizen, was sought by US authorities for her role in the "murder-for-hire" of Kendra Hatcher, a dentist in Dallas, Texas on September 2, 2015. "Apparently she was jealous because the victim was dating her ex-boyfriend," said FBI Special Agent Jason Ibrahim, according to the bureau's "Most Wanted" posting.

Delgado has been charged with capital

murder, and a federal fugitive warrant was issued in October 2015. Officials said the alleged killers hired by Delgado are already in US custody. Even though Delgado didn't pull the trigger, she "is still responsible for the murder," said Thomas Class, another FBI agent.

Once notified of the US arrest request, Mexican authorities said they searched for Delgado "in places where her relatives and friends could help" in northern Mexico and Mexico City. Delgado is only the ninth woman to make it onto the Federal Bureau of Investigation's list of infamous fugitives since its creation in 1950.

She is being held in the Santa Martha Acatitla prison in Mexico City while the extradition request is being completed, the Mexican statement added. — AFP



TORREON: photo provided by the FBI shows Brenda Delgado. — AP

OMAN SAYS US MAN DETAINED IN REBEL-HELD YEMENI CAPITAL FREED

DUBAI: A US man held captive in Yemen's rebel-controlled capital has been released after Omani negotiators interceded on his behalf, authorities said, becoming the latest American freed through the sultanate's quiet diplomacy.

In a statement posted online late Friday, Oman's Foreign Ministry said it helped coordinate "the release of an American citizen in Yemen" on behalf of the US and on the orders of Oman's Sultan Qaboos bin Said. It said it contacted authorities in Yemen's rebel-held capital, Sanaa, to free the man, who was flown from

Sanaa to the Omani capital, Muscat.

The short statement did not identify the man released. Christy Watkins, a spokeswoman at the US Embassy in Muscat, said American diplomats would not comment beyond acknowledging the Omani statement, citing privacy concerns. The sultanate of Oman has played a part in several negotiations for Americans held in Yemen, where a Saudi-led and US-backed coalition has been at war with the Shiite Houthi rebels for more than a year. Oman, which has long positioned itself as a mediator in the region, did not join the Saudi coalition.

In November, three Americans were released and flown out of Yemen. In September, the Houthis released six foreign hostages, including two Americans, after negotiations conducted by Omani officials. That came after the release in June of American freelance journalist Casey Coombs.

On Nov. 10, US officials announced that detained American contractor John Hamen, who worked for a company managing UN facilities in Sanaa, had died there, without giving a cause of death. Hamen and another American had arrived in Yemen from Djibouti on a UN aircraft on Oct. 20. — AP



SANAA: Shiite tribesmen, known as Houthis, hold their weapons as they chant slogans during a tribal gathering showing support for the Houthi movement. — AP



DAMASCUS: A cement factory where the brazen assault that resulted in the kidnapping of the 300 took place. — AP

IS FREES MOST OF 300 ABDUCTED CEMENT WORKERS

POSSIBLE AL-QAEDA INVOLVEMENT

BEIRUT: The Islamic State group has released most of the 300 cement workers it abducted near Damascus after questioning them to find out who were Muslims and killing four who were members of the minority Druze sect, a Syrian opposition monitoring group and a news agency linked to the extremists reported yesterday.

The reports came two days after IS abducted the cement workers and contractors from al-Badia Cement Company in Dumeir, just northeast of the capital, after a surprise attack on government forces. The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said all those abducted have been released except for 30 people who were guards at the cement factory. It said the fate of the 30 is unknown.

The IS-affiliated Amaq news agency said most of the 300 were released after questioning to determine their religion and whether they support the government. It said four workers who belonged to the minority Druze sect were killed and 20 pro-government gunmen are still being held. The Druze, a 10th century offshoot of Shiite Islam, made up about 5 percent of Syria's pre-war population of 23 million people. Lebanon and Israel also have large Druze communities.

IS's views
IS, a Sunni Muslim extremist group, considers all Shiites to be heretics deserving death. Amaq also released a video from inside the cement plant, about 28 miles (45 kilometers) northeast of Damascus, showing trucks and bulldozers in the sprawling facility. Some fighters could be seen inside.

Government forces and insurgents meanwhile clashed near Handarat, just north of the northern city of Aleppo, Syria's largest, activists said. In the western part of Aleppo province, troops backed by Lebanon's Hezbollah fighters battled militants in Khan Touman and al-Ais, where insurgents last week killed more than two dozen Lebanese militants and government forces, according to activists and state media.

Elsewhere in northern Syria, a mine left behind by IS near the Kurdish town of Kobani killed at least four children and wounded several others late Friday. The Observatory said four children were killed and six wounded when the mine exploded in the village of Darb Hassan. State news agency SANA said six children were killed.

Kobani-based Kurdish official Idriss Naasan told The Associated Press that the

children were shepherds who took their sheep and goats to graze in Darb Hassan on Friday. When they opened the door to a house, the mine exploded, killing four children and wounding the rest. He added that one is believed to have died of his wounds later.

Al-Qaida involvement
Also in Syria's north, a senior official with al-Qaida's local branch appeared in a video during which he denied reports by state media that he was killed in the northwestern province of Idlib. The Observatory also reported that Sheikh Abdullah al-Mheisny was not harmed. "I will remain a thorn in your throat and my happiest day will be when I get martyred," al-Mheisny said in the video. The militant was wounded by a Russian airstrike in December in Latakia province.

A Saudi citizen, al-Mheisny had been fighting in northern Syria for months, serving both as a senior religious and military commander with the al-Qaida branch, known as the Nusra Front. Several top Nusra Front commanders have been recently killed in Syria by US airstrikes. — AP

AL-QAEDA AMBUSH' KILLS AT LEAST 20 YEMEN SOLDIERS

MARIB: Al-Qaeda militants killed at least 20 Yemeni soldiers yesterday when they ambushed their convoy in the south of the war-torn country, a military source said. Al-Qaeda swiftly denied it was behind the killings. "Armed members of Al-Qaeda ambushed a group of young soldiers travelling in three civilian vehicles in the province of Abyan, killing at least 20 of them," said the source, who requested anonymity.

The assailants ordered the soldiers to get out of the vehicles and gunned them down early in the morning in the town of Ahwar, the source told AFP. The soldiers were young recruits who were being deployed as part of the internationally recognised government's efforts to restore security to areas under its control.

They had been travelling to a military camp in Hadramawt, the neighbouring province whose capital has been held by Al-Qaeda since April last year. Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), also known as Ansar al-Sharia, in an online statement denied it was involved in the attack. "We in Ansar al-Sharia deny any connection to the murder incident that took place on Saturday morning in the Ahwar area," it said, blaming a local tribal leader for the killings instead.

Yemen has been at war since September 2014, when Iran-backed Shiites Houthi rebels and their allies drove the government out of Sanaa and much of the country's north. The Houthis controlled Aden, the main city in southern Yemen, for months before government forces backed by a Saudi-led military coalition pushed them back in July.

Jihadists of AQAP and the Islamic State group have taken advantage of the chaos to strengthen their grip on southern Yemen. But after having long ignored them, forces loyal to President

Abdrabbo Mansour Hadi have launched operations against them in the past few weeks.

Doubts over ceasefire

Jihadist attacks on symbols of the state have increased in southern Yemen, in an apparent attempt to hamper the government's efforts to rebuild the army and security forces.

In mid-February, a suicide bomb attack claimed by IS reportedly killed at least 14 soldiers at a military camp in Aden, where young recruits had been undergoing training. Elsewhere on Saturday, loyalist forces clashed with Shiite Houthi fighters in Marib province for a second consecutive day, according to military sources.

The clashes in the Sarwah region have so far killed 21 people, 13 of them loyalists and eight rebel fighters, the sources said. The Saudi-led coalition carried out two air strikes to stop the advance of Houthis seeking to take back a military base that pro-government forces had recaptured in late 2015.

The developments come before a UN-announced ceasefire that is due to take effect on Sunday night, ahead of peace talks that are scheduled to be held in Kuwait on April 18. One loyalist fighter, Ahmed al-Shalafi, said he doubted the rebels would respect the truce. "How will they observe a ceasefire while they continue to attack us," he said, adding that the two sides had sent in reinforcements to the front line in Sarwah.

Meanwhile, in the region of Nahm, northeast of Sanaa, clashes on Saturday killed three loyalists and four rebel fighters, said another military source. The United Nations says the violence in Yemen has killed nearly 6,300 people since March last year-half of them civilians. — AFP



SANAA: Yemeni pro-government forces, loyal to fugitive President Abdrabbo Mansour Hadi, gather at the military base of Nehm. — AFP

REBELS SEIZE SYRIA TOWN FROM FIGHTERS LOYAL TO ISLAMIC STATE

BEIRUT: Rebels seized a town in southern Syria from groups loyal to Islamic State just a day after fighters captured another town from the hard-line militants in a separate insurgent assault in the north, a rebel source and a monitoring group said.

The rebels had by late on Friday taken control of Tasil in Deraa province that is near the Jordanian border and the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights, the source and the British-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said.

They drove out fighters from the Yarmouk Martyrs' Brigade and the Muthanna Movement, which they said were groups loyal to Islamic State. "Our battle continues against them, until we have cleansed the area of them," said Abu Ghiath al-Shami, a spokesman for the Alwiyyat Seif al-Sham group that is part of a rebel alliance in the south.

He described the latest attacks against the hard line jihadists as a

"widened campaign against Daesh", using an Arabic acronym for Islamic State. It was the second blow dealt by insurgents fighting against Islamic State or Islamic State-linked fighters in as many days.

In a separate assault in the north of the country near the Turkish border on Thursday, rebel forces took over a town that had been the main stronghold of Islamic State in the northern Aleppo countryside. A cessation of hostilities agreement in Syria that began on Feb. 27 has slowed fighting in some areas in western Syria but has not halted the violence. Islamic State and the al-Qaeda-linked Nusra Front are not included in the truce.

The Syrian army and its allies, backed by Russian air power, are separately fighting against Islamic State. Clashes between the government and non-jihadist rebels have continued in some areas during the ceasefire. — Reuters

EGYPTIAN, SAUDI LEADERS HOLD EXTENSIVE TALKS OVER BILATERAL TIES

CAIRO: Egyptian President Abdel-Fatah Al-Sisi and visiting Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud held Friday an extensive meeting attended by senior officials from both countries to discuss future prospects of the two Arab heavyweights.

In a press statement, Egyptian Presidency Spokesman Alaa Yusuf said that both leaders have underlined the uniqueness of relations

between the two countries and their shared destiny. During the visit, President Al-Sisi expected that King Salman's visit would give impetus to cooperation in various domains, citing as evidence the numerous cooperation agreements signed between the two countries today.

He emphasized Egypt's keenness to consult with the Saudi Kingdom with regard to regional and international issues of common concern. In this regard, both leaders agreed on cooperation to find peaceful solutions to the crises in Libya, Syria and Yemen.

For his part, the Saudi King lauded the Egyptian government's efforts to achieve economic and social development and to meet people aspirations. He reiterated the Kingdom's full support to Egypt in all domains. He signaled the steadily progress in mutual cooperation.

Following the talks, President Al-Sisi bestowed the Order of Nile medal, Egypt's highest state honour, on King Salman bin Abdulaziz of Saudi Arabia. — KUNA



CAIRO: Egyptian President Abdel-Fatah Al-Sisi, right, sits with Saudi Arabia's King Salman surrounded by delegations from the two countries. — AP



MONTEVIDEO: Artificial flowers adorn the base of a statue of Yemanja, the African goddess of the seas, along a promenade. — AP

VIRGIN MARY STATUE STIRS UP DEBATE IN SECULAR URUGUAY

MONTEVIDEO: The South American country of Uruguay has a long tradition of secularism, to the point that a popular president in the early 1900s insisted on writing the word "God" with a lowercase "g" whenever he wrote about his policies in local newspapers.

So when the Catholic Church recently proposed erecting a statue of the Virgin Mary in a park next to a popular promenade, a debate erupted over whether religious symbols in public places violate the separation between church and state.

Local authorities will decide on the petition, but that hasn't stopped lawmakers nationwide from weighing in. Even a secular state should not go to "extreme abstinence" when it comes to religion, wrote four lawmakers from different parties in the lower chamber of Parliament in an open letter endorsing the statue.

The constitution

Uruguay's constitution established religious neutrality that should not be decided by "consumer taste," responded Sen. Ope Pasquet, an opponent of the statue. "I didn't think there was going to be this kind of resistance," Montevideo's archbishop, Cardinal Daniel Sturla, told The Associated Press. "Our city must be among the few in Latin America and the whole Christian world that don't have a public image of the Virgin."

Although some Latin American countries, such as Mexico, share a strict anticlerical tradition with Uruguay, the proposal wouldn't have raised eyebrows in many of the region's other capitals. About 40 percent of the world's Catholics, or 425 million, are in Latin America, and symbols of the faith are ubiquitous.

In Brazil, the Christ the Redeemer statue is the postcard image of Rio de Janeiro. Statues of the Virgin Mary in Bogota, Colombia, Quito, Ecuador and Santiago, Chile, stand tall on the

cities' hills as revered icons and major tourist attractions.

Uruguay has such a strong anti-religious ethos that Dec. 25 is officially designated as "Family Day." Sturla, the archbishop, noted dryly that while attending a conference in Spain last year, "someone introduced me by saying that in Uruguay Holy Week is called Tourism Week."

In the small nation sandwiched between Argentina and Brazil, 37 percent of the people report no religious affiliation, according to a 2014 survey by the Pew Research Center in Washington. That includes atheists, agnostics and people with spiritual beliefs that are not part of an organized faith. Just 42 percent of Uruguay's 3.3 million identify as Catholic, a much lower percentage than any other Latin American nation. Uruguay's anticlericalism dates back to the two terms in the early 1900s of President Jose Batlle y Ordonez, who was ahead of his time in promoting social change, from the eight-hour workday and maternity leave to separation of church and state.

Keeping up with traditions

In addition to writing God with a lowercase "g," he ordered all crucifixes removed from public hospitals and abolished religious teachings in public schools. In keeping with that tradition, Montevideo councilwoman Mariana Felartigas argued in an op-ed that public spaces should be kept free of religious symbols. "Public spaces are democratic domains where people should feel free and equal," she wrote in late February in Montevideo.com after the statue was proposed.

Supporters of erecting the Virgin Mary statue in a public place note that the Uruguayan capital has a statue for Yemanja, the African goddess of the seas, which sits a few kilometers (miles) away from the same promenade where the statue of the virgin would go up. — AP

SURROUNDED BY POSITIVES, YOUNG SOMALI CHOSE ISLAMIC STATE

NOW FACES UP TO 15 YEARS IN PRISON

MINNEAPOLIS: As a spoken word artist, Abdirizak Mohamed Warsame liked to talk to other young Somalis about following their dreams. In a video posted online in 2011, the teenager stands at a microphone and encourages teens to stay focused on their goals in life.

"You guys are tomorrow. And all you have to have, to get anywhere you want, is determination," said Warsame, who was active in a local arts group, was a regular at a neighborhood center, and whose mother and cousin were leading voices against radical recruitment in Minneapolis' large Somali community. In recent years, about three dozen young men from Somali neighborhoods in Minnesota have tried to leave to join militant groups fighting in Somalia and Syria, making the area one of the leading sources of US recruits for radical Islam. Local leaders have launched a major effort to stop the flow by building up positive influences on the thousands of young Somalis in the area. And in many ways, Warsame seemed to embody the key points: hopeful attitude, engaged in the community, with strong family support.

Cautionary tale

But Warsame's case, rather than a positive example, has become a cautionary tale. Standing in jail-issue clothing before a federal judge in Minneapolis earlier this year, the tall young man, who is now 21, hung his head as he admitted to secretly planning with friends in 2014 to go to Syria to fight with the Islamic State group. He now faces up to 15 years in prison. Despite everyone's best efforts, "I was always listening to one side," he said at a court hearing, referring to radical messages he saw online. "I didn't see the other side of it, that innocent people were being killed." It's clear that by his teen years, "it was too late," said Farhio Khalif, a leader of a community task force that is working with the US attorney's office on anti-recruitment strategies. "He was already caught up."

The effort must begin earlier, convincing young children that "there is opportunity and there is hope in this community," Khalif said. Minnesota's Somali population, the US's largest, numbers 41,000, according to census estimates, though community advocates say it is much larger. They have been drawn here over the years by welcoming social programs. Since local recruits began leaving for the war zones about 10 years ago, FBI officials here have appeared on Somali radio and television programs to counter the radical messages luring them. Somali community groups have held regular meetings to raise awareness about the recruitment threat. A group called Ka Joog, which is Somali for "stay away," sponsored activities that give kids a sense of belonging in America.

Last year, in the largest effort, organizers secured \$850,000 for an ambitious package of projects, including a new job center in the Somali community where unemployment hovers around 19 percent,



MINNEAPOLIS: Abdirizak Mohamed Warsame visits with Minneapolis police Officer Jeanine Brudenell, right, during an event for Somali youth at a community center. — AP

about three times the state average.

A leading target of the effort is "Little Mogadishu," where Warsame grew up. The neighborhood is marked by the massive 1970s-era concrete towers looming at its center, and dotted with Somali restaurants, shops and cultural centers.

Warsame, who goes by Zak or A-Zak, came to the US with his family when he was 10 months old, the second of eight children. In his teens, Warsame found poetry as a way to express himself. He joined a group called Poet Nation and posted videos on YouTube. In one that features his old neighborhood, Warsame, wearing a Minnesota Twins hat, raps about violence after a friend was shot. He says he doesn't preach violence, and gives "much love to the projects," where gang-related shootings are a constant threat.

The legal system

Bob Fletcher, a former Ramsey County sheriff

who founded the Center For Somalia History Studies, saw Warsame as a typical inner-city teenager struggling with identity. "He was one of those kids that could've gone either way," Fletcher said. "To the gangs, to the radicalization, or to succeed academically with the circle of Ka Joog kids who he is close to."

Warsame had work and school opportunities after high school. He worked as a baggage handler and for a deicing company at the airport and attended community college. His mother, Deqa Hussen, was vigilant about radical influences. At one point, concerned about some of his companions, she sent him to live with his father in Chicago in 2014. Two months before her son's December arrest, she lectured Somali parents at a town hall meeting: "I need you guys to wake up and to tell your child, 'Who's recruiting you?' Ask what happened. ... We have to stop the denial thing that we have, and we have to talk to our kids and work with the FBI!" — AP

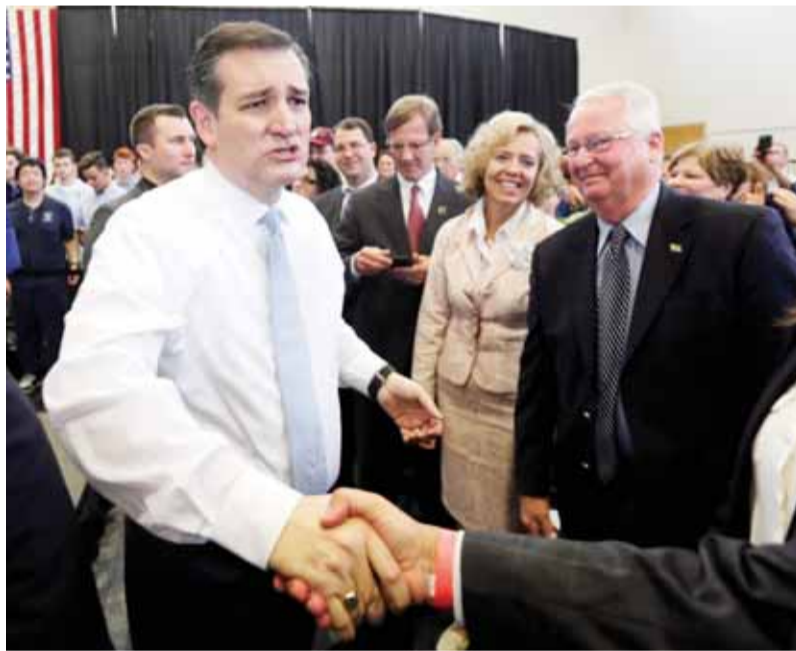
TED CRUZ LOOKING TO SCOOP UP MORE COLORADO DELEGATES

COLORADO SPRINGS: Republican presidential candidate Ted Cruz has locked up the support of 21 Colorado delegates and may scoop up even more.

Slates loyal to Cruz won every assembly in the state's seven congressional districts, which began April 2 and culminated Friday with 12 delegates selected. The Texas senator is well-positioned to pad his total Saturday, when 13 more delegates were to be chosen at the party's state convention.

According to an Associated Press count, front-runner Donald Trump has 743 delegates, Cruz has 532 and Ohio Gov. John Kasich has 143. It takes 1,237 to clinch the nomination, though there's a real chance no candidate will reach that mark by the national convention in Cleveland in July.

Of Cruz's Colorado delegates so far, only 17 were formally pledged to him, and in theory the other four could change their vote in Cleveland. But they were all included on the senator's slates and are largely state party officials who said they were barred from signing a formal pledge for Cruz but have promised to back him in balloting at the convention. The result shows how Cruz's superior organization has helped him as he tries to catch up with Trump. While Cruz's campaign spent months recruiting slates of delegates and securing



SCOTIA: Republican presidential candidate, Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, greets supporters after speaking at a campaign event at Mekeel Christian Academy on Thursday. — AP

pledges, Trump only this past week hired a Colorado state director.

The Trump campaign said it wasn't worried and had always expected to fare poorly in Colorado because its assembly process is dominated by party insiders. "If we had a primary, yes, we would have done very well here," said Trump senior adviser Alan

Cobb.

Cruz also appeals to activists who dominate party functions - a deeply conservative, religious group with a libertarian streak. "Coloradans, naturally having that pioneer spirit, gravitate toward someone like Cruz," said state Rep. Justin Everett, one of Cruz's pledged delegates. — AP

NUDE TRUMP PAINTING ON SHOW IN LONDON

LONDON: An unflattering painting depicting a nude Donald Trump went on show in London this weekend having been censored in the United States, where its creator claims to have received a thousand death threats from his supporters. Los-Angeles based artist Illma Gore's "Make America Great Again," named after the Republican candidate's campaign slogan, went on display at the Maddox gallery in the exclusive Mayfair neighborhood on Friday, and is valued at £1 million (\$1.4 million, 1.2 million euros).

"Make America Great Again was created to evoke a reaction from its

audience, good or bad, about the significance we place on our physical selves," said the 24-year-old artist.

"I drew Trump nude, I was evoking a reaction from people... so I tried not to think about it until I spoke to a lawyer who suggested I go to the police about it and file a report in case something happens," she said of the death threats, which came after posting the painting online.

The work, which imagines Trump with a small penis, has been banned from public display in the US and was pulled from

social media following the filing of a Digital Millennium Copyright Act notice, claiming that the content infringed on their copyright. Gore said that the painting's appearance in London showed that "the UK has a real taste for art and enough experience to recognize the idea behind it." James Nicholls, director of the gallery, said the work was "contested and interesting." "Some, he said, may be offended but others will see the humor in the work of Gore. The Maddox Gallery offers everyone the chance to see the original and make his own opinion." — AFP

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Uniquely, The Harley Street Clinic is a specialist private cardiac, cancer and neurosciences hospital providing complex care to adults, children and babies. The Hospital has received multi-million pound investment and this has attracted leading specialists from major London teaching hospitals who are in turn supported by a team of caring, experienced and professional clinical staff.

The Hospital has separate paediatric and adult Intensive Care Units (ITU). The paediatric ITU is the largest private facility in the country. This allows us to support cardiology, cardiac, thoracic, cancer, spinal and other major treatments for children from babies to young adults. These facilities attract world-renowned paediatric consultants, who are supported by highly experienced and specialist doctors and staff.

Technology for treating cancers includes the UK's first CyberKnife and with both Gamma Knife and the latest Linear Accelerator treatments also available, the Hospital offers one of the widest portfolios of radiosurgical equipment in Europe.

Additionally, diagnosis is helped with direct access to the latest scanners such as PET CT, MRI, CT and Gamma Cameras.

LEADERS ON ONCOLOGY CARE (LOC)

LOC was founded in 2005 by four specialists and has now grown to be supported by 35 oncologists with a wide range of specialist expertise covering all types of cancer. Located next to the Sarah Cannon Research Institute and Harley Street Clinic, it avails of the Clinics diagnostic and therapeutic services. LOC is designed around the patient needs, and the patient orientated facility attracts London's very best consultants.

Treatment is delivered in a very personal way, with each patient treatment being individually tailored to take account of the

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patients' circumstances and life style. HCA acquired an interest in LOC and partners and supports LOC in its activities. LOC has recently opened a new Centre at The Wellington Hospital.

SARAH CANNON RESEARCH INSTITUTE (SCRI)

Sarah Cannon Research Institute (SCRI), in partnership with HCA Inc., is a global strategic research organization, based in the USA and now in the UK, focusing on advancing therapies and accelerating drug development. It is one of the largest clinical research programs, conducting community-based clinical trials in oncology, cardiology, gastroenterology and other therapeutic areas through affiliations with a network of more than 700 physicians in the United States and United Kingdom. Additionally, SCRI offers management, regulatory and other research support services to drug development sponsors and strategic investigator sites. SCRI recently launched Sarah Cannon Research UK, a cancer drug development program in the United Kingdom that provides access to Phase I clinical trials for patients.

HCA - London's No.1 private hospital group

10,000 TURN OUT TO MARK EAST UKRAINE REBELLION ANNIVERSARY



DONETSK: People shout slogans yesterday as they mark the second anniversary of the proclamation of the so-called People's Republic of Donetsk. — AFP

DONETSK: Around 10,000 people paraded through the centre of Donetsk, the rebel "capital" in eastern Ukraine, to mark the second anniversary of the proclamation of the "Donetsk People's Republic".

The participants marched through the main streets of the town, waving flags in the colors of the DNR rebel republic accompanied by a joyful fanfare of old Soviet Union anthems. The marchers, with uniformed men bringing up the rear, finished up in the main square where a concert was organized.

Ties between Moscow and Kiev are in tatters over Crimea's annexation and Russia's support for the insurgency in eastern Ukraine. The conflict has killed more than 9,000 since April 2014 and left the rebels in control of a region roughly the size and population of Wales.

One of those who turned out

for Saturday's celebration in Donetsk, a 22-year-old named Vladislav, said the event signified "that the people have chosen their path. Together with Russia and separately from Ukraine."

The Donetsk People's Republic was declared on April 7, 2014, the day after pro-Russian separatist fighters attacked the regional headquarters in Donetsk. On the same day the headquarters of the secret service in the neighboring pro-Moscow region of Lugansk was occupied by rebels.

Fighting between the Ukraine army and the rebels has lessened since a fragile truce was agreed last September. However violence continues to flare up and land mines remain a constant threat. Peace talks have been on hold for several months with Kiev and Western nations accusing Russia of supporting the rebellion militarily, a claim denied by Moscow. — AFP

ABRINI ARREST HIGHLIGHTS PARIS, BRUSSELS ATTACKS LINKS

'THEY CRITICIZE THE BELGIAN POLICE BUT HATS OFF!'

BRUSSELS: The arrest of Paris attacks suspect Mohamed Abrini in raids linked to the Brussels airport and metro bombings on Saturday highlighted the ties between jihadists involved in Belgium and France's worst terror outrages.

Abrini's arrest on Friday, along with five other suspects, marks an important step in the investigations into the November 13 Paris attacks, which killed 130, and the March 22 assault on Brussels which left 32 dead.

In both, several of the suspects came from the largely-immigrant Molenbeek neighborhood of Brussels, including Abdelhamid Abaaoud, said to have played a key role in Paris, along with Salah Abdeslam who was arrested on March 18. Abdeslam himself took part in the Paris attacks but unlike his brother Ibrahim, who blew himself up, he escaped and fled back Brussels, eluding a vast police dragnet for four months. The Belgian authorities have faced intense criticism over their handling of the attacks as it emerged many of the suspects were known to police for a long time.

Critics say the government has not done enough to prevent radicalisation of Muslim youth in areas such as Molenbeek, with Belgium proportionately the biggest source in the European Union of foreign fighters going to join IS in Syria.

'The man in the hat'

There has been intense specula-

tion Abrini is the third, hat-wearing suspect seen alongside two suicide bombers in security footage at Brussels airport.

His disappearance triggered a huge manhunt, with the federal prosecutor's office confirming that investigators were "verifying whether Abrini can be positively identified as... the so-called 'man with the hat.'" Belgian police on Thursday released a video showing a man wearing a hat and light-colored jacket who was seen with the two suicide bombers in the departure hall.

While they blew themselves up, he fled and made his way on foot back to central Brussels, appearing calm and composed before disappearing. Yesterday, La Libre daily carried a cartoon showing a policeman kicking a man holding a hat into a prison cell under the banner: "They criticize the Belgian police but ... Hats off!" The two airport bombers have been identified as Ibrahim El Bakraoui and Najim Laachraoui, believed to be the cell's bomb maker.

Ibrahim's brother Khalid blew himself up at Maalbeek metro station not far from the European Union quarter in Brussels.

Anderlecht arrest

Abrini was arrested in the Brussels neighbourhood of Anderlecht, the prosecutor's spokesman said on Friday. Two others were also picked up with him but there were no immediate



Paris attacks suspect Mohamed Abrini. — AFP

details on their identities. Local television stations aired footage purportedly of Abrini's arrest, showing a man pinned to the ground by several armed plain-clothed police who then bundled him into an unmarked car.

Abrini, a Belgian of Moroccan origin and the last known Paris suspect still at large, was seen at a petrol station north of Paris two days before the attacks with Salah Abdeslam who is now awaiting extradition to France.

The prosecutor's spokesman identified two other suspects arrested on Friday as Osama K., who went by the alias of Naim Al Ahmed, and Herve B.M. Three others, including one whose arrest was confirmed Saturday, were unnamed. He said

investigators were trying to determine if Osama K. was the man seen with Khalid El Bakraoui moments before the Maalbeek blast. The same man was also filmed at a Brussels' shopping mall buying the bags used in the airport attacks.

A Swedish link?

Swedish media said Osama K. was Osama Krayem, 23, who grew up in the southern city of Malmo, and published photographs of him holding a Kalashnikov assault rifle in front of an IS flag said to have been taken in Syria.

Osama Krayem is the product of a "now classic cocktail of social marginalization, ideological radicalization" and criminality, Magnus Ranstorp, an expert on radical Islamic movements at the Swedish National Defence College, told AFP.

Making another link between the Brussels and Paris attacks, the prosecutor's spokesman said Abdeslam had hired the car used to pick up Osama K. in Ulm in Germany and bring him to Belgium in early October. Abdeslam says he had no knowledge of the Brussels attacks, according to his lawyer, despite his links to Khalid El Bakraoui. He also knew Laachraoui, who drove to Hungary with Abdeslam in September.

More links between the suspects came to light after the arrest near Paris last month of Reda Kriket, who police said was planning an attack of "extreme violence." — AFP



VATICAN CITY: Pope Francis waves to faithful at the end of his special Jubilee Audience at Saint Peter's Square at the Vatican yesterday. — AFP

POPE ANNOUNCES TRIPS TO ARMENIA, AZERBAIJAN, GEORGIA

VATICAN CITY: Pope Francis will visit Armenia and Azerbaijan later this year, the Vatican announced yesterday, amid tensions in the region following a flare-up of violence over the disputed Nagorny Karabakh region.

At the invitation of the Armenian Apostolic Church patriarch Karekin II, the pope will travel to Armenia from June 24 to 26. He will visit Georgia and Azerbaijan from September 30 to October 2, the Vatican said in a statement.

This month has seen the worst outbreak of violence between Armenia and Azerbaijan over Nagorny Karabakh since the 1990s, with more than 90 people killed in four days of heavy fighting followed by sporadic clashes. Armenia-backed separatists seized control of

Nagorny Karabakh, an enclave within Azerbaijan's territory populated mainly by Christian ethnic Armenians, in an early 1990s war that claimed some 30,000 lives.

The visit could also heighten tensions with Turkey, which is already unhappy with the pope's use of the word "genocide" to describe the massacre of Armenians by the Ottoman Empire—the forerunner of the modern Turkish state—a century ago.

Like Armenia, Georgia is a predominantly Orthodox Christian country with a small Roman Catholic minority, while Azerbaijan is largely Muslim. Between the two visits to the Caucasus region the pope will visit Poland from July 27-31 where he will attend the World Youth Day celebrations in Krakow. — AFP



PARIS: People gather on the Place de la Republique on Friday. — AP

DWINDLING FRENCH LABOR PROTEST TURNS VIOLENT

PARIS: Clashes broke out on Saturday between police and demonstrators in Rennes, western France as thousands took to the streets for a sixth day of nationwide protests against a draft law that seeks to loosen some labor protections.

Riot police used tear gas to disperse youths throwing projectiles after protesters numbering between 1,700 and 4,000 gathered near Rennes city centre. Police said three officers were injured in the confrontation. Following modifications that have softened the labour bill, a broad-based protest movement has waned from its peak on March 31, when hundreds of thousands of demonstrators were mobilised across the country.

A subsequent day of action on April 5 drew only 23,800 people, according to

interior ministry estimates. Some 12,000 took part in Saturday's demonstrations in the central city of Toulouse, according to organisers, down from 100,000 they had counted on March 31. Local police put the latest attendance at 8,000.

Local media counted some 200 demonstrations across France, including a march in Paris kicking off from Place de la Republique, the home of a round-the-clock Occupy Wall Street-style sit-in.

Continued unrest over labor reforms is piling the pressure on France's ruling Socialists, who have already been forced to retreat over security proposals that included the revocation of citizenship for dual nationals convicted of terrorism. Police have reported sporadic clashes in western city of Rennes. — Agencies

UK PRIME MINISTER BUNGLED ADMISSION OF OFFSHORE FUND

LONDON: British Prime Minister David Cameron admitted yesterday that he bungled his admission of his investment in an offshore fund revealed in the mammoth data breach of a Panama law firm.

Cameron drew laughs and applause from a sympathetic audience of Conservative Party activists as he opened his speech with a mea culpa. "Well, it not been a great week," he deadpanned. "I could have handled this better. I know there are lessons to learn, and I will learn them. And don't blame No. 10 Downing Street or nameless advisers. Blame me."

It was Cameron's first public appearance since his admission Thursday night that he had owned shares in a Bahamas-based trust from 1997 to 2010. He had sidestepped persistent questions on the issue for four days with a string of obfuscating statements issued through aides.

Cameron faces mounting pressure from opposition lawmakers to reveal the full extent of his past investment in offshore investments, particularly those run by his late father, Ian, a millionaire stockbroker who placed much of his savings in trusts based in island tax havens. Labor Party leader Jeremy Corbyn and others say they will press Cameron on the issue when Parliament reconvenes Monday.

A few hundred left-wing protesters banged drums and whistled as they marched Saturday down to Whitehall, the government center, past Cameron's Downing Street residence. Many donned placards denouncing Cameron as a wealthy elitist and one held aloft a pinata of a pink pig with Cameron's face on it. The British prime minister is one

of scores of political leaders, celebrities and sports stars who have been linked to shell companies and investment trusts organized by the Panama City-based law firm Mossack Fonseca, which specializes in registering offshore companies. Cameron has made the closure of global tax loopholes a focal point of his government - and rejected charges of hypocrisy on the issue.

"This government that I lead will go on very clearly, very doggedly, very determinedly making sure that we crack down on tax evasion and aggressive tax avoidance," he said. Last weekend's leak of 11.5 million documents from four decades of Mossack Fonseca files identified Cameron's late father, Ian, as a client.

Cameron admitted in a Thursday television interview that he owned shares in his father's Bahama trust from 1997 to 2010, but sold that stake for a 19,000 pound (\$30,500) profit along with all his other unspecified shareholdings shortly before becoming prime minister that year. His father died shortly after he gained office.

In Saturday's speech, Cameron reiterated plans to make public his recent tax returns to show that he paid all legally due taxes on that Bahamas-based investment. He has declined to answer questions on whether he made other offshore investments.

Labor lawmakers already have demanded that Cameron publish details of all his investment holdings since he became Conservative leader in 2005. Corbyn said he would publish his own tax returns "very soon, and there'll be no surprises there." — AP



LONDON: Protesters gather outside the gates of Downing Street yesterday to call for the resignation of Prime Minister David Cameron in the wake of the Mossack Fonseca data leak. — AP

TURKMENISTAN LEADER SACKS TWO MINISTERS, TAX CHIEF

ASHGABAT: Energy-rich Turkmenistan's President Gurbanguly Berdimukhamedov sacked two ministers and the top tax official, government media reported yesterday as low prices for hydrocarbon exports continue to bite.

Berdimukhamedov dismissed the officials for "serious shortcomings" at a Friday meeting of the secretive country's cabinet of ministers, an article posted on the state-run Turkmenistan.ru website said. The sacked senior officials were economy and development minister Eldash Sheripov, trade minister

Bayar Abayev and tax service chief Shatlyk Khumedov.

Sheripov and Khumedov were replaced respectively by former subordinates Batyr Bazarov and Saperberdy Gundogdiyev, while ex-Chamber of Commerce head Dovran Orazmyradov has replaced Abayev as tax chief.

Berdimukhamedov, 58, has been conducting an extended shuffling of the cabinet as the country wrestles with an economic crisis brought on by low oil and gas prices. Last year the all-powerful

leader issued a call for greater economic diversification, in a rare admission of the national economy's over-reliance on oil and gas revenues that make up 90 percent of exports.

Currently China is Ashgabat's leading buyer of natural gas while Russian firm Gazprom announced at the beginning of the year it had ceased importing gas from the country. Berdimukhamedov came to power in Turkmenistan in 2006 following the death of Saparmurat Niyazov, described as "the father

of the Turkmen".

He subsequently set about reducing signs of the late president's bizarre cult of personality, which included Niyazov renaming months of the year after himself and relatives.

Last year, the government unveiled a gold-leaf statue of Berdimukhamedov on horseback in the capital Ashgabat, echoing a similar effigy to Niyazov that once rotated to follow the sun's movements in central Ashgabat but which has since been relocated to the suburbs. — AFP

INDIAN POLITICIAN BEATEN TO DEATH AFTER ELECTION RALLY

KOLKATA: Armed assailants beat to death an Indian politician whose party is contesting elections in the country's east as he returned home from a campaign rally, police said yesterday. Joydeb Jana, a mid-ranking leader of West Bengal state's ruling Trinamool Congress party (TMC), was attacked by armed men late Friday after addressing a campaign rally in West Midnapore district.

"(Jana) was found murdered by some unknown assailants," Anuj Sharma, West Bengal additional director general of police, told AFP. The attackers used bamboo sticks and iron rods, he said. "So far 11 people have been arrested in connection with the murder," Sharma said, adding that police complaints against 22 people had been registered in the case.

Trinamool Congress general secretary Partha Chatterjee told AFP he suspected supporters of rival political parties were behind the killing. "We think it's an act of revenge by opposition parties," he said. "We have asked the Election Commission to take appropriate action immediately."

West Bengal is one of five Indian states holding elections in phases this month and next, and the results will be announced on May 19. Parts of West Midnapore district go to polls on today. — AFP

eral mud and brick houses after flash floods triggered by torrential rains hit northern and northwestern Pakistan last week, killing over 50. Several districts remain cut off from the rest of the country after the flooding submerged roads and severed communication lines. The Pakistani army has been airdropping food supplies into remote areas and evacuated several foreign tourists. — AP

RESCUE WORKERS RETRIEVE 23 BODIES BURIED UNDER A LANDSLIDE

PESHAWAR: A national disaster management official says rescue workers have retrieved 23 bodies buried under a landslide in northern Pakistan.

Latif ur Rehman says the bodies, buried for the last six days, were retrieved yesterday and handed over to their families. He says there could be another seven or eight bodies still buried. The landslide had engulfed sev-

eral mud and brick houses after flash floods triggered by torrential rains hit northern and northwestern Pakistan last week, killing over 50. Several districts remain cut off from the rest of the country after the flooding submerged roads and severed communication lines. The Pakistani army has been airdropping food supplies into remote areas and evacuated several foreign tourists. — AP



KABUL: US Secretary of State John Kerry, left, and Afghanistan's Foreign Minister Salahuddin Rabbani talk at the start of their bilateral commission talks at Char Chinar Palace yesterday. — AP

AFTER IRAQ, KERRY CONFRONTS SIMILAR PROBLEMS IN AFGHANISTAN

'UNIFIED AND FUNCTIONING GOVERNMENT' IS GOAL

KABUL: US Secretary of State John Kerry hoped a brief stop Saturday in Afghanistan would help promote cooperation from a would-be "unity" government that has proved largely incapable of running the country less than two years after he worked to install the leadership team.

For America's top diplomat, it was the second visit in as many days to a country that the United States long has wished to stabilize. On Friday in Baghdad, Kerry backed efforts by Iraq's prime minister to settle a political crisis and stressed the importance of having a "unified and functioning government" to confront the Islamic State group.

In Kabul, Kerry met alone with Afghan President Ashraf Ghani and then included Ghani's rival, Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah. Kerry also participated in talks on security, governance and economic development.

Afghanistan remains largely lawless, is rife with corruption and struggling to check the Taliban's stubborn insurgency. "We need to make certain that the government of national unity is doing everything possible to be unified and to deliver to the people of Afghanistan," Kerry told Foreign Minister Salahuddin Rabbani and other officials. Kerry said he would tell Ghani and Abdullah to drop their "factional divisions."

How it is similar to Iraq

The challenges in Afghanistan are not unlike those Kerry encountered Friday in Iraq. The US invaded both countries under President George W. Bush and hoped to foster stable democracies. It hasn't happened, even though the US has spent some \$2 trillion so far and several thousand Americans have died in military operations.

Governments in both countries lack control over significant areas. Afghanistan's war against the Taliban is entering its 15th year. Iraq is still trying to muster the strength for an assault on Mosul, its second largest city, and other places held by IS.

Sectarian and personal rivalries threaten both governments. Security vacuums in each

threaten the United States. Despite President Barack Obama's pledges to end both wars, American troops cannot just leave. There are 9,800 US forces in Afghanistan, set to drop in principle to 5,500 next year. In Iraq, there are 3,780 now.

The issues in stabilizing Afghanistan

Obama has less than 10 months to leave both places in better shape, but the strategies differ: In Iraq, the US seeks the destruction of IS; in Afghanistan, it hopes to draw the Taliban into peace talks.

First, however, the Kabul government might need to reconcile its own divisions. Following a bitterly fought and inconclusive presidential election in 2014, Ghani and Abdullah are sharing power under a deal Kerry brokered. But the partnership has never really been defined and the government is in disarray. There are predictions it could collapse due to corruption and incompetence.

After almost two years, Ghani and Abdullah have failed to set aside their rivalries. The bitterness stems from a belief in

Abdullah's camp that the election was stolen and gifted to Ghani - an anthropologist who lived in the US for three decades - as someone with whom Washington could more easily do business.

The leaders also are seen as pandering to different constituencies: in Ghani's case, the majority ethnic Pashtoons, and in Abdullah's, the Tajiks. The pair recently cleared their diaries for a full-day meeting to iron out differences. They gave up after only two hours, Afghan and foreign officials said.

The country's defense minister and intelligence chief are acting in their posts because the parliament has not confirmed them; several other ministers have resigned. A cabinet reshuffle is expected soon.

Afghanistan's economy is contracting. Unemployment stands at 25 percent. Afghanistan needs to secure more international aid. The Taliban are nowhere near a defeated fighting force, while an IS affiliate may be making inroads. The much-hyped peace process has been all but dead for almost a year. — AP



WARSAW: People attend the anti-government, pro-abortion demonstration in front of parliament yesterday. — AFP

THOUSANDS PROTEST AGAINST PROPOSED POLAND ABORTION LAW

WARSAW: More than 3,000 people protested in Warsaw on yesterday against proposals to tighten Poland's abortion law, which is already one of the most restrictive in Europe.

The current legislation, dating from 1993, bans all terminations except when the pregnancy results from rape or incest, poses a health risk to the mother, or if the fetus is severely deformed.

Anti-abortion activists backed by the Roman Catholic church - some 90 percent of Poles identify as Catholic - have tabled a citizen's bill in parliament that would allow abortion only where it was necessary to save the mother's life.

The proposal, which would also increase the maximum jail term for people who perform abortions from two years to five, has sparked a backlash and yesterday's rally saw protesters waving wire coat hangers, a tool sometimes used in the past for crude

and dangerous self-terminations.

"I want women in Poland to have the same choice as in civilised countries, where the right to abortion is normal," said protester Urszula Kwasna, 37. The head of the ruling conservative Law and Justice (PiS) party Jaroslaw Kaczynski and Prime Minister Beata Szydlo have voiced their support for the proposal, which needs 100,000 signatures in support to be examined by parliament.

Opponents have launched their own plan to get 100,000 signatures supporting a law liberalizing abortion. Legal abortions in Poland, which has a population of 38 million, are limited to around 700 to 1,800 per year.

There are no reliable statistics on the number of illegal abortions in Poland or women who undergo the procedure at clinics in nearby countries like Austria, Germany and Slovakia. — AFP

IRAN, INDIA TO DEVELOP MAJOR OFFSHORE GAS FIELD

TEHRAN: Iran and India have concluded a deal for developing an Iranian major offshore gas field, Iran's Oil Minister Bijan Zanganeh said yesterday. Zanganeh made the statement to reporters after talks with visiting Indian counterpart Dharmendra Pradhan in Tehran.

He added that they also agreed to set a timetable for the project that was delayed for a long time due to the Western sanctions against the Islamic Republic for Tehran's nuclear program. The talks focused on the Farzad B gas field, that was discovered in 2008, and estimated to have initial reserves of

12.5 trillion cubic feet. It can be used over three decades.

Meanwhile, Zanganeh said that oil exports to India have reached 350,000 barrels daily, hoping they will increase after the international sanctions on Tehran are lifted. He also referred to talks the Indian minister held with Governor of Central Bank of Iran Valiollah Seif over oil dues on India. They agreed to follow the same old way of paying the debts.

India could not pay for oil imports from Iran for some time as a result of the banking sanctions on Tehran. They hit USD 6 billion. — Reuters

DELHI'S LEADER DUCKS AGAIN, THIS TIME AS SHOE HURLED AT HIM



VARANASI: Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), or the common man party, chief Arvind Kejriwal, shirt and face splattered with ink thrown at him, addresses an election campaign rally. — AP

NEW DELHI: First it was eggs and ink, and now a shoe. New Delhi's chief minister, Arvind Kejriwal, had to duck out of the way yesterday when a shoe was flung at him as he spoke at a news conference in the Indian capital.

Kejriwal, New Delhi's top elected official for just over a year, has been the victim of repeated attacks by supporters of opposing political parties. In addition to having eggs and ink thrown at him, Kejriwal got a swollen eye while campaigning in New Delhi in 2014 when a man slapped him across the face after placing a garland around his neck.

Yesterday, it was a disgruntled former worker for Kejriwal's own Aam Aadmi Party, or Common Man's Party, who hurled a shoe at the chief minister. The shoe missed the target, and Kejriwal was not hurt.

Television video showed police leading the shoe-throwing man away, but not before some of Kejriwal's supporters had landed a few blows on him. The man, identified by police as Ved Prakash, said he was angry because his complaint about corruption had been ignored by Kejriwal's government. — AP

CANDIDATES FOR NEXT UN CHIEF TO FACE NATIONS FOR FIRST TIME

UNITED NATIONS: For the first time in the 70-year history of the United Nations, all the member states will get a chance to question the candidates for Secretary-General, in a move to make the usually secret selection process for the world's top diplomatic post more transparent.

Last year, the UN General Assembly responded to the strong demand from many countries that Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's successor be chosen in a more open process, unanimously adopting a resolution allowing public hearings on how candidates would respond to global crises and run the UN's far-flung bureaucracy.

The secretary-general is chosen by the 193-member General Assembly on the recommendation of the 15-member Security Council. But General Assembly President Mogens Lykketoft says the two-hour public discussions with each of the eight candidates, starting Tuesday, are "potentially game-changing." — AP



GENEVA: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, UNHCR, Portuguese Antonio Manuel de Oliveira Guterres, speaks to the media during a press conference at the European headquarters of the United Nations. — AFP

THAILAND STEPS UP SECURITY AFTER UIGHURS 'LINKED TO TERROR' VISIT

BANGKOK: Thai police have stepped up security after two ethnic Uighur men from China linked to "foreign terror groups" visited a holiday island, a senior officer said yesterday.

Fears of a militant attack in Southeast Asia have risen recently, especially after the Islamic State group claimed an attack in the Indonesian capital in January in which eight people, four of them attackers, were killed.

"At the end of March, two Uighurs came to Phuket and stayed one night and then left Thailand," police Lieutenant General Suchart

Teerasawat told Reuters, referring to a tourist island on Thailand's Indian Ocean coast.

"These two have links to foreign terror groups," he said. Suchart said police did not have information about who the Uighurs met or where they went on the island. "We're investigating this. After staying one night the pair travelled to Malaysia and Indonesia. We understand they were eventually caught in Indonesia," he said.

Suchart said authorities were also investigating several ethnic Chechens following reports last week

that some were on Phuket.

On Thursday, Thai Defence Minister Prawit Wongsuwan said he had ordered surveillance of Uighur and Chechen visitors who might have entered Thailand on fake travel documents. Two Chinese ethnic Uighur men were arrested last year for their involvement in an Aug. 17 bombing at a Bangkok shrine that killed 20 people. They were charged with murder and possession of explosives.

Authorities said the bomb was in retaliation for a crackdown on human smuggling gangs and not a "terrorist"

attack. The Uighur people from China's far west are a Muslim minority and Chinese authorities accuse some of being involved in militancy.

In March, Indonesian forces killed two ethnic Uighurs who linked up with an Indonesian militant on Sulawesi island. Four Uighurs were jailed in Indonesia last year after trying to join the same network. China has said Uighurs pose an increasing threat to Indonesia.

China has long come under criticism for its treatment of Uighur Muslims. Hundreds of people have

died in recent years in unrest in the west China region of Xinjiang, where most Uighurs live. Hundreds, perhaps thousands, of Uighurs keen to escape unrest at home have travelled via Southeast Asia to Turkey.

Some Chechens from Russia are known to have joined militants in South Asia and Syria. Suchart said intelligence showed four Chechens planned to enter Thailand last month but two of them were caught in Malaysia before they were able to travel. "The location of the other two is not known," he said. — Reuters



PYONGYANG: What is believed to be an improved version of the KN-08 intercontinental ballistic missile. — AP

N. KOREA SAYS IT TESTS NEW ROCKET ENGINE

NUCLEAR STRIKES ON THE US?

SEOUL: North Korea's latest belligerent declaration - that it successfully tested a new long-range rocket engine that could allow nuclear strikes on the US mainland - leaves outsiders in a familiar predicament.

With only a few details and no independent confirmation of what happened, there's the usual skepticism. But if even only part of the long list of nuclear and missile work that the North has boasted of successfully completing since its fourth nuclear test in January is true, Pyongyang would seem to be barreling ahead toward its goal of nuclear-armed long-range missiles.

The claim Saturday of a successful ground test of an intercontinental ballistic rocket engine, if true, would be another big step forward for young leader Kim Jong Un. But South Korean officials say North Korea doesn't yet have a reliable intercontinental ballistic missile, let alone the ability to arm it with a nuclear warhead.

The problem, as always, is that nothing has come close to checking North Korea's advance. International nuclear disarmament talks have been stalled for years, and round after round of tough UN sanctions have done little to halt the North's nuclear tests and long-range rocket launches, both of which are crucial to developing a nuclear missile arsenal.

The test

The engine test, announced by the North's official Korean Central News Agency, follows last month's launch of a medium-range ballistic missile that violated UN Security Council resolutions that prohibit any ballistic activities by North Korea. It was the North's first medium-range missile launch since early 2014.

North Korea has also threatened pre-emptive nuclear strikes against Washington and Seoul and fired short-range missiles and artillery into the sea in an apparent response to ongoing US-South Korean military drills and tough UN sanctions imposed over the recent nuclear test and a long-range rocket launch.

In Washington, State Department spokesman Mark Toner called on North Korea to "refrain from actions and rhetoric that further destabilize the region and focus instead on taking concrete steps toward fulfilling its commitments and international obligations." There was no immediate comment by the South Korean government over the North's announcement.

Some analysts think Kim's belligerent stance is linked to a major ruling party congress next month meant to further cement his grip on power. The outside pressure and anger caused by bombastic threats and repeated nuclear-related tests, the argument goes, is meant to rally the North Korean people around Kim as he stands up to powerful enemies that Pyongyang says are trying to crush the North.

It is also possible that efforts to promote military accomplishments to a domestic audience are meant to make up for a lack of tangible economic achievements ahead of the Workers' Party congress, the first since 1980, said Kim Dong-yub, a North Korean expert at Seoul's Institute for Far Eastern Studies.

With typical rhetorical flourish, the North's KCNA said that Kim was delighted as the "high-power" rocket engine spewed out "huge flames with (a) deafening boom" during the ground test at the Sohae Space Center in the country's northwest, the site of its February long-range rocket launch. KCNA did not say when the test was conducted.

What Kim thinks

The news agency quoted Kim as saying that the North can now tip intercontinental ballistic missiles with more powerful nuclear warheads that could keep the US mainland within striking distance and "reduce them to ashes so that they may not survive in our planet."

The North's official Rodong Sinmun newspaper published photos of Kim smiling widely and clapping with officials. A burst of flames can be seen coming out of an object strapped to what

appears to be an outdoor vertical tower structure. The veracity of the photographs could not be independently confirmed.

While the newspaper's photos provided only limited information of what North Korea had done, they do indicate that the country is trying to create a different long-range rocket engine from the ones it has used on its space launch vehicles, said Lee Choon Geun, an analyst at South Korea's state-funded Science and Technology Policy Institute.

He pointed to differences in the rocket engines' shape and size and the way flames come out of them. It's impossible to tell how successful the North's recent test was without detailed data, Lee said. Experts say a militarized version of the rocket the North used to put its second satellite into orbit in February would potentially have the range to reach the US mainland. However, North Korea's possible candidates for an intercontinental ballistic missile have never been tested "end-to-end," from launch through re-entry and warhead delivery, to show they actually work.

The North has gone to great lengths in recent months to tout alleged advancements in its nuclear weapons and ballistic missile programs. Those claims have often been met with doubt by South Korean officials and experts.

The North's official media on March 9 showed a smiling Kim posing with nuclear scientists beside what appeared to be a model trigger device of a nuclear warhead. Kim declared that warheads had been miniaturized for use on ballistic missiles.

The North has also claimed to have mastered a re-entry technology designed to protect a warhead from extreme heat and other challenges when it returns to the atmosphere from space following a missile launch. It also said it had successfully conducted a high-powered, solid-fuel rocket engine test. Solid-fuel missiles are generally harder to detect before they are launched than liquid-fuel missiles. — AP

AIR FORCES OF CHINA, PAKISTAN LAUNCH JOINT TRAINING EXERCISE

SHANGHAI: China's air force yesterday began joint training exercises with that of Pakistan, China's defence ministry said, as the two nations' militaries strengthen operational ties.

The countries call each other "all-weather friends", with ties underpinned by long-standing wariness of their common neighbor, India, and a desire to hedge against US influence in Asia. "China's Air Force hopes to widen the scope of cooperation and dialogue with all countries and regions," the Chinese defence ministry said in a statement on its website, adding that the exercise, called "Shaheen V," would run until April 30.

China has long urged Pakistan to weed out what it says are militants from its far western region of Xinjiang who

have holed up in lawless ethnic Pashtun areas on Pakistan's Afghan border, home to a mix of groups, including the Taliban and al Qaeda.

For its part Pakistan wants to upgrade its air force, now dependent on a mostly outmoded fleet of US, French and Chinese fighter jets that Pakistani officials fear can do little against Indian craft or help target domestic insurgents.

In an interview with Reuters on Thursday, Pakistan Air Force second-in-command Muhammad Ashfaque Arain said the bulk of the burden was now borne by a fleet of US made F-16 aircraft. He saw the purchase of more F-16s as economically unfeasible, however. Instead, Islamabad plans to invest in a joint fighter built with China, the JF-17. — Reuters

18 FILIPINO SOLDIERS KILLED IN DAYLONG CLASH WITH MILITANTS

MANILA: At least 18 Philippine soldiers were killed in fierce daylong fighting with Abu Sayyaf extremists in the country's volatile south yesterday in the largest single-day combat loss by the government so far this year, officials said.

At least 52 other soldiers were wounded in the clashes with the Abu Sayyaf and its allied gunmen in the hinterlands bordering Tipo Tipo and Al-Barka towns on Basilan island, three military officials told The Associated Press.

The three senior officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not allowed to publicly discuss details of the clashes. It's the largest single-day combat loss by government forces this year in the south, where the military has been battling Muslim separatist rebels and extremists, and Marxist guerrillas.

The large combat losses were reported as the Philippines marked the Day of Valor to remember Filipino veterans who perished in World War II. The Abu Sayyaf was founded in 1991 in Basilan, about 880 kilometers (550 miles) south of Manila. With an unwieldy collective of preachers and outlaws, it vowed to wage jihad, or holy war, but lost its key leaders early in combat, sending it on a violent path of extremism and criminality.

The United States and the Philippines have separately blacklisted the Abu Sayyaf as a terrorist organization for deadly bombings, extortion, kidnappings for ransom and beheadings of locals and foreigners, including Christian missionaries in the south. More than a decade of US-backed Philippine offensives have weakened the Abu Sayyaf, but it remains a key security threat. — AP

LEBANON TO DECIDE ON FATE OF AUSTRALIAN FILM CREW

MELBOURNE: Lebanese authorities are expected to decide soon on whether a four-member Australian film crew will face charges in connection with a plot to kidnap two children in a child-custody dispute, Australia's foreign minister yesterday.

Lebanese police have detained the four Australians and accused them of involvement in the kidnapping of the two children from their Lebanese father on behalf of their Australian mother. "At this stage we understand they are still being held in detention and the question of charges is an issue that will be determined shortly," foreign minister Julie Bishop told reporters. The crew members were making a film about the mother's efforts to recover her children for the Australian current affairs show "60 Minutes".

"I cannot understate the seriousness with which the Lebanese authorities are viewing the case but we're doing all we can to maintain contact with all of the

parties involved," Bishop said. The Australian mother was also in detention in Lebanon, media has reported. "Given the sensitivities of this case and the fact children are involved, we are handling this very carefully," Bishop said.

Lebanese Interior Minister Nohad Machnouk was quoted on Thursday as saying the crew were "involved in abducting the two children and detained in respect of their participation in the kidnapping operation". CCTV footage broadcast on Lebanese TV had appeared to show the two children, who the father said were aged five and three, being bundled into a car by several attackers on a busy street in southern Beirut. The children's grandmother told media she had been hit on the head with a pistol during the abduction.

Lebanese media reported on Friday that Brisbane woman Sally Faulkner had been detained and her children returned to their father. — Reuters

VIETNAM GOVERNMENT SEES NEW FACES BUT POLICY SHIFT UNLIKELY

HANOI: Vietnam completed a protracted leadership transition yesterday, with 21 new faces in a cabinet tasked with reforming an economy seeing galloping growth but dogged by privatization and public debt problems.

Parliament approved a 27-member lineup that retains some important figures from a government credited with driving a pro-business agenda, including finance minister Dinh Tien Dung and deputy premiers Vu Duc Dam and Pham Binh Minh, who is also foreign minister.

The cabinet, which was announced on state television, has one woman, Nguyen Thi Kim Tien, who keeps her post as health minister. Nguyen Xuan Phuc, 61, was sworn in as prime minister on Thursday, replacing two-term premier Nguyen Tan Dung.

Dung's take-charge approach and pursuit of

stronger US ties shook up Vietnam's often thoughtful politics and won him plaudits, though his administration was dogged by a banking crisis and a graft-ridden state sector.

The new government takes office after a year of strong growth of 6.7 percent for its \$200 billion economy and record figures for foreign investment and mergers and acquisitions. But it has much work to do in shoring up recovery of a fragile banking sector, boosting a sluggish sell-off of stakes in state firms and managing public debt estimated at more than 60 percent of gross domestic product.

It also has big changes to make to comply with a US-led Trans-Pacific Partnership trade pact, including setting up independent trade unions for millions of workers in its expanding manufacturing sector. The cabinet has three

new deputy prime ministers, including former supreme court judge Truong Hoa Binh, and Vuong Dinh Hue, who was chief of the Communist Party's economic committee.

Le Minh Hung was appointed as central bank governor, replacing Nguyen Van Binh, who in January joined the party's 19-member politburo, Vietnam's core decision-making body. Even with the influential Dung out of the picture, the new government is expected to stick to the same strategy.

"Though Dung has been the public face of many of Vietnam's major economic reform initiatives and the development of stronger ties with Washington, these policies enjoy strong support among Vietnam's leaders," US-based advisory firm Albright Stonebridge Group said in a research note. — Reuters



HANOI: Nguyen Quang A, a prominent dissident and independent candidate running for the upcoming legislative election, speaks to his supporters as he leaves a consultative meeting with local residents yesterday. — AFP



Palestinian children play on a sandy hill on Friday in the town of Beit Lahia in the northern Gaza Strip. — AFP

ARAB DEMOCRACIES? NOT SO FAST, SAY SOME

CAIRO: A new-old idea is rattling around the Middle East five years after the Arab Spring stirred democratic ambition: That restoring stability, especially if accompanied by some economic and political improvements, should be reform enough for the moment. This discourse appears to be taking front and center these days, most obviously in Egypt - the region's most populous country and the one that raised the highest hopes for democracy advocates when the military in 2011 removed longtime ruler Hosni Mubarak as millions rallied against him and his Western support collapsed.

The current government is aggrieved to find itself facing possibly harsher international criticism than Mubarak ever did, mostly over questions of human rights. It argues that democracy does not require tolerance of chaos in the streets, and that unfettered freedoms can destabilize a brittle society facing illiteracy, poverty, weak democratic traditions and a jihadi insurgency.

In meetings with US Congressional delegations this week, President Abdel-Fattah Al-Sisi argued that "democracy is an ongoing process and cannot be realized overnight", elaborating that Egypt is committed to "striking the balance between enhancing security and stability and upholding rights and freedoms," according to a statement from his office. The idea has a philosophical foundation: Just as democracy is about more than elections and cannot allow an unbridled dictatorship of the majority, so must freedom not be allowed to become anarchy.

Critics dismiss such talk as self-serving, a conflating of criticism and sedition typical of elites trying to hang on to privilege. But the go-slow approach does find quiet

defenders not only among the wealthy and connected who benefit, but also among educated people who simply don't fully trust the masses at the moment. How much is hard to accurately gauge in a region where pundits are muzzled in ways both subtle and overt and where polling is rarely conducted. So claims about it tend toward anecdote, experience and logic.

"People value stability more than anything else," said Abdulkhaleq Abdullah, a professor of political science at United Arab Emirates University. He said the instability and rise of political Islam following the Arab Spring slowed the push for greater freedom and democracy, and that most UAE citizens aren't clamoring for sweeping change while they watch turmoil elsewhere in the region. "Let's just be modest about it," he said. "It is just very difficult to build a modern, stable democracy."

Others find it elitist to suggest that the Arab world is not ready for democracy. Are we really not deserving, they ask, of what the Indians and Brazilians take for granted? Some will mention cases of controversial election outcomes even in the West and ask: In such a complex world, can any society truly be ready? Is it not better to simply treat genuine freedom as a basic human right?

"The idea that some people are not prepared for justice is racist," respected Egyptian author Alaa Aswany told AP. "It reflects a lack of respect for people. I absolutely disagree with it." Still, to Egyptians who see their region's turbulence and observe police and soldiers being killed by Islamic State-affiliated jihadists in the Sinai Peninsula, the security argument especially can resonate. And in Jordan, where there's little doubt that the monarchy is in charge and crit-

ics know what lines not to cross, King Abdullah gets major points among the middle classes for keeping a place that borders Syria, Iraq and Palestine calm, even showing some modest economic growth.

There is a noticeable decline in the inclination to demonstrate in many countries - although this can mislead: the right to do so is much curtailed and people may have just tired of the trouble and strife. Certainly many seem terrified by what happened in places that have spun out of control. In Libya, militias hold sway. Yemen is mired in civil war, compounded by a year of Saudi-led airstrikes. Iraq's Sunni regions are overrun by the Islamic State group. In Syria, half the pre-war population of over 20 million has been displaced, and parts of cities have been leveled.

Lebanon is paralyzed by confessional politics and has hasn't been able to elect a president in almost two years,

and parliament rarely meets. Mahmoud Abbas' term as president of the Palestinian Authority ran out years ago. Democracy rarely gets mentioned in the United Arab Emirates, although there have been elections for a federal citizens' advisory council. In Saudi Arabia, the monarchy holds absolute control over an oil-financed government, and municipal councils are the only elected government body. Other Gulf nations have relatively powerless parliaments.

Egypt, compared to other Arab states, has made impressive strides. Sisi overwhelmingly won presidential elections in 2014 with far more votes than had been won two years earlier by Mohamed Morsi, the Islamist president the military overthrew for alleged misrule in 2013. While the election was widely criticized because the previously ruling Muslim Brotherhood was banned, few claim the vote count was falsified - no small matter considering the region's recent history. And the president is constitutionally limited to two terms in office - a stark contrast to most of the region. Egypt also has a new elected parliament more diverse and empowered than has been the norm in the region.

There has been growing clamor by outsiders and activists against what many term a crackdown on dissent: a law against street demonstrations and another essentially criminalizing anyone contradicting official statements on security; lengthy periods of detention without charges; banning some activists from travelling abroad; and dozens of secret detentions.

But the government's defenders cast the criticism on human rights as unfair since other countries in the region are worse. In this way Egypt finds itself in an ironically similar situation to neighbor and former enemy Israel. Israel's Declaration of Independence promises full equality and that the Jewish state will be a "light unto the nations." With expectations so high, its supporters now struggle to defend the Jewish state's half-century occupation over millions of stateless Palestinians on the grounds that other situations around the world are even worse. — AP



CAIRO: In this May 26, 2014 file photo, an Egyptian soldier watches a voter cast his ballot in the presidential election. — AP

OBAMA URGED TO HELP FREE ACTIVISTS IN GULF

Continued from Page 1

Vice Adm Kevin Donegan, commander, US Naval Forces Central Command, said yesterday the exercise was designed to stop militants from causing disruption to shipping as, "we know that they want to disturb trade lines". "This region provides a strong training

opportunity for nations worldwide as three of the six major maritime chokepoints in the world are here: The Suez Canal, the Strait of Bab Al Mandeb and the Strait of Hormuz," Donegan said. Kerry had praised security cooperation with Bahrain on Thursday during a visit to the Gulf monarchy, calling it a "critical security partner". — Agencies

US WARNS OF 'THREATS' TO TURKISH TOURISM...

Continued from Page 1

A series of attacks in the capital Ankara and Istanbul - blamed on Kurdish militants or jihadists - have left 79 people dead since January and created jitters among residents and tourists alike. The March 19 attack in Istanbul left four Israelis and an Iranian dead, while a January attack in city killed eleven German tourists. Many countries have already issued travel warnings, but Israel repeated its call for citizens to leave the country on Friday following a fresh assessment. "Following a situational assessment, we are reiterating and sharpening the high level of threat in Turkey," Israel's counter terrorism bureau said. "There are immediate risks of attacks being carried out in the country, and we stress the threat applies to all tourism sites in Turkey."

Istanbul - Turkey's biggest city and historic center which straddles Europe and Asia - and Antalya with its turquoise Mediterranean waters, are both firm tourist favorites. However the series of suicide attacks as well as a spat with Russia have hit the tourism sector hard. Russia ordered its travel agencies to stop selling trips to the country, a major destination for Russians, after Turkey shot down one of its jets on the border with Syria.

The tourism ministry has reported visitor numbers plunged 10 percent in February, even before the latest Istanbul attack and a car bomb which killed 35 people in Ankara. Local media reported this week that Turkey was planning to increase flights to Iran as part of its bid

to woo visitors from elsewhere. The state-run Anatolia news agency reported Turkish tour operators would focus their attention on Ukraine instead of Russia, with Turkey hoping to attract one million visitors from its Black Sea neighbor to compensate for losses elsewhere. Tourism is a mainstay of the Turkish economy and according to official statistics, foreign tourism brought in almost \$31.5 billion in revenues in 2015.

The Islamic State group is suspected of having carried out several of the recent attacks, including one which left 103 people dead at a peace rally in Ankara in October last year. However two other Ankara suicide bombings this year have been attributed to a radical Kurdish group which Ankara says is linked to the outlawed Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK), locked in a bloody battle with government forces in the southeast of the country.

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan yesterday lashed out at the west for backing Syrian Kurdish militia group the PYD in the fight against IS, which Turkey says is linked to the PKK - which the US and EU consider a terrorist group. "They are appendages of the same body ... If you do not see that the PYD is a terror organization that means that you do not see the Ankara attack as a terror attack," Erdogan said during a speech in Istanbul. "The end of this crippled logic is that you don't see the Brussels and Paris attacks - and god forbid any attacks in London - as terror attacks. Is the fight with terrorism not supposed to be a common struggle?" — AFP

EX-US HOUSE SPEAKER HASTERT ABUSED 5...

Continued from Page 1

Statutes of limitations have long passed on the abuse, which took place when Hastert taught and coached at Yorkville High School in Illinois from the 1960s to the early 1980s, so he is only being charged for breaking financial laws. Hastert's abuse consisted of "intentional touching of minors' groin area and genitals or oral sex with a minor," according to prosecutors. The nature of the misconduct, allegations of which first emerged last year, had not previously been officially confirmed.

Hastert was speaker of the House of Representatives between 1999 and 2007. At the time he was seen as a stolid, affable politician that helped the US legislature transition from the rancorous tenure of his predecessor, Newt Gingrich. Ironically, it was a scandal involving a former lawmaker - Mark Foley - sending sexually explicit and suggestive messages to teenage pages, or aides, that led to Hastert's downfall as speaker.

Prosecutors said the money served to pay Individual A after Hastert made him stay in his motel room during a wrestling camp and massaged his groin area. "Defendant used his position of trust as a teacher and coach to touch a child's genitals and then undress and ask the child for a back massage in a motel room," prosecutors wrote of that encounter. "There is no ambiguity; defendant sexually abused Individual A."

In the end, Hastert was able to actually pay Individual A a total of \$1.7 million - half the agreed amount - between 2010 and 2014 in regular payments that only stopped when the government started investigating him. Hastert gave two other boys aged 14 and 17 a massage in the locker room before performing an

unspecified sex act on them in separate instances. One of those boys indicated that the coach would sit in a recliner chair "in direct view of the shower stalls in the locker room where he sat while the boys showered", prosecutors said.

Stephen Reinboldt, who died in 1995, was abused by Hastert throughout his time in high school in 1967-1971, according to his sister and others. During a massage session, Hastert brushed his hand over the genitals of another boy, who found the encounter "very weird". An attorney for Hastert did not immediately respond to requests for comment, but his lawyers did offer an apology in a memorandum earlier this week.

"First and foremost, Mr Hastert is deeply sorry and apologizes for his misconduct that occurred decades ago and the resulting harm he caused to others," it read. "He regrets that he resorted to structuring the withdrawal of his money from banks in an effort to prevent the disclosure of that misconduct." On Friday, Hastert filed under a seal a response to the government's pre-sentence investigation report. A hearing has been set for Wednesday on whether his response can remain under seal.

In his filing, Assistant US Attorney Steven Block accused Hastert of "stunning hypocrisy". In a 2004 memoir, Hastert wrote that "there's never sufficient reason to try to strip away another person's dignity." Block commented: "Yet that is exactly what defendant did to his victims. He made them feel alone, ashamed, guilty and devoid of dignity. While defendant achieved great success, reaping all the benefits that went with it, these boys struggled, and all are still struggling now with what defendant did to them." — AFP

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Issues

SEX TRADE LESS VISIBLE,
BUT ALIVE AND WELL
IN NORTHERN EUROPE

By Pierre-Henry Deshayes

Top of Form

Streetwalkers have largely disappeared from the sidewalks but prostitution remains alive and well in northern Europe where laws criminalizing the purchase of sex have been in place for years, illustrating the limits of legislation. France on Wednesday passed a law punishing the clients of prostitutes, following in the footsteps of Sweden, Norway and Iceland - three countries at the forefront of women's rights.

Sweden was the first country to do so in 1999, and Norway and Iceland followed suit a decade later. But prostitution is far from being eradicated in these countries, despite the fact that sex clients risk heavy fines or even prison sentences, though no one has been jailed so far. "It resolves nothing," insisted "Rita", said a Norwegian prostitute using a pseudonym. "The sex trade has been around for hundreds of years and will always exist."

Internet, Smartphones

Authorities are however satisfied with the effects the legislation has had. "The law has really had a deterring effect on clients. We see it in our daily work," said Simon Haggstrom who heads up Stockholm police's anti-prostitution squad. The head of Oslo police's anti-trafficking unit, Thor Martin Elton, agreed. "The prostitution market in Oslo has shrunk considerably. The most notable difference is that you no longer find family men among the clients, whereas that was common before."

A 2014 report published in Norway concluded that the law had had the desired effect, noting that prostitution had decreased by 20 percent to 25 percent since the legislation was voted through in 2009. But the report's methodology and conclusions have been questioned. "Prostitution volumes are about the same as before the law," said Astrid Renland, who heads the Pion organization representing Norway's prostitutes, estimating their number at "between 2 500 and 3 000".

Street prostitution has clearly diminished as a result of the law, but the decline can also be attributed to increased efforts to expel illegal aliens and social programs to help drug addicts get clean. But more importantly, the sex trade has flourished on the internet and on smartphones, and now takes place hidden from view of authorities.

Shady Types

In eight years, the number of prostitutes advertising their services swelled more than 20-fold to almost 7 000, a Swedish 2015 study showed. However, it is difficult to quantify the sex trade as a single prostitute could be behind several different ads on a number of websites, and because a large number of prostitutes are foreigners only in the country for a short while. While the question of whether or not the law has reduced prostitution remains a contested issue, the ban on buying sex has had a negative effect on prostitutes themselves, say sex workers' associations.

Prostitutes now have to ply their trade out of view to protect their clients' anonymity, putting them at greater physical risk. "Many say their situation is worse now than before, not because it's hard to find clients" but "because the balance of power has changed", explained Bjorg Norli, the director of Pro Stretent, an association helping prostitutes in Oslo. While many sex clients used to be your traditional family man, clients are now more likely to be shady types resorting to violence, threats, robbery and unusual and dangerous sexual requests.

"The law, which was supposed to offer protection, on the contrary makes prostitutes more vulnerable. Selling your body has become a more dangerous business, more solitary," Swedish prostitute "Emma" told public television SVT in 2015. Sex work remains stigmatized, and confidence in the police, who have them evicted from their work premises under other laws against pimping, has also plunged.

On Dec 17, on the International Day to End Violence Against Sex Workers, a young Bulgarian prostitute was found murdered in Oslo. "Her colleagues and friends had not dared tell police she was missing" for fear of ending up on the police's radar, Renland said. "The different examples worldwide show that laws are not going to reduce prostitution significantly," said Norli. "Rather, you need to address the socio-economic factors that make some people resort to selling their bodies," she said. —AFP

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Washington Watch

'HINTS' OF AN END TO YEMEN'S NIGHTMARE

Dr James J Zogby is the President of the Arab American Institute

For decades now, Yemen's people have suffered from bad governance, underdevelopment, and prolonged civil conflict. Despite enduring these multiple hardships, Yemenis have largely been ignored by the rest of the world. During the past year, Yemen's pain has been compounded by a devastating air war. Earlier this week, the New York Times ran an editorial under the promising headline "Hints of an End to the Fighting in Yemen". The "hints" were that recent meetings between the Saudi government and elements of Yemen's rebel leadership had concluded with announcements of: a prisoner exchange; an April 10 ceasefire; and peace talks set to begin a week later in Kuwait. The assessment of some analysts was that the Times might be overly optimistic, but there is at least some hope that Yemen may be turning a corner.

While there have other periods of upheaval in Yemen's past, the recent chapter began in the aftermath of the unrest that rocked the country in the wake of the Arab Spring. Yemen had long been a desperately poor country that, even in the best of times, had been politically unstable. There were tribal conflicts; a conflict between the distinct political cultures of the north and south of the country - a legacy of the colonial era; and a home to a branch of al Qaeda. The decades-long administration of President Saleh, once heralded by the Clinton Administration as a model "emerging democracy" had ossified and become corrupt with rampant nepotism. What the Arab Spring demonstrators wanted was an end to Saleh's corrupt rule and a number of political and economic reforms.

As the country convulsed in unrest, the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) together with the UN intervened attempting to stabilize the situation by making modest reforms in the governance of Yemen. The agreement they reached led to the

removal of "President for life" Ali Abdullah Saleh, replacing him with his Vice President Abedrabbo Mansour Hadi and a government of technocrats.

On replacing Saleh, Hadi laid out a reform agenda which Saleh, who never left the country, opposed and worked to obstruct. Without full domestic backing and before he had been given the time and resources needed to make real change, the reform effort floundered.

It was at that point that the Hadi government was overthrown by an invading band of rebels in coalition with elements of Yemen's army who had remained loyal to the deposed president, Ali Abdullah Saleh. As the rebels moved from the capital, Sana'a, southward, Saudi Arabia and its GCC partners became concerned. They were angered that the compromise they had worked to achieve had been undone. Because Saudi Arabia had, in the past, fought Houthi rebel incursions into their territory, they were loathe to see a Houthi/Salah controlled regime to their south. What heightened their upset were the boasts coming from some in Iran who claimed that they, Iran, now had a presence in four Arab capitals - Baghdad, Damascus, Beirut, and Sana'a. While there had been some debate as to the extent of Iranian support for the Houthi takeover, the Iranian claims and reports of Iranian shipments of arms and supplies to Sana'a created a reality the Saudis would not ignore or tolerate.

Already reeling from the perception that Iran had become an ascendant power in Iraq and from Iran's political and military involvement in supporting the Assad government in Syria, the Saudis were determined to draw the line in Yemen. Compounding their concern were the P5+1 negotiations with Iran over that country's nuclear program. Saudi Arabia and other GCC countries, correctly or not, feared that this process would not only result in a nuclear agreement, but would legitimate Iran in the eyes of the West, end sanctions, and free up billions of dollars providing the Iranians with resources to pursue their quest for regional hegemony.

Devastating War

And so a year ago, a Saudi-led coalition began air strikes with the intention of turning back the Houthi rebellion and restoring the government of President Hadi. As a result of this air campaign, the last year has been especially devastating for Yemen. It has been a war that no one has one has won - with the Yemeni people paying the greatest price. According to United Nations statistics, over 6,000 have been killed, 30,000 wounded, and two and one-half million have been internally displaced. Because of Yemen's difficult and unwelcoming terrain and the fact that it is surrounded on two sides by water, there is nowhere for refugees to go. Twenty-one million Yemenis are in dire need of humanitarian care, including 19 million who lack clean water and sanitation, 14 million who lack health care, and over two million (of whom, 300,000 are children) who face severe malnutrition.

Saudi Arabia's regional role has been tarnished by continuing reports of civilian targets being hit by its air strikes - with many human rights organizations charging that the attacks have constituted war crimes. Taking advantage of the chaos and resentment of the air war, Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula has expanded its reach in the country. And the US has been compromised by its acquiescence to (and provision of military supplies that have enabled) the devastating bombing campaign.

And so, it can only be hoped that the hints are in fact more than just "hints": that the warring sides have come to the conclusion that this madness must end; and that negotiations will usher in a process of political compromise and national reconciliation, restoring the Hadi government. At this point, the real agenda for Yemen will not only include political reform and a unifying of Yemeni and regional forces to defeat Al-Qaeda, but reconstruction and a major international effort, led by the GCC and the US, to address the fundamental needs of Yemen's long suffering people.

NOTE: Dr James J Zogby is the President of the Arab American Institute

FRIDAYS OFF, BUT VENEZUELANAS NOT EXACTLY HAPPY

By Maria Isabel Sanchez

After long weekends. Three precious days to catch up on sleep, spend time with family, enjoy a getaway... or, in Venezuela, to stand in snaking lines at supermarkets whose shelves are bare and whose lights could go out at any minute. That was how Isleida, a government employee at the Venezuelan transport ministry, planned to spend the first of two months of mandatory Fridays off. The measure, which applies across the public sector, was decreed this week by President Nicolas Maduro as part of an emergency plan to save electricity while Venezuela struggles through an economic crisis and a severe power shortage. Isleida spent the morning doing housework, then planned to go shop for food - a scarce commodity in the recession-racked country. "It shouldn't be like this. We're paralyzing the country. Lots of things aren't getting done," said Isleida, a 50-something woman whose name has been changed to protect her from scrutiny - or worse - by government officials.

The socialist government blames the electricity shortage on three years of drought, which have choked off the 18 hydroelectric dams the country relies on for power. But some economists warned that shutting down the public sector once a week would only make the recession worse. "The impact of the electricity crisis will be devastating for the country's productivity, which was already clearly depressed. It's horrifying to see the condition of our economy and infrastructure," said economist Luis Vicente Leon. "It's even more horrifying that the only official response to the fact that there's no light is to turn out the lights."

Blackouts have swept the country because of the crisis. The drought has caused officials to implement water rationing, too, adding to the headaches of a nation already suffering shortages of food, basic goods like deodorant and toilet paper, and soaring inflation, which came in at 180 percent last year.

'Backwards Like a Crab'

"Everything's running behind. This is a step backwards for the country. We're moving backwards like a crab. We're in bad shape," said Carmen Avendanos, a 62-year-old retiree who went to her state-run bank Friday - only to find it closed. The shutdown does not apply to schools, hospitals or other essential services. Maduro, who had already cut the workday to six hours for ministries and state companies, has also ordered them to cut their electricity consumption by 20 percent.

The president has dispatched the army to monitor compliance. Major electricity consumers such as hotels face nine hours of rationing a day, during which they must generate their own power. Shopping centers have cut back their hours since that plan was introduced. Adalberto, who has a small candy shop near the transport ministry, was waiting for customers to appear on Friday morning. "Twenty percent of

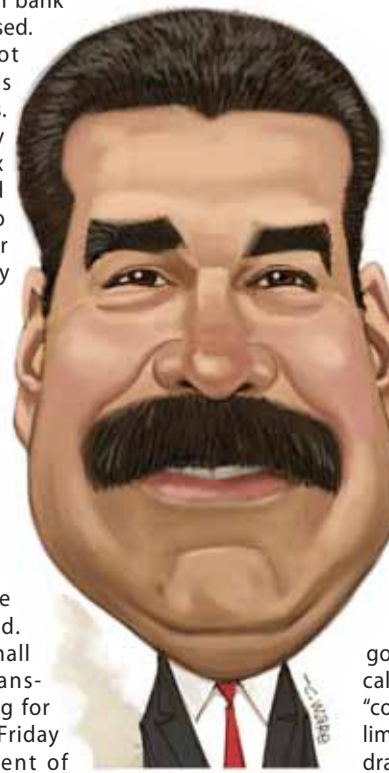
my customers work at the ministries. But the (hydroelectric) dams are in critical condition. We have to do our part," he said.

Turning Off the Lights

Anticipating a backlash from the opposition - which capitalized on voter frustration to win a landslide in legislative elections last year, and is now trying to force Maduro from power - the president called on the nation to avoid "hate, revenge and little diatribes". That didn't stop the speaker of the National Assembly, Henry Ramos Allup. "To solve the chaotic electricity problem, the genius of Miraflores (the presidential palace) has rolled out this rubbish of Fridays off. To fully solve it, he should just extend it to 365 days a year," he wrote ironically on Twitter.

Experts questioned whether the plan would even affect electricity consumption. "There will be no major impact from this measure," said Joel Carrillo of the Venezuelan College of Engineers' Electricity Commission. His organization has called on the government to revive old thermoelectric power plants in the face of what they warn is the imminent collapse of output from the Guri hydroelectric dam, which supplies 70 percent of Venezuela's electricity. The dam currently has a water level just three centimeters (about one inch) above the critical limit.

Venezuela has the world's largest oil reserves, but the government has resisted using crude to generate electricity, calling it inefficient. Maduro has urged Venezuelans to be "conscientious" by turning out lights, watching less TV and limiting use of their hair dryers in order to avoid even more drastic measures. —AFP



BENGALS COACH LEWIS GIVEN EXTENSION

LOS ANGELES: The Cincinnati Bengals have agreed to extend coach Marvin Lewis' contract until the end of the 2017 season, NFL.com reported on Friday. The Bengals would not comment on the report. His contract was due to expire at the end of the 2016 season, but for the third successive year the team gave the 57-year-old a one-year extension. Lewis, who has been with the team since 2003, is the second longest tenured coach in the NFL behind New England's Bill Belichick. He has a career record of 112-94-2 and turned the Bengals into regulars in the post-season, but has failed to win a playoff game during his tenure. Cincinnati were beaten by Pittsburgh in the AFC Wild Card playoffs in January, their fifth consecutive defeat in the post-season first round. Meanwhile, New York Jets left tackle D'Brickshaw Ferguson is retiring at the age of 32 after 10 seasons in the NFL, according to reports. Ferguson, the fourth overall pick in the 2006 draft, played every game in 10 seasons - 167 consecutive starts, including the playoffs. — Agencies

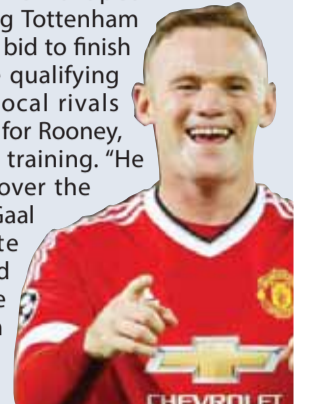


CUBS LOSE OUTFIELDER SCHWARBER FOR SEASON

LOS ANGELES: The Chicago Cubs have lost left fielder Kyle Schwarber for the rest of the 2016 season, just days into a Major League Baseball campaign in which they were tipped to end a century-long title drought. The Cubs said that Schwarber tore two ligaments in his left knee and sprained his ankle in an outfield collision with center fielder Dexter Fowler as they chased a ball in a game against Arizona on Thursday night. Fowler rammed into Schwarber's legs and the 23-year-old crumpled to the warning track as Arizona's Jean Segura circled the bases for an inside-the-park home run. Schwarber knew there was a chance he was seriously injured when he met reporters after the game. "Can't get mad about playing hard and getting hurt," Schwarber said. "Would rather play hard and get hurt than not play hard and not get hurt." Jorge Soler will start in left field against the Diamondbacks on Friday. Versatile Munenori Kawasaki was recalled from minor league affiliate Iowa to fill Schwarber's roster spot. "It's obviously tough," first baseman Anthony Rizzo said. —AFP

ROONEY RETURNS TO TRAINING AFTER INJURY

LONDON: Manchester United captain Wayne Rooney has returned to training as he recovers from a knee injury and will play for the under-21s against Middlesbrough tomorrow, said manager Louis van Gaal. The England forward damaged his knee in February but is on course to return to first-team action in time to get fit to play at this year's European Championship in France. United visit title-chasing Tottenham Hotspur in the Premier League on Sunday as they bid to finish in the top four and secure a Champions League qualifying spot. They are a point behind fourth-placed local rivals Manchester City. The Spurs game comes too early for Rooney, who has nonetheless already shown his class in training. "He scored a goal-he made a fantastic shot, a chip over the goalkeeper. It was his first training session," Van Gaal was quoted as saying on the club website (www.manutd.com) on Friday. "He can be so good that I shall be forced to give him a position in the team but it depends on what we are seeing (each day)." — Reuters



REDS CLING ON FOR FIRST WIN OF SEASON

BRISBANE: Australia's Queensland Reds clung on for their first victory of the season denying the Super Rugby champions Otago Highlanders 28-27 in Brisbane yesterday. The Reds outplayed the Highlanders in the first half to lead 22-6 and extended the advantage to 28-6, but it was all hands to the pump for much of the second half as the Kiwi champions roared back to just miss out. It was the Reds' sixth straight win at home over the Highlanders. Returning openside flanker Liam Gill, scrum-half Nick Frisby and blockbusting centre Samu Kerevi scored first half tries in the Reds' best half of rugby by this season.

But it was a tense time for the home side and their fans in the second period as All Black scrum-half Aaron Smith scored the Highlanders' first try, preceding further five-pointers from Malakai Fekitoa and fly-half Lima Sopoaga. Sopoaga dashed 80 metres to score off an intercept pass and converted from the sideline to close the deficit to one point.

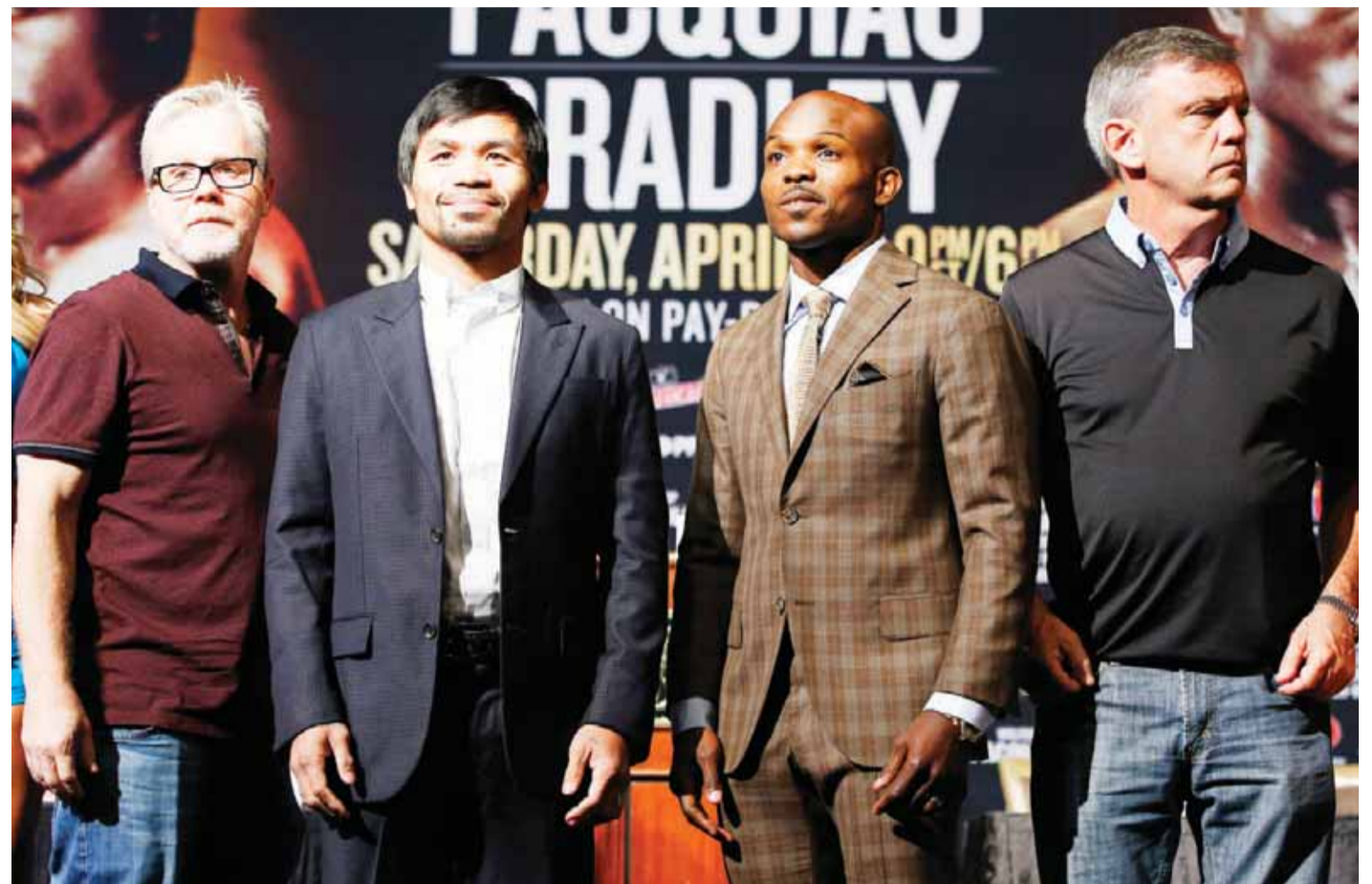
The Reds had to work overtime to hold out the charging Highlanders and end the defending champions' five-match winning sequence. The Highlanders had two tries disallowed when skipper Shane Christie was penalised for offside and Sopoaga's

effort was rubbed out for foul play from Joe Wheeler.

It was a more confident performance from the Reds, who were without a win in the first five rounds forcing out head coach Richard Graham. Kerevi was a constant threat to the Otago midfield defence, while fullback Karmichael Hunt transformed one of the least effective attacks in Super Rugby. Wallabies flanker Gill was also a big boost for the 2011 champions with his work-rate and experience.

The only downside for the Reds was Wallaby lock Rob Simmons, who was forced off with a shoulder injury just before halftime.

"It was tough. We played pretty well in the first half and we wanted to come out in the second half and keep going," Reds skipper James Slipper said. "We knew the Highlanders would get their fair share of the ball and they can score tries from anywhere. We're pretty happy with that win." Skipper Shane Christie said the Highlanders paid for their poor start. "We fell off some easy tackles in the first half, the Reds played fairly quickly, but I was really happy with our second half performance," he said. "I thought we showed a lot of character and missed out on a couple of tries." — AFP



LAS VEGAS: Manny Pacquiao, from the Philippines, third from left, poses with Timothy Bradley, third from right, during a news conference, in Las Vegas. The two are scheduled to fight in a welterweight title fight in Las Vegas. Trainer Freddie Roach is second from left, and trainer Teddy Atlas is second from right. — AP

FIT AGAIN SAVEA BAGS TRIPLE FOR HURRICANES

WELLINGTON: Julian Savea bounced back from public humiliation over his lack of fitness with a hat-trick of tries as the Hurricanes downed the Jaguares 40-22 in a Super Rugby clash in Wellington yesterday.

In the first outing for the All Blacks' star after being put on an intensive fitness regime two weeks ago he showed signs of his blockbusting best, breaking the game open with a touchdown double just on halftime. He scored his third try in the 62nd minute to push the Wellington Hurricanes out to a 33-15 lead. The Hurricanes outscored the Jaguares six tries to three, with the bonus-point try scored by replacement prop Ben May on fulltime.

With four wins from six games, the Hurricanes lie fourth in the New Zealand conference while the Jaguares have now lost five of six and are third in the Africa 2 conference.

They did indicate they were capable of producing a boilover in the first half when they were winning the forward exchanges and lead 12-7 after 31 minutes.

But Savea turned the tide with his first try, two minutes from the break when Beauden Barrett put Blade Thomson through a hole and the big lock threw a long pass to send the wing crashing over

in the corner. Savea scored again immediately from the restart when scrumhalf TJ Perenara broke around the blind side of a maul and kicked downfield with the 'Canes wing outspringing Jaguares speedster Matias Orlando in a 40-metre race to recover the ball and score.

Barrett, who finished with a match haul of 15 points, converted both tries from wide out for the Hurricanes to turn with a 21-12 lead.

Nicolas Sanchez narrowed the gap with a penalty 10 minutes into the second half before Dane Coles and Savea scored in quick succession.

Jaguares standout scrumhalf Martin Landajo kept the Jaguares in the hunt with a try in the 67th minute before they wilted to their heaviest defeat of the year with May's late try.

The Hurricanes were first on the board when Barrett scored after Brad Shields secured turnover ball and Ardie Savea mounted a counter-attack.

But when Ardie Savea was yellow-carded for collapsing a maul when the Jaguares were driving for the line, the South American's took advantage of the one-man advantage with a try to Leonardo Senatore. Moroni scored the Jaguares second try to put them five points ahead before Savea revived the Hurricanes fortunes. —AFP

PACQUIAO HAS FAMILIAR PLACE, OPPONENT FOR RETURN TO RING

LAS VEGAS: He returns to a familiar place, with an equally familiar opponent. Manny Pacquiao is taking no chances when he meets Timothy Bradley in what could be the last fight of his remarkable career.

There's chatter in the background about a possible rematch with Floyd Mayweather Jr., though that appears very unlikely. Their hugely hyped fight last May was a dud, and Mayweather has shown no interest - at least publicly - in changing his mind about retirement.

Pacquiao could be headed there himself, even if he beats Bradley in the rubber match of their series. He's running for the Senate in the Philippines, a job that takes far more time than his current position of congressman in his native country, and polls make him a favorite in next month's election.

Pacquiao might solidify his position in the polls with a win over Bradley in Saturday night's welterweight fight at the MGM Grand, where he met Mayweather last May. Everyone loves a winner, though Pacquiao is already beloved by most people in the Philippines as the biggest sports hero the country has ever had.

Indeed, Bradley said he would be in Pacquiao's corner if he had a vote.

"He's shown over and over that he is for the people and by the people and that he's a man of his word," Bradley said. "He's always shown that character and that integrity and I think he's the right man for the job."

RETIRE

Pacquiao has waffled about whether this is his last fight, saying he still loves boxing but his family wants him to retire. Trainer Freddie Roach said he believes Pacquiao has benefited from a year's rest after the Mayweather fight and can go on at the age of 37, even though he hasn't scored a knockout since 2009. "He hasn't slowed down at all," Roach said. "He still has a couple fights left in him." Pacquiao weighed in Friday afternoon at 145 1/2 pounds to 146 1/2 for Bradley. The welterweight limit is 147 pounds.

Pacquiao is guaranteed \$7 million - a far cry from the \$100 million or so he got to fight Mayweather - to meet Bradley again in a pay-per-view fight that is struggling to get noticed. With good reason, because there's still a hangover from the Mayweather fight and he and Bradley have already fought 24 mostly non-descript rounds.

"He will be remembered as one of the best fighters who ever put on the gloves," Bradley said. "But I'm a different fighter than I was in the first two fights." Bradley won the first of those fights on a highly controversial decision, then faded in the later rounds to lose the second bout. He says he is rejuvenated under new trainer Teddy Atlas, the longtime ESPN broadcaster who he convinced to return to boxing to train him. "Having Teddy is like having a cheat sheet. He analyzes fights," Bradley said. "This fight will be fought differently. I'm going to be a lot smarter than I was the first two fights."

Pacquiao is a 2-1 favorite in his return to the ring, which comes after shoulder surgery and a long rest in the Philippines. The winner of titles

in eight weight classes - the first one coming 17 years ago at 112 pounds - he hasn't had a knock-out since 2009 though he was on the receiving end of one when he lost to Juan Manuel Marquez. "I feel it's good that I had a long layoff," said Pacquiao, who began his pro career as a 16-year-old in 1995 in the Philippines. "It makes me hungry again, makes me fresher."

Not feeling quite as good as promoter Bob Arum, who has struggled to sell the fight. There were tickets widely available in the days leading up to the bout, and pay-per-view projections

have been scaled down. Mayweather had trouble selling his last fight, too, drawing relatively meager pay-per-view numbers for what most considered a non-competitive bout against Andre Berto. The low numbers for both fighters indicate fans are suffering from hangover from buying the Mayweather-Pacquiao fight.

Arum has tried to generate more interest by trumpeting a "No Trump" undercard of mostly Hispanic fighters he said will strike a blow for immigrants. "My Hispanic army is marching," Arum said. — AP

ISNER BOOKS S-FINAL WITH DEFENDING CHAMP SOCK

LOS ANGELES: Top seed and former title holder John Isner downed Chung Hyeon 7-6 (7/5), 6-4 on Friday to book a semi-final clash with defending champion Jack Sock at the ATP claycourt tournament in Houston on Friday. Isner, who lifted the trophy in 2013, saved all seven break points he against the rising South Korean star, firing 14 aces and winning 58 percent of his second serve points.

The US veteran was solid when it mattered most against the 19-year-old Chung, voted last year's Most Improved Player by his peers. "That one game in the first set, I was down four break points," Isner said.

"Serving at 4-3 (in the second), I was down three break points and I had to hit a stab volley on one of them. That was huge. He played a good return game."

Although he pulled off the win, Isner said he expected to see Chung continue to rise. "He's only going to get better, he's only going to get stronger, he's going to make all his shots better," Isner said. "At 19 years old, he's got such an incredible ceiling right now."

Isner set up a clash with another young standout in Sock, who defeated seventh-seeded Cypriot Marcos Baghdatis 6-4, 6-4. Sock,

seeded fourth, converted two of his eight break point opportunities and that was enough to extend his Houston winning streak to seven matches. Former champion Juan Monaco of Argentina ousted fifth-seeded American Sam Querrey 6-4, 6-4 to book a semi-final against third-seeded Spaniard Feliciano Lopez, a 6-2, 6-3 winner over American Tim Smyczek.

"Every match that I play here, especially on center court, I feel great, I feel confident," said Monaco, who won in Houston in 2012.

Monaco, now ranked 148th in the world, is in his first semi-final in more than a year. He has been slowed by injury in 2016, withdrawing from the Australian Open with a right wrist injury and retired from his first-round match in Rio de Janeiro with right shoulder trouble.

Monaco will face a tough task against Lopez, who leads their career head-to-head 4-2 and said after downing Smyczek that he was gaining confidence with every match.

"Sometimes for me (confidence) means a lot," Lopez said. "It's tough to play first rounds, normally, so once I start winning I can play better and better. And today, I played quite good." — AFP



HONG KONG: Samoa's Faalemiga Selesele (C) is tackled by France's Manoel Dall Igna (L) during the second day of the Hong Kong Rugby Sevens tournament yesterday. — AFP



John Isner

WATSON TAKES HIS FINAL BOW ON MASTERS STAGE

AUGUSTA: An emotional Tom Watson shed a tear strolling up 18 at Augusta National on Friday disappointed he missed the cut in his final Masters but happy he doesn't have to play the uphill par-four hole anymore. The 66-year-old Watson posted a six-over-par 78 in his Augusta goodbye for an eight-over 152 total to miss the cut by two shots. "It's a little bit out of my league now, the golf course, certain holes in particular," smiled the eight time major winner. "I'm glad I don't have to hit the five-woods and three-woods at 18 anymore. That's the reason I'm not playing here anymore. "These kids are hitting it up there and they are hitting seven and eight irons on 18, and I'm back there trying to hit a three-wood on that green."

For the record, Watson hit a driver and five-wood to the back of the 18th green and successfully negotiated a nasty left-to-right downhill 66-foot putt for a tap-in par.

As the ball disappeared into the cup an adoring gallery stood and applauded while Watson hugged his caddie Neil Oxman, his

wife, his children and friends. Then he waived goodbye to his competitive career against the "kids."

"I know I'm going to continue to play against the old guys (on the Champions Tour)," Watson said. "I doubt if I will play against the kids anymore." This was Watson's 43rd Masters. His first was in 1970 as an amateur.

He won in 1977 and 1981 and made his last cut in 2010, nine months after he stunned the golf world when at 59 when he had a chance to win a sixth British Open title, but lost in a playoff to Stewart Cink.

Watson started his final round believing he had a chance to make the weekend one last time, especially after the way he putted on Thursday.

"I'm just a golfer," said Watson. "I just go out and I try my damndest to play the best golf I possibly can every time I'm on the golf course when I'm in competition. "I didn't feel like it was a final walk until basically the last couple holes because I still had a shot at it. "That's just me." — Reuters



AUGUSTA: Jordan Spieth hits on the fourth hole during the second round of the Masters golf tournament Friday, in Augusta. —AP

AMATEUR IMPRESSES DESPITE FINAL-HOLE STUMBLE AT MASTERS

AUGUSTA: A triple-bogey seven dropped Bryson DeChambeau four shots from the lead at the Masters, but the closing-hole blunder failed to dampen the spirits of the American amateur on Friday.

Playing in the same group as second-round leader Jordan Spieth, DeChambeau arrived at the 18th tee one shot behind the defending champion. But a pulled tee ball forced DeChambeau to reload and another errant drive made him fortunate to score a seven for a 72 and even-par total of 144.

"Everybody is going to go back to 18, 'oh, he was nervous,'" the confident amateur said. "No, I hit two pulled drives. I don't like the left-to-right wind on that hole."

The 22-year-old DeChambeau has caused a buzz around Augusta National with his unconventional theories about golf. He was a physics major at Southern Methodist University and uses his area of study in his game.

For example, his irons are all 37.5 inches in length, the same length as a standard six iron. In a standard set of irons, the clubs gradually get shorter down to the wedges. DeChambeau believes that by having his

irons the same length he can use the same swing with all his clubs. The theory has worked for him. Last summer, he became only the fifth player to win the U.S. Amateur and individual U.S. College championship in the same season, following Jack Nicklaus, Phil Mickelson, Tiger Woods and Ryan Moore.

After the Masters he will make his pro debut at the Heritage Classic in Hilton Head, South Carolina. DeChambeau did not return for his final year of school last fall and instead prepared for the Masters and turning pro by playing in the Australian Masters, Australian Open, three European Tour events and the Arnold Palmer Invitational last month.

He made the cut in each tournament and finished joint second at the Australian Masters. "I was an intern for the past seven, eight, or six months," he said. "Right around when I won the US Amateur, I knew I had this time to get ready. What we were trying to do was take my rookie year out of it."

"I'll still be a rookie, but at the same time that was our goal and I think we've done it so far beautifully." — Reuters



AUGUSTA: Amateur Bryson DeChambeau tees off on the 12th hole during the second round of the Masters golf tournament Friday, in Augusta. — AP

SPIETH, MCILROY CONTINUE BATTLE FOR MASTERS GLORY

AUGUSTA: The final pairing for a weekend at the Masters is what everyone wanted - Jordan Spieth and Rory McIlroy, winners at four of the last six majors.

Just nobody expected this kind of an Augusta National. In the toughest scoring conditions at the Masters in nearly a decade, Spieth had a five-shot lead that nearly disappeared before he saved par from a bunker with a 15-foot putt on the final hole for a 2-over 74 and a one-shot lead over McIlroy.

"It was very tough to stay cool," Spieth said. "You could say, 'Looked like you got emotional out there.' I mean, you guys try it. That was a hard golf course."

McIlroy, who trailed by as much as eight shots at one point, put the career Grand Slam in clear view by making birdie on both par 5s on the back nine and picking up a bonus birdie with a 40-foot putt on the par-3 16th for a 71.

That matched the lowest round of the day, the first time since 2007 that no one broke 70 at the Masters. "You just have to look at the scores and you can see how tough it is today," McIlroy said.

Spieth set a Masters record with his sixth straight round in the lead, and it took a few minutes for him to appreciate that after trying to survive gusts that reached 30 mph and a golf course so crusty that even 2-foot putts made him nervous.

He was at 4-under 140, the highest 36-hole to lead at Augusta since 2007. The scoring average was 75.02, also the highest in nine years.

"I'm still in the lead. I couldn't ask for much better than leading," Spieth said. Spieth and

McIlroy will tee off in the last group - one going for his second green jacket, the other needing one to complete the ultimate collection of golf prizes.

Given the conditions - more of the same is expected - this felt more like everyone against Augusta National than Spieth vs. McIlroy.

"It would add a lot of excitement and buzz and atmosphere to the tournament, obviously," McIlroy said. "If you start to think about anyone else ... I've only got the mental capacity to focus on me right now, especially how tough it is out there."

Spieth said it would be exciting to play with McIlroy and left it at that. There was too much golf to play, too many players still in the mix. "There's the potential tomorrow for someone to shoot a few under and move up into the lead from outside the top 25," Spieth said. "There's a potential for that with what I saw on the last six holes today, the way the course was playing. So I don't think either one of us is focused on each other. I think we're focused on the golf course."

Danny Lee bogeyed his last two holes for a 72 and was two shots behind, along with Scott Piercy (72). The only other players who remained under par were Hideki Matsuyama (72), Brandt Snedeker (72) and Soren Kjeldsen (74).

Dustin Johnson birdied all the par 5s for a 71 and was in the group at even par that included U.S. Amateur champion Bryson DeChambeau, who felt the sting of Augusta on the final hole. DeChambeau was playing the best round of the day at 3 under and just one shot out of the lead. But he hooked his tee shot

into the trees and had to return to the tee, hooked the next one and made triple bogey for a 72.

Still in the mix was Jason Day, the No. 1 player who sputtered along to a 73 but was only five shots behind. "It almost feels like a US Open where you need to survive," Day said. "And I'm trying my best to survive right now."

Spieth finished a round over par at Augusta for the first time in his three Masters appearances. Coming off his wire-to-wire victory last year, that par save on the 18th allowed him to set a record for consecutive rounds in the lead. Arnold Palmer was atop the leaderboard for six straight rounds in 1960 and the opening two rounds in 1961, though he shared the lead in those last two rounds.

Despite the lead, it was hard to get past Spieth's mistakes - a four-putt double bogey on No. 5, a three-putt bogey on No. 16, and another bogey on the 17th hole.

"I was at 8 under and you finish at 4. That's kind of tough," Spieth said. "I felt like I played better than 4 over from the fourth hole on."

Spieth's par on the last hole not only kept him in the lead, it sent Phil Mickelson home for the weekend because of the 10-shot rule. Mickelson shot a career-high 79 and finished at 7-over to miss the cut.

Tom Watson missed the cut by two shots in his final Masters appearance, walking up the 18th fairway to a standing ovation and warm applause. He parred his last four holes for a 78 and said later, "I'm glad I don't have to play that 18th hole anymore." Spieth, McIlroy and everyone else have two more days to endure to see who claims the green jacket. —AP

WINNERS OF GULFRUN 11 AWARDED



FINAL RACE STANDING :

Circuit Championship			
Street Class			
1. H. Al-Ibrahim	BMW M3		28 Points
2. N. Al-Ali	BMW M4		26 Points
3. B. Al-Sarraf	BMW M3		18 Points
Super Class			
1. F. Al-Zaid	KTM XBOW R		30 Points
2. M. Al-Wagayan	Porsche GT3RS		26 Points
3. K. Al-Duaij	KTM XBOW GT		16 Points
Unlimited Class			
1. A. Al-Otaibi	KTM XBOW RR		30 Points
2. M. Woelfling	KTM XBOW GT4		24 Points
3. N. Al-Sabah	Porsche Turbo		14 Points
Quartermile Drag Competition			
Street Class			
1. M. Al-Otaibi	Mercedes A45		12.982
2. J. Al-Rayes	VW Golf R		13.061
Super Class			
1. M. Al-Hajeri	Dodge Hellcat		10.909
2. M. Al-Monawer	Ferrari California T		11.633
3. H. Al-Khorafi	Chevrolet Corvette		11.945
Unlimited Class			
1. T. Al-Essa	Nissan GTR		9.569
2. M. Al-Sabah	Ferrari 488		10.602
3. H. Al-Jadi	Nissan GTR		10.813
Autocross Competition			
1. A. Al-Otaibi	KTM XBOW RR		33.972
2. N. Al-Salman	Porsche GT2		37.841
3. A. Al-Tammar	Alfa Romeo 4C		38.157

KUWAIT: GulfRun - Powered by Zain - hosted a ceremony to award the winners of the 11th GulfRun Race that took place at the Bahrain International Circuit on March 17th and 18th 2016. At the ceremony held on March 28th 2016, GulfRun trophies were presented to the winners in the presence of their sponsors.

"Since the inception of GulfRun, our aim has been to provide car enthusiasts the opportunity to train with qualified instructors in a secure environment, enhancing their skills and techniques," GulfRun CEO & Founder, Ahmed Al Mudhaf said, "Year after year, we have been seeing drivers vastly improve from previous years in addition to witnessing several new talented and impressive drivers."

GulfRun is an annual car race that is managed and organized by a group of Kuwaiti car enthusiasts who want to provide a venue for amateur drivers and to raise awareness on safe driving. Over 50 participants are classified into different categories according to their vehicles capabilities and power. At the racetrack, they are trained and compete in various motorsports venues at the track. Drivers can compete against their peers in a safe and secure environment; whilst learning valuable driving skills.

The GulfRun's management team extends their gratitude to the continuous support by Kuwait's private sector, which acknowledges the important role sport plays amongst Kuwait's youth. GulfRun XI is supported by a wide range of sponsors: Title sponsorship by Zain Telecom; Platinum Sponsors: Hydrotek, Algida, Jashanmal, Slider Station, American Tax Bureau; Gold sponsorship by Bespoke Automotive, Al-Sawan Co., MotoCare, Credit One, The Correspondent, and SEVENFRIDAY; Payment Partner: Tap.



LARKIN SENDS OUT RIO WARNING WITH DOMINANT BACKSTROKE WIN

ADELAIDE: World champion Mitch Larkin was under world record pace before qualifying for the Rio Olympics in the 100-metre backstroke at the Australian Swimming Championships in Adelaide yesterday. The FINA Male Swimmer of the Year was on track to go under American Aaron Peirsol's seven-year 100m back-

stroke world record (51.94) before easing off to win in 52.54 seconds. Larkin holds the Australian and Commonwealth record of 52.11secs and posted the year's fastest time (52.48secs) in Friday's semi-final. Larkin said he had done enough at the Olympic trials to send a message to his rivals in Rio. "I think they know I can swim

fast. And I know I am capable of it," Larkin told reporters. "I have come a long way in 12 months and there are a few more months of work left. I am a bit disappointed (in missing the world record) but the main goal was to book a ticket to Rio." Larkin will attempt to clinch the backstroke double with the 200m event

at the Australian trials later in the meet. His girlfriend and fellow dual world champion Emily Seebohm also qualified for Rio with the world's fastest time of 58.73secs in the 100m backstroke event. Seebohm last year claimed the 100m-200m backstroke double at the Kazan world championships and is looking for

her first Olympic gold medal at Rio. In yesterday's other finals, Cameron McEvoy and Thomas Fraser-Holmes dead-heated in the 200m freestyle in a time of 1:45.63 while Georgia Bohl made her first Olympic team by winning the 100m breaststroke (1:06.12) ahead of Taylor McKeown (1:06.68). — AFP

FEDERER BACK AS BIG GUNS TEST MONTE CARLO CLAY

MONACO: Roger Federer will test a January knee injury under competitive conditions from today when the Monte Carlo Masters marks the opening of the pre-Roland Garros spring clay court campaign. The 17-time grand slam champion who has stalled in four finals at the seaside Country Club, has kept fans well in the frame through tweets this week as he trains for the start of his first event in nearly two and a half months.

"Expectations are really low, which is nice for a change," said Federer. "Just see where I am, go out there. But once you're out there, you want to win, it's clear. I'm a competitor. I'm just really pleased I'm back."

"I couldn't be more happy how rehab has gone. It's baby steps. Federer will start in the second round after the bye handed to top eight seeds; his first match will come against the winner from Thomaz Bellucci and Guillermo Garcia-Lopez.

The 34-year-old underwent his knee operation in Switzerland in early February after injuring himself with a sudden, innocuous movement while preparing a bath for his children in Melbourne the day after losing a semi-final to Novak Djokovic.

The Swiss was to have returned a fortnight ago in Miami but came down with a stomach virus and never made his start. In his absence world number one Novak Djokovic has continued to set a fevered pace, collecting the March hardcourt Masters title double in the US and moving to touching distance of a record \$100 million mark in career prize money - a few hundred thousand ahead of Federer.

Holder Djokovic will be in the chase for his third title at his home event after win-

ning 2016 trophies in Doha, Melbourne, Indian Wells and Miami.

CAREER TEST

Seeded second will be Andy Murray, who needs to snap out of the tennis lethargy which has characterised his return to competition since the early February birth of his first child.

The Scot has not played in the principal-ity since 2013 and has tournament-best showings of 2009 and 2011 semi-finals. Another major name facing a career test will be fifth seed Rafael Nadal, winner of eight consecutive titles from 2005-2012.

The 29-year-old king of clay remains a question mark after struggling during a miserable 2015 but is showing signs of life - though no titles since Hamburg last August - in 2016. His appearance in Miami ended as he quit a match with illness, almost unheard of for the ironman Spaniard.

Nadal remains positive about his favourite part of the season, with emotional as well as physical issues now apparently under control.

"Last year I was competing against myself and this year I am competing against rivals," he told Spanish media. "I could not get over the anxiety."

"I love what I do. I will train while I am happy. I do not feel anxious while playing. I do not have last year's issues." He begins against either Lukas Rosol or Briton Aljaz Bedene.

The 2014 champion Stan Wawrinka takes the fourth seeding ahead of Nadal, Tomas Berdych, seventh seed David Ferrer and number eight Frenchman Jo-Wilfried Tsonga. — AFP



TORONTO: Junichi Tazawa #36 of the Boston Red Sox delivers a pitch in the seventh inning during MLB game action against the Toronto Blue Jays on Friday at Rogers Centre in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. — AFP

HOLT HITS GRAND SLAM, RED SOX BEAT BLUE JAYS

TORONTO: Brock Holt hit a grand slam in the sixth inning and the Boston Red Sox overcame a five-run deficit to defeat the Toronto Blue Jays.

The Red Sox scored twice in the seventh inning to take the lead and spoil the home opener for the Blue Jays, who also had a grand slam from Josh Donaldson after being honored before the game as last year's American League MVP. Toronto right-hander Marcus Stroman allowed six hits, three walks and five runs in 5 1/3 innings. He struck out four.

INDIANS 7, WHITE SOX 1

Francisco Lindor went 2-for-4 and scored a pair of runs, and the Cleveland Indians cruised to a 7-1 win over the Chicago White Sox.

Carlos Santana and Yan Gomes drove in two runs apiece as the Indians scored seven runs for the second consecutive game. Cleveland (2-1) won its first road game of the season after posting a winning record away from home in 2015. Todd Frazier hit a solo home run to mark the only scoring for the White Sox. Chicago (3-2) managed only three hits during a blustery home opener with temperatures hovering in the 30s.

PADRES 13, ROCKIES 6

Colorado's Trevor Story continued his stunning home run rampage at the start of his career. But the San Diego Padres took advantage of the hitters' paradise that is Coors Field and ended their historic scoring drought by pounding the Rockies 13-6. The Padres extended their major-league record of consecutive scoreless innings to start the season to 30 before ending that streak in a big way with a six-run fourth inning on their way to spoiling the Rockies' home opener. Story continued his amazing slugging at the outset of his career, belting his fifth and sixth home runs. With home runs in four consecutive games to start his career, Story tied a major-league record held by Willie Mays in 1971, Mark McGwire (1998), Nelson Cruz (2011) and Chris Davis (2013).

TIGERS 4, YANKEES 0

Jordan Zimmermann pitched seven innings of two-hit shutout ball while Miguel Cabrera drove in two runs with a solo home run and a single to make the unbeaten Tigers' home opener a success. Zimmermann (1-0), signed as a free agent from Washington, allowed just three baserunners. He gave up singles in the third and fourth, walked three and struck out three. Relievers Justin Wilson and Kyle Ryan completed the three-hit shutout with an inning apiece.

METS 7, PHILLIES 2

Neil Walker delivered the tiebreaking run-scoring single in the sixth inning and added an RBI single during a four-run seventh inning as the defending National League champion New York Mets routed Philadelphia in their home opener. The Mets improved to 35-20 in home openers, including 5-3 since Citi Field opened in 2009. The Phillies have been outscored 26-12 in losing all four games this season.

ORIOLES 6, RAYS 1

Chris Davis, Jonathan Schoop, Nolan Reimold and Manny Machado all homered as

the Baltimore Orioles remained unbeaten with a 6-1 victory over the Tampa Bay Rays. All four had solo homers, with Schoop, Reimold and Machado hitting theirs in a four-run fifth which broke the game open.

Baltimore starter Chris Tillman (1-0), who threw just two innings on Opening Day due to a rain delay, got the win. The right-hander gave up one run on four hits in five innings, bouncing back after a slow start to retire 11 of the last 12 batters he faced.

PIRATES 6, REDS 5

Starling Marte hit his first career grand slam to erase a three-run deficit in the eighth inning helping the Pittsburgh Pirates remain undefeated with a 6-5 victory over the Cincinnati Reds. Ryan Vogelsong (1-0) earned the victory for the Pirates who are 4-0 to start a season for the first time since 2003. Both

teams battled the elements, combining for five errors and four hit batters. There also were a combined 18 runners stranded. Brandon Phillips returned from missing two games due to illness and hit a solo homer, had two RBIs and scored twice.

CARDINALS 7, BRAVES 4

The St. Louis Cardinals clubbed three pinch-hit homers, including the go-ahead shot from Aledys Diaz in the eighth inning, to overcome a four-run deficit and defeat the Atlanta Braves. Diaz, a rookie from Cuba, hit the second pinch-hit homer against Eric O'Flaherty (0-1) deep into the left field seats for his first career homer. Greg Garcia added some insurance with a solo pinch-hit homer against John Gant in the ninth inning. Gant also allowed a solo homer to right fielder Stephen Piscotty. — Reuters

FOLIGNO, PROUT SCORE IN BLUE JACKETS 4-1 WIN OVER SABRES

BUFFALO: Joonas Korpi made 34 saves and four players scored to lead the Columbus Blue Jackets to a 4-1 victory over the Buffalo Sabres.

Matt Calvert, Nick Foligno, Dalton Prout and Brandon Saad scored for the Blue Jackets (33-40-8). Sam Reinhart tallied for the Sabres (34-36-11) while Jason Kasdorf made 26 saves in his NHL debut.

Calvert opened the scoring on the power play with 1:15 remaining in the first period. The left winger skated inside the left circle with speed before unleashing a hard wrist shot off the far post and in for his 10th goal of the season.

The Blue Jackets could not stay out of the penalty box in the second period, taking four separate penalties, and the Sabres eventually made them pay on a 5-on-3 opportunity.

Reinhart put the Sabres on the board at

13:37 with a terrific deflection on a pass by fellow rookie Jack Eichel. It was Reinhart's 23rd goal. The Blue Jackets soon took back control, despite being outshot 18-6 in the second. Foligno made it 2-1 with 4:44 remaining in the second. After Columbus forced a turnover along the right wall, center Boone Jenner found a wide-open Foligno for his 12th goal.

Prout gave Columbus a 3-1 lead 2:09 later on a 3-on-2 rush up ice. Prout ripped a hard wrist shot high to the glove side for his third goal.

Saad made it 4-1 at 5:11 of the third. After Kasdorf lost track of the puck behind the net, center Alexander Wennberg found Saad wide open in the slot and Saad buried a one-timer for his 30th goal. Sabres defenseman Zach Bogosian left the game in the first period after taking a hard hit from Saad and did not return. — Reuters



BUFFALO: Jason Kasdorf #33 of the Buffalo Sabres keeps an eye on the puck in the air as teammate Mark Pysyk #3 defends against Matt Calvert #11, Gregory Campbell #9 and William Karlsson #25 of the Columbus Blue Jackets at First Niagara Center on Friday in Buffalo, New York. Columbus defeated Buffalo 4-1. — AFP

NHL results/standings

Columbus 4, Buffalo 1.

Western Conference						
Central Division						
W	L	OTL	GF	GA	PTS	
Dallas	49	23	9	264	228	107
St. Louis	49	23	9	223	196	107
Chicago	47	26	8	231	204	102
Nashville	41	26	14	226	212	96
Minnesota	38	32	11	215	204	87
Colorado	39	38	4	213	235	82
Winnipeg	34	39	8	211	236	76
Pacific Division						
Los Angeles	48	28	5	222	191	101
Anaheim	44	25	11	211	189	99
San Jose	45	30	6	240	210	96
Arizona	35	38	8	209	244	78
Calgary	34	40	7	229	259	75
Vancouver	30	38	13	187	240	73
Edmonton	31	43	7	200	241	69
Eastern Conference						
Atlantic Division						
Florida	46	26	9	234	201	101
Tampa Bay	46	30	5	225	196	97
Detroit	41	29	11	209	221	93
Boston	42	30	9	239	224	93
Ottawa	37	35	9	230	246	83
Montreal	37	38	6	216	234	80
Buffalo	34	36	11	197	219	79
Toronto	29	41	11	197	241	69
Metropolitan Division						
Washington	55	17	8	247	190	118
Pittsburgh	48	25	8	244	200	104
NY Islanders	45	26	9	227	207	99
NY Rangers	45	27	9	233	215	99
Philadelphia	39	27	14	206	215	92
Carolina	35	30	16	196	221	86
New Jersey	37	36	8	179	207	82
Columbus	33	40	8	214	248	74

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

MLB results/standings

Detroit 4, NY Yankees 0; NY Mets 7, Philadelphia 2; Cleveland 7, Chicago White Sox 1; San Diego 13, Colorado 6; Baltimore 6, Tampa Bay 1; Boston 8, Toronto 7; Pittsburgh 6, Cincinnati 5; St. Louis 7, Atlanta 4.

American League Eastern Division				National League Eastern Division			
W	L	PCT	GB	W	L	PCT	GB
Baltimore	4	0	1.000	NY Mets	2	1	.667
Boston	2	1	.667	Washington	2	1	.667
NY Yankees	2	2	.500	Miami	1	2	.333
Tampa Bay	2	3	.400	Atlanta	0	3	0
Toronto	2	3	.400	Philadelphia	0	4	0
Central Division				Central Division			
Detroit	3	0	1.000	Pittsburgh	4	0	1.000
Cleveland	2	1	.667	Chicago Cubs	3	1	.750
Kansas City	2	1	.667	Cincinnati	3	1	.750
Chicago White Sox	3	2	.600	Milwaukee	2	2	.500
Minnesota	0	4	0	St. Louis	1	3	.250
Western Division				Western Division			
Seattle	2	2	.500	San Francisco	4	1	.800
Oakland	2	3	.400	LA Dodgers	3	2	.600
Texas	2	3	.400	Colorado	2	2	.500
Houston	1	3	.250	Arizona	2	3	.400
LA Angels	1	3	.250	San Diego	1	3	.250



TORONTO: Toronto Blue Jays' Josh Donaldson, right, celebrates with teammates after hitting a grand slam against the Boston Red Sox during the fourth inning of a baseball game Friday, in Toronto. — AP

BELARUS ATHLETICS CHIEF WINS BATTLE AGAINST DOPING BAN

MOSCOW: The IAAF says the head of athletics in Belarus has avoided a lengthy ban after winning a marathon legal battle against the World Anti-Doping Agency.

Vadim Devyatovskiy faced a possible lifetime ban from all sports after a 2013 retest of a sample he gave as a hammer thrower at the 2005 world championships came back positive.

A three-year legal tussle ensued, with Devyatovskiy defying a provisional sus-

pension to be elected as head of athletics in Belarus. He was previously banned for doping from 2000-02.

The most recent stage was a battle with WADA at the Court of Arbitration for Sport, but the IAAF now says: "WADA lost their appeal to CAS regarding Vadim Devyatovskiy, who is no longer provisionally suspended." The IAAF declined to provide further details, and WADA did not respond to a request for comment.

It is the second time Devyatovskiy

has won a legal battle against a doping ban. In 2010, CAS ruled he could keep his hammer throw silver medal from the 2008 Olympics on appeal in a dispute with the International Olympic Committee.

On Friday, Devyatovskiy was present as IAAF president Sebastian Coe discussed doping with the longtime authoritarian president of Belarus, Alexander Lukashenko. Belarus has been dogged by doping scandals for years,

and was put on the IAAF's watch list last month. "The development of athletics in the country, and the construction of a robust national anti-doping program to build trust in competition were key topics in their discussions," the IAAF said in a statement.

European Athletics head Svein Arne Hansen, said on Twitter that doping was "the main part of our discussion." Lukashenko, according to Hansen, "confirmed that the eradication of doping

from his national teams was his No. 1 priority." The IAAF refused to comment on reports in Belarusian state media that Coe pledged to help Belarus land the hosting rights for major athletics events. Belarus is hoping to host the 2019 European indoor championships. Among Belarusian athletes serving doping bans is the country's only track and field champion from the 2012 Olympics, Nadzeya Ostapchuk, who was forced to return her shot put gold medal. — AP

NO TWO-WAY BATTLE BETWEEN SAGAN AND CANCELLARA

COMPIGNE: Fabian Cancellara insisted yesterday that today's prestigious Paris-Roubaix one-day classic would not be a two-way battle between him and Peter Sagan. Cancellara has won the 'Hell of the North' three times in his career and is racing his last season as a professional. Victory today would take him level with great rival Tom Boonen and Roger De Vlaeminck, both Belgians, on a record four victories. World champion Sagan, though, is the form rider on the cobbles at the moment having won the Tour of Flanders last week, just a week after winning Gent-Wevelgem, having finished second at E3 Harelbeke two days before that. But having been trumped by the likes of Australian Stuart O'Grady, Belgian Johan Vansumeren and Dutchman Niki Terpstra during his decade-long rivalry with Boonen, Cancellara knows the dangers will be lurking from all sides on the cobbles.

"It's a race that's not just about me and Tom, that's clear. I also think it's not a race just about Cancellara and Sagan," said the 35-year-old Swiss. "Already we come from Flanders with rivals, with riders in great form, but this is Roubaix and it's not Flanders—that's a big change. "It changes everyone's method, it's a race like every year and that's important for me. "There are the riders, and the tactics of other riders of the other teams. I think Etixx (Boonen and Terpstra's team) will try to make it a tough race because they

have the most riders able to make big attacks. "But it's Roubaix and I know what I have to do," Sagan ended a long run of near misses in Monuments last week by winning in Flanders but he says he doesn't feel any different now that he's been catapulted into the position of primary favourite. "It changes nothing, I just have more interviews," he quipped. "It's a unique race. I'm the same racer, I just don't have the same shirt," he added, referring to the fact he will ride the race for the first time in the world champion's rainbow jersey.

"I feel well with all the recognition I got this week. It won't be the same race as the Tour of Flanders: the winner will be very lucky and will need to have good legs!" One of the main outsiders is Belgian Sep Vanmarcke, who was in good form in Flanders, finishing third behind Sagan and Cancellara. But for falling a couple of times, he may even have been stronger in the finish.

His main weakness is that he does not have a strong kick like Sagan and Cancellara, so he knows he must ditch them before reaching the outdoor velodrome in Roubaix.

"What's the tactic? I don't know, just be stronger and try to drop them. But that won't be easy with those two," said the Lotto-Jumbo team leader. "I will have to see how the race goes. I hope to have luck on my side and I will try to drop them." — AFP



AUBURN HILLS: Detroit Pistons guard Reggie Jackson (1) and Washington Wizards guard Ramon Sessions chase a loose ball during the second half of an NBA basketball game, Friday, in Auburn Hills, Mich. The Pistons defeated the Wizards 112-99. — AP

PHILADELPHIA CHEERS NCAA CHAMPS VILLANOVA WITH PARADE

PHILADELPHIA: Villanova fans descended on downtown Philadelphia on Friday to cheer their NCAA championship basketball team, flooding the city in a raucous sea of blue. Thousands of people filled Market Street and Dilworth Park to celebrate Villanova's victory over North Carolina in Monday night's final. Chants of "Let's Go, Nova!" grew louder as the team made its way along the five-block parade route toward City Hall.

Senior Jordyn Gaines said campus this week has been "absolutely insane." Her friend Caitlin Duggan called the championship "the perfect ending, for our year to be their year." "We rose up with the team," she said. "I can still remember being a freshman and rushing the floor ... when we beat Syracuse." Fans lined up 10-deep on some city sidewalks and blue and white confetti fluttered between office buildings as the players passed by, tossing T-shirts into the crowd from a double-decker bus. Others caught the celebration passing by from office building windows and lobbies.

The parade capped an emotional week for the Roman Catholic university in the city's western suburbs. Classes were canceled the day after the big win and for Friday's festivities. "A lot of teachers have been joking that class is done," Gaines said.

Jared Dawson, a 2015 Villanova grad, took the day off and came down from New York City to celebrate with fellow alums. On behalf of his class, Dawson took partial credit for the team's victory, saying, "We laid the groundwork."

Philadelphia sports fans have been yearning for a chance to celebrate. The city's four major pro teams have been mediocre to terrible of late. The Phillies were the last to win a title - in 2008.

Villanova's last title came in 1985, and the city threw a parade in their honor then, too. Coach Jay Wright predicted the drought won't last as long going forward. "We are a city of champions again. I promise you this is just a warmup," he said. The Wildcats beat North Carolina thanks to a buzzer-beating 3-pointer by junior forward Kris Jenkins. He explained how to coach kids to make shots like his clutch game-winner.

"Just tell them one, two, step and let it fly!" Jenkins told the roaring crowd at City Hall. Senior cheerleader Raquel Duke said she was touched that the team arrived back home Tuesday to find fans honking their horns, waving flags from overpasses and making "V" signs.

"I got tears in my eye just to see the entire city of Philadelphia just rooting for us and so proud of us," said Duke, 21, of Manhattan Beach, California. — AP



PHILADELPHIA: Fans cheer for members of the Villanova basketball team during a parade celebrating the team's NCAA college basketball championship, Friday, in Philadelphia. Villanova defeated North Carolina 77-74 for the NCAA championship title, the team's first since 1985. — AP

PISTONS CLINCH PLAYOFF SPOT WITH VICTORY OVER WIZARDS

AUBURN HILLS: Detroit clinched an NBA playoff berth for the first time in seven years by beating Washington 112-99 on Friday, led by 39 points from Reggie Jackson. Tobias Harris had 17 points and pulled down nine rebounds for Detroit (43-37), which gave away a 19-point lead but recovered to end the longest playoff drought in the Eastern Conference. Kentavious Caldwell-Pope tossed in 14 points and Marcus Morris contributed 13 for the Pistons, who will make their first post-season appearance since the 2008-09 season. All-Star Andre Drummond, who scored his 4,000th career point, was limited to eight points and six rebounds. Markieff Morris' 29 points led Washington (38-41), which was eliminated from playoff contention. Bradley Beal supplied 25 points for the Wizards, who played without All-Star point guard John Wall. He sat out for the second straight night with a sore right knee.

RAPTORS 111, PACERS 98

Rookie Norman Powell scored a career-high 27 points to help Toronto get past Indiana. Powell, a 23-year-old shooting guard from UCLA, made the most of a rare start by driving and getting to the free-throw line 19 times, hitting 14. Indiana (42-37) had a three-game winning streak snapped and was kept from clinching a playoff spot. The Pacers are one victory or a Chicago Bulls loss from punching their postseason ticket.

With the playoffs long secured for Toronto (53-26), the Raptors rested four starters—Kyle Lowry, DeMar DeRozan, Luis Scola and DeMarre Carroll, who returned to the lineup in a loss at Atlanta on Thursday after missing 41 games following surgery on his right knee.

CELTICS 124, BUCKS 109

Tyler Zeller matched a career high with 26 points off the bench and Boston, continuing its quest to finish third in the Eastern Conference, set up a showdown with the Hawks in Atlanta by hammering Milwaukee. The win, their fourth straight and eighth in the last 10 games, moved the Celtics into a tie with the Hawks for third in the conference. The Miami Heat and Charlotte Hornets are each a game behind and Boston (47-32) hosts Charlotte on Monday and Miami on Wednesday. Giannis Antetokounmpo continued his recent torrid offense by scoring 17 of his 27 points in the first quarter but fell victim to second-half foul trouble. Jabari Parker scored 18 points, Miles Plumlee had 16 and Tyler Ennis had nine assists.

HORNETS 113, NETS 99

Kemba Walker scored 22 points and Charlotte shot 49.4 percent in cruising to victory over Brooklyn. Troy Daniels had 17 points—with 5-of-7 coming from 3-point range-off the bench for the Hornets (46-33), who are fighting to catapult up the bunched Eastern Conference standings in their final

games of the regular season and secure homecourt advantage in the playoffs. The Hornets will be no worse than the sixth seed in the playoffs. Wayne Ellington led the Nets with 21 points on 8-for-12 shooting, while Thomas Robinson added 16 points and 17 rebounds. The Nets dropped their seventh straight—and 11th consecutive road game—in falling to 21-58.

MAGIC 112, HEAT 109

Nikola Vucevic scored 29 points and Evan Fournier had 28 to lead Orlando past Miami. The Magic (34-45) snapped the Heat's two-game winning streak and hurt the Heat's efforts to secure home-court advantage in the first round of the playoffs. Elfrid Payton had 16 points and 10 assists for Orlando. Victor Oladipo, who left the game late in the third quarter with a cut over an eye, had 13 points. Dwyane Wade led the way with 17 points for Miami (46-33). Goran Dragic had 15 points and eight assists. Hassan Whiteside contributed 13 points, 16 rebounds and three blocked shots.

PELICANS 110, LAKERS 102

Alexis Ajinca scored a career-high 28 points and grabbed 15 rebounds to lead New Orleans and spoil Kobe Bryant's final appearance in New Orleans. With three games left in his NBA career, Bryant played 22 minutes. He played the entire first quarter and matched his season high for the first period with 14 of the Lakers' 27 points. Bryant sat out the second quarter, was held scoreless in seven minutes of the third and came back in for a final bow, playing three minutes in the fourth. Bryant finished 4 of 15 from the field and 3 of 9 from long range. He also had four assists and three rebounds before leaving to the standing ovation with 4:15 left.

NUGGETS 102, SPURS 98

Jusuf Nurkic scored 21 points and Emmanuel Mudiay had 20 as Denver handed San Antonio its first losing streak of the season. Playing one night after losing in Golden State and arriving in Denver in the early morning hours, San Antonio rested six players that accounted for 72 percent of their point production. San Antonio (65-14) faces Golden State again Sunday at home and coach Gregg Popovich said before Friday's game he plans to use his entire roster. The Spurs, who were led by Tim Duncan's 21 points, are locked into the Western Conference's second seed.

KNICKS 109, 76ERS 102

Robin Lopez recorded 24 points, 15 rebounds and three blocks as New York dropped Philadelphia to 10-69. Sasha Vujacic and Jerian Grant scored 16 points apiece for the Knicks, who nearly blew a 19-point lead. Robert Covington had 30 points and 11 rebounds for the 76ers.

MAVERICKS 103, GRIZZLIES 93

Dirk Nowitzki scored 21 points and the Dallas Mavericks are closing in on a playoff spot after pulling away from the Memphis Grizzlies. Dallas (41-38) has won six in a row to reduce its magic number to clinch a Western Conference postseason berth to one with three regular season games remaining.

CLIPPERS 102, JAZZ 99 (OT)

Jamal Crawford scored 30 points and hit a game-winning 3-pointer with less than a second remaining to lift short-handed Los Angeles to a shocking victory over Utah. The Clippers, who've already clinched the No. 4 spot in the playoffs, played without the bulk of their starting lineup as Chris Paul, J.J. Redick, Blake Griffin and DeAndre Jordan remained in Los Angeles for rest. — Reuters

NBA Results/Standings

Charlotte 113, Brooklyn 99; Orlando 112, Miami 109; NY Knicks 109, Philadelphia 102; Boston 124, Milwaukee 109; Detroit 112, Washington 99; Toronto 111, Indiana 98; New Orleans 110, LA Lakers 102; Dallas 103, Memphis 93; Denver 102, San Antonio 98; LA Clippers 102, Utah 99 (OT).

Eastern Conference				Western Conference			
Atlantic Division				Northwest Division			
W	L	PCT	GB	Oklahoma City	54	25	.684
Toronto	53	26	.671	Portland	43	37	.538
Boston	47	32	.595	Utah	39	40	.494
NY Knicks	32	48	.400	21.5	Denver	33	47
Brooklyn	21	58	.266	32	Minnesota	27	52
Philadelphia	10	69	.127	43	Pacific Division		
Central Division				Golden State	70	9	.886
Cleveland	56	23	.709	LA Clippers	51	28	.646
Detroit	43	37	.538	13.5	Sacramento	31	48
Indiana	42	37	.532	14	Phoenix	21	58
Chicago	39	40	.494	17	LA Lakers	16	63
Milwaukee	32	47	.405	24	Southwest Division		
Southeast Division				San Antonio	65	14	.823
Atlanta	47	32	.595	Memphis	42	37	.532
Miami	46	33	.582	1	Dallas	41	38
Charlotte	46	33	.582	1	Houston	38	41
Washington	38	41	.481	9	New Orleans	30	49
Orlando	34	45	.430	13			

NEWCASTLE LOSES AT SOUTHAMPTON IN 8TH STRAIGHT AWAY LOSS



SOUTHAMPTON: Relegation-threatened Newcastle put in another lackluster performance yesterday as Southampton easily won their English Premier League match 3-1. An early goal from Shane Long in the fourth minute set the tone of a match in which Newcastle failed to make much impact. Graziano Pelle and Victor Wanyama added the second and third goals in the 38th and 55th minutes respectively to condemn Newcastle to its eighth straight away defeat. Andros Townsend scored a fine consolation goal on 65 minutes, but it did nothing to alter his side's fortunes. Newcastle stays 19th in the league, six points from safety with relegation looking increasingly likely. Southampton remains seventh. Newcastle's performance typified what has been a woeful run of form for Rafa Benitez's team. There was very little to cheer for the

travelling supporters, as they watched their side fail to deal with the attacking threat from a far superior Southampton.

"Newcastle are in relegation trouble, so we knew they were going to throw everything," said Southampton midfielder Wanyama. "We needed to stay in the game. We did it well."

Benitez's appointment as manager on March 11 has done little to change his side's fortunes. It is still without a win under the Spaniard, and this latest performance won't have given fans any reason for optimism. Newcastle now has just six games to turn its season around. "It is important that everybody continues to believe," Benitez said. "The anxiety is killing us sometimes. If we can control these things then things will change."

Southampton's first-half goals highlighted Newcastle's weaknesses, both coming after avoidable defensive errors. Newcastle's goals-conceded record is the second worst in the league after Aston Villa, having kept just one clean sheet in its last 17 league games. A fine 25-meter strike from Newcastle's Andros Townsend gave a glimpse of the skill that some of its players possess, but his side continues to look like a group of individuals, rather than a strong team unit. — AP



STUTTART: Bayern Munich's Spanish midfielder Javier Martinez (L) vies for the ball during the German first division Bundesliga football match between VfB Stuttgart and Bayern Munich in Stuttgart, southwestern Germany, yesterday. — AFP

DISMAL VILLA SLUMP CLOSER TO RELEGATION



BIRMINGHAM: Aston Villa are on the brink of being relegated for the first time in 29 years after the Premier League's bottom club slumped to a 2-1 defeat against Bournemouth yesterday. Eric Black's side were condemned to their eighth successive defeat by goals in either half from Steve Cook and Josh King as the atmosphere turned mutinous at Villa Park.

Jordan Ayew's late strike was no consolation and although Villa were spared official confirmation of their drop into the second tier because fourth bottom Norwich were beaten by Crystal Palace, their fate is likely to be sealed at Manchester United next weekend.

After a humiliating season that must rank among the worst in the Premier League era, Villa remain destined to play in the second tier for the first time since the 1987-88 season. The seven-time English champions and former European Cup winners are 15 points adrift of safety with only five games left and a vastly inferior goal difference to Norwich. In stark contrast, unheralded Bournemouth's first season in the top-flight is now certain to end in the satisfaction of comfortably avoiding relegation. It would have been impossible to imagine just how awful Villa's season would turn out to be when they won at Bournemouth on the opening day of the season. But that success in the August sunshine has been followed by only two more league victories as Villa slid inexorably towards the Championship, with managers Tim Sherwood and Remi Garde sacked while chief executive Tom Fox and sporting director Hendrik Altmstedt were also axed.

EMPTY SEATS

Villa's disillusioned fans stepped up their protests against American owner Randy Lerner as a significant number heeded calls to stay out of the stands for the first seven minutes of the match.

And when Villa's Idrissa Gueye scooped a half-volley into the empty seats early on, it was a fittingly depressing summary of their decline. Bournemouth had conceded seven goals against Tottenham and Manchester City in their last two matches, but Villa have proved the tonic for most ailing opponents this season and it took a fine save from Brad Guzan to stop Lewis Grabban putting the visitors ahead.

Villa had gone without a goal in their previous four matches and there was no

sign of an end to that barren sequence as Ashley Westwood blazed well over.

With little fight visible from Black's side, it was no surprise when Villa fans started jeering their team after another misplaced pass from Leandro Bacuna and their anger only increased in first half stoppage-time as Bournemouth took the lead.

A short corner caught Villa napping and Cook found space to flick home from close-range for his fourth goal of the season.

Rain began to lash down in the second half as mournful chants of 'Villa til I die' drifted from the stands, a display of loyalty unlikely to be matched by an under-performing squad frequently accused of acting like hired mercenaries. — AFP



ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

Sunderland v Leicester City	15:30
beIN SPORTS 2 HD	
Liverpool v Stoke City	18:00
beIN SPORTS 8 HD	
Tottenham v Man United	18:00
beIN SPORTS 2 HD	

SPANISH LEAGUE

Sporting Gijon v Celta	13:00
beIN SPORTS 3 HD	
Valencia C.F v Sevilla	17:00
beIN SPORTS 3 HD	
Villarreal CF v Getafe	19:15
beIN SPORTS	
Bilbao v Rayo Vallecano	21:30
beIN SPORTS	

ITALIAN CALCIO LEAGUE

Empoli v ACF Fiorentina	13:30
beIN SPORTS 4 HD	
SSC Napoli v Hellas Verona	16:00
beIN SPORTS 4 HD	
Torino FC v Atalanta	16:00
beIN SPORTS 8 HD	
Sampdoria v Udinese Calcio	16:00
beIN SPORTS 7 HD	
Citta di Palermo v SS Lazio	21:45
beIN SPORTS	

GERMAN BUNDESLIGA

Schalke 0 Dortmund	16:30
beIN SPORTS 5 HD	
Koln v Bayer 04	18:30
beIN SPORTS 5 HD	

FRENCH LEAGUE

Lille OSC v AS Monaco	15:00
beIN SPORTS 6 HD	
Nice v Stade Rennes	18:00
beIN SPORTS 6 HD	
Olympique v Girondins	22:00
beIN SPORTS 6 HD	

BAYERN WIN BENFICA WARM UP TO GO EIGHT POINTS CLEAR

BERLIN: Bayern Munich warmed up for Wednesday's crucial Champions League quarter-final at Benfica with a 3-1 win at Stuttgart yesterday to maintain their iron-grip on the Bundesliga title race with five games left.

An own goal from Stuttgart defender Georg Niedermeier and a second-half David Alaba strike put Pep Guardiola's Bayern 2-0 up. Daniel Didavi pulled a goal back for Stuttgart with an hour gone as he recovered from stumbling in the area to chip home while lying on the floor before Brazil winger Douglas Costa blasted in Bayern's late third.

The win gave Bayern three more points in their quest to become the first club to win four successive German league titles ahead of Wednesday's return leg in Benfica with Bayern holding a 1-0 lead.

Guardiola made five changes from the side which beat Benfica in Munich last Tuesday, but Thomas Mueller came on with only 25 minutes gone to replace Arturo Vidal.

The Chilean picked up a rash yellow card for a

foul on Didavi and came off as Guardiola looked to boost his midfield. With second-placed Borussia Dortmund at arch-rivals Schalke on Sunday in the Ruhr Valley derby, Bayern took their chance to go eight points clear.

Having won their preceding three games by 1-0 margins, this was another laboured display from the Bavarians at Stuttgart's Mercedes Benz Arena. Bayern took the lead when Franck Ribery's cross clipped Niedermeier's boot on the way into the Stuttgart net on 31 minutes and the visitors extended their lead when Alaba fired inside the near post on 52 minutes.

Mid-table Stuttgart got back in the game when attacking midfielder Didavi, who will play for Wolfsburg next season, managed to lob Bayern goalkeeper Manuel Neuer.

The goal came despite Didavi being flat on the turf, when the ball fell into his path after a mistimed clearance by Munich striker Robert Lewandowski.

In the final ten minutes, Bayern's Thiago hit the crossbar before Costa smashed in their third

goal from the edge of the area. Borussia Moenchengladbach stay fourth despite their 1-0 defeat at Ingolstadt.

At the bottom, Hoffenheim, coached by 28-year-old Julian Nagelsmann, the youngest ever coach in Germany's top flight, are now three points clear of the relegation places after their 2-0 win at second from bottom Eintracht Frankfurt.

Midfielder Nadiem Amiri, who netted just a minute after coming off the bench, and forward Mark Uth scored their second-half goals. Under Nagelsmann, Hoffenheim have now taken 17 points in their last nine games to climb out of the bottom three to 14th.

Augsburg escaped the bottom three, and dropped opponents Werder Bremen into the relegation places, with a 2-1 win in north Germany as South Korea defender Hong Jeong-Ho scored their dramatic 87th-minute winner.

Mid-table Darmstadt enjoyed a 2-1 win at Hamburg while on Friday Hertha Berlin were held to a 2-2 draw at home to bottom side Hanover. —AFP

SIGURDSSON ENDS CHELSEA'S UNBEATEN RUN UNDER HIDDINK



SWANSEA: Gylfi Sigurdsson handed Chelsea their first Premier League defeat under interim manager Guus Hiddink as Swansea beat the Blues 1-0 at the Liberty Stadium yesterday. Iceland midfielder Sigurdsson struck in the 25th minute to earn Swansea a victory that should ensure they avoid relegation, while Chelsea were left pointless for the first time since a 2-1 loss at Leicester on December 14 signalled the end of the Jose Mourinho era.

Swansea might not be mathematically safe, but after a mid-season wobble, they are odds on to retain their top-flight status after a strong run under head coach Francesco Guidolin. For Hiddink's men, losing for the first time in the Dutchman's second spell as caretaker boss left them marooned in mid-table obscurity at the end of a week in which the troubled club confirmed Italy coach Antonio Conte will take over as manager after Euro 2016.

Swansea's Jefferson Montero cause problems on the left right from the start and it took a last gasp tackle from Branislav Ivanovic to prevent the Ecuadorian from leaving an early mark.

Chelsea did enjoy one or two moments of promise but Swansea were equal to that with captain Ashley Williams a tower of strength at the heart of the back four. At the other end, Swansea had two genuine chances to break the deadlock. First, Sigurdsson was denied by the leaping Asmir Begovic and seconds later Angel Rangel's cross-shot fizzed wide of the far post. Montero whipped in a cross that was too high for Alberto Paloschi and Ayew and moments later, Ayew was denied by another Ivanovic tackle.

LETHAL WEAPON

Having fallen out of favour earlier on this season, Montero was proving himself to be Swansea's most lethal weapon. And it was fitting that he should have a major say in the game's opening goal. Montero cleverly worked space for a cross and Matt Miazga's weak clearing header fell to Sigurdsson, who found the net from 15 yards. Chelsea should still have been level at the interval, yet with the last kick of the half Alessandro Pato scooped his shot wide from close-range. Ruben Loftus-Cheek almost made Williams pay for an error two minutes into the second half. When the Swansea captain was caught in possession, the young Chelsea midfielder advanced before seeing his goal-bound shot deflected wide for a corner.

With Kenedy having replaced the out of sorts Miazga at the interval, Chelsea looked a more compact unit at the back. It provided a platform on which Cesc Fabregas and Jon Obi Mikel began to dictate the pace. — AFP



SWANSEA: Swansea City's Icelandic midfielder Gylfi Sigurdsson (L) vies with Chelsea's Spanish midfielder Cesc Fabregas during the English Premier League football match between Swansea City and Chelsea at The Liberty Stadium in Swansea, south Wales yesterday. Swansea won the match 1-0. — AFP

MINDS ELSEWHERE AS WATFORD, EVERTON DRAW



WATFORD: Watford and Everton continue to limp towards the finish line in the Premier League after sharing the spoils in a 1-1 draw at Vicarage Road yesterday. James McCarthy gave Everton the lead on the stroke of half-time, but Watford were back on level terms before first-half stoppage time was up thanks to a Jose Holebas goal. The result leaves Watford without a win in six games and Everton on a run of four matches without tasting victory, as both sides continue to languish in the bottom half but a safe distance from the relegation zone. Indeed, the main focus for these clubs now is the FA Cup, and they could meet in the final after being kept apart in the draw for the semi-finals, which will

be played later this month. Nevertheless, both teams will need to improve their recent league form if they are to stand a chance of glory in that competition after a largely forgettable encounter here. Watford manager Quique Sanchez Flores admitted his team needed to "change the mentality" from thinking solely about the FA Cup and they were first to threaten, Jose Jurado seeing his shot well saved by his former Atletico Madrid colleague Joel Robles in the Everton goal.

Roberto Martinez's side have been beaten only twice on the road in the Premier League this season and they opened the scoring as the interval approached. Miguel Britos was one of five players brought into the Watford team after last week's 4-0 defeat at Arsenal and he was at fault, getting caught in possession on the edge of the box by McCarthy, who stole the ball and then fired low past Heurelho Gomes.

Martinez will be furious that his team failed to hold onto their lead until the break, with Watford equalising when Robles conceded a cheap corner from which Holebas headed in at the back post. —AFP

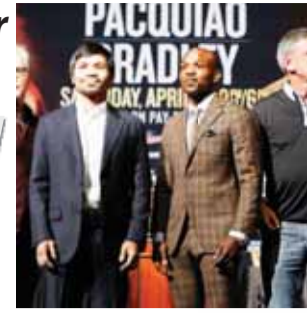


BIRMINGHAM: Aston Villa's Aly Cissokho, right, and AFC Bournemouth's Matt Ritchie battle for the ball during their English Premier League soccer match at Villa Park, Birmingham, England, yesterday. — AP

Sports

Pacquiao has familiar place, opponent for return to ring

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Pistons clinch playoff spot with victory over Wizards

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SPIETH, MCILROY CONTINUE BATTLE FOR MASTERS GLORY Page 16



LONDON: West Ham's Andy Carroll, right, scores his side's second goal during the English Premier League soccer match between West Ham United and Arsenal at Upton Park stadium in London, yesterday. — AP

CARROLL TREBLE SKEWERS ARSENAL'S TITLE HOPES



LONDON: West Ham United striker Andy Carroll scored an eight-minute hat-trick, but Laurent Koscielny snatched a point for Arsenal in a memorable 3-3 Premier League draw yesterday.

Goals from Mesut Ozil and Alexis Sanchez had Arsenal cruising, but Carroll scored twice late in the first half and his third seven minutes after the break looked like giving the hosts victory until Koscielny intervened.

For all the excitement, a point apiece did neither side much good, with West Ham still outside the top five and

Arsenal now 10 points behind league leaders Leicester City with six games of the season remaining. Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger opted to play David Ospina in goal even though Petr Cech was back on the bench and fit after injury.

Carroll was handed a start up front by West Ham manager Slaven Bilic, who was also able to select midfielder Cheikhou Kouyate after his red card against Crystal Palace was overturned. The East Londoners have seen a number of decisions go against them this season, but Carroll could consider himself fortunate not to have been dismissed after a late tackle on Koscielny resulted in only a yellow card.

But Bilic's side had reason to feel aggrieved when an offside flag denied Manuel Lanzini an opening goal, with replays suggesting he had been played inside by Hector Bellerin as he headed in Carroll's overhead kick.

West Ham's anger intensified when Arsenal opened the scored 18 minutes in, with Ozil right on the offside line as he gathered a pass from Alex Iwobi before neatly

beating West Ham goalkeeper Adrian. The visitors looked in control after that, Ozil shooting straight at Adrian, and a second goal arrived in the 35th minute. Nigerian teenager Iwobi was once again the provider with a superb lofted pass to Sanchez, who comfortably steered a shot past Adrian.

FINE HEADER

At that stage it looked a question of how many goals Arsenal would win by, but West Ham turned the game on its head with a thrilling finale to the first half led by Carroll. The former Newcastle United striker planted a fine header past Ospina from Aaron Cresswell's left-wing cross on 44 minutes to get his side back in it.

And then in first-half injury time, just 160 seconds later, Carroll levelled the match with a left-foot volley at the second attempt after Gabriel had blocked his initial effort from Mark Noble's cross.

It brought Upton Park, in its penultimate Saturday fixture, to its feet and Bilic threw caution to the wind at the

break by bringing on striker Emmanuel Emenike for centre-back James Tomkins, ditching his three-man defence. Lanzini had claims for a penalty waved away after a coming together with Bellerin before Payet slammed home from close range, only for the goal to be ruled out for a foul on Koscielny by Carroll.

But West Ham put their disappointment behind them as they took the lead on 52 minutes, Carroll getting his hat-trick as he headed home at the far post from Michail Antonio's cross. Carroll went close again from a Payet cross as the hosts ran a shell-shocked Arsenal ragged. Wenger brought on Aaron Ramsey for his first appearance in a month and the visitors were then denied by Lanzini's goal-line block from Nacho Monreal's powerful shot.

But Koscielny made it 3-3 on 70 minutes with a clever finish after Ozil's cross from the right had been helped on by Danny Welbeck. The hosts had the better chances to win it, with Ospina thwarting Payet and Cresswell, while Winston Reid volleyed into the side-netting from Payet's corner. — AFP

NASRI RETURNS TO GIVE MAN CITY EURO BOOST



MANCHESTER: Samir Nasri celebrated his return from injury by capping Manchester City's fightback in a 2-1 win over West Bromwich Albion yesterday that provided the perfect boost ahead of their crunch Champions League quarter-final.

Manuel Pellegrini's side are slight favourites to go through after drawing 2-2 in the first leg at Paris Saint Germain, but they will not want to rely on winning the competition for the first time to guarantee playing in the Champions League again next season.

They therefore need to secure a top-four finish in the Premier League and thanks to Nasri's close-range effort on his first start since September, City pulled four points clear of Manchester United before they play at title-chasing Tottenham on Saturday and to within two points of third-placed Arsenal.

However, the sight of Argentina striker Sergio Aguero limping off in the second half at Eastlands after being caught on the back of his foot was a concern for Pellegrini with the PSG clash looming on Tuesday.

City started with five changes to the side that drew in Paris as Pellegrini rested a number of players ahead of the second leg in Manchester. But despite the shuffling of

resources, City would not have expected to go behind after just five minutes to a West Brom side with only one win in their last 10 away Premier League games.

They had put together a solid run of just one defeat in six games to pull away from relegation danger but Stephane Sessegnon's goal was only the 12th Tony Pulis' side had managed away from home in the league all season.

Sessegnon's second of the campaign was perfectly struck on the half-volley past Joe Hart from 20 yards following a James McClean cross after an impressive West Brom break-away, sparked after referee Michael Jones had blocked an attempted pass from Pablo Zabaleta to gift possession to the visitors.

INSTANT RESPONSE

With City desperate not to drop more points after losing three of their last four home league games they needed an instant response and got it via the penalty spot just 13 minutes later. Aleksandar Kolarov was a constant threat going forward and after he was tripped in the box by Sessegnon, Aguero drilled home his 18th league goal of the season from the penalty spot.

But that didn't trigger a major shift in power as West Brom defended in numbers to frustrate a City side again looking short of inspiration and substitute Craig Gardner dragging a shot wide in the nearest either side came to adding a second goal before half time.

Aguero tested Ben Foster nine minutes into the second half but City might have given away a penalty of their own when Eliaquim Mangala clumsily jumped into Sandro and with an hour gone Pellegrini reached for his big



MANCHESTER: Manchester City's Brazilian midfielder Fernando Reges (L) vies with West Bromwich Albion's Scottish midfielder Darren Fletcher during the English Premier League football match between Manchester City and West Bromwich Albion yesterday. — AFP

Kevin De Bruyne and the fit again Yaya Toure were sent on and De Bruyne immediately made his presence felt, stretching the West Brom defence and playing a part as City went ahead as he played in Jesus Navas to set up Aguero.

Aguero's effort was blocked but French midfielder Nasri was on hand to cap his comeback from a serious thigh injury by tapping in his second goal of the season. Aguero could have secured further breathing space with a chance saved by Foster. But City were almost denied the victory they badly needed ahead of their big European night when McClean was inches away with a stoppage-time effort. — AFP

ATLETICO, REAL MADRID PUT PRESSURE ON BARCA

MADRID: Real Madrid bounced back from their Champions League embarrassment against Wolfsburg in midweek to close to within four points of Barcelona at the top of La Liga with a 4-0 win over Eibar yesterday.

Atletico Madrid are only three points behind Barca in second after goals from the on-form Fernando Torres, Antoine Griezmann and Koke saw them come from behind to win 3-1 at Espanyol.

Cristiano Ronaldo was one of only three players retained in the Real starting line-up from the 2-0 defeat in Germany and the Portuguese shone with a goal and two assists as Madrid stormed into a 4-0 half-time lead with James Rodriguez, Lucas Vazquez and Jese also on the scoresheet.

Barca are also in action later as they look to win away to Real Sociedad for the first time in seven games stretching back to 2007. Real coach Zinedine Zidane showed his priority remains turning around their quarter-final tie when Wolfsburg visit the Santiago Bernabeu on Tuesday as Gareth Bale, Toni Kroos and Marcelo were left on the bench, whilst Keylor Navas and Luka Modric were rested from the squad.

"I'm happy with the way we played, more in the first half than the second," said Zidane. "We know what awaits us and what we are playing for on Tuesday. Now we just have to rest and prepare well." Despite the changes, the hosts were always comfortable against the Basque minnows, who now haven't won in eight

games, from the moment Rodriguez smashed home a sumptuous free-kick after just five minutes.

Ronaldo showed he was in a generous mood on 18 minutes when he unselfishly squared for Vazquez to turn home the second. A typically clinical Madrid counter-attack followed just two minutes later as Jese bore down on goal before teeing up Ronaldo to smash home his 30th La Liga goal of the season and extend his lead to four over Barcelona's Luis Suarez in the battle to be the league's top scorer.

The roles were reversed for the fourth just before the break as this time Ronaldo picked out Jese's unmarked run to the far post to leave the Spanish under-21 international with the simplest of finishes.

Torres was Atletico's hero turned villain as he scored and was then sent off in the their 2-1 Champions League quarter-final, first leg defeat at Barcelona on Tuesday.

The former Liverpool and Chelsea striker continued to look sharp in front of goal when he crashed a shot against the bar early on. Torres was involved for the wrong reasons for Espanyol's opener, though, as Pape Diop escaped his attention to head home at the near post just before the half hour mark.

Atletico responded just seven minutes later when Torres latched onto Koke's through ball before firing low into the net for this third goal in as many games.

Griezmann completed the comeback when he drilled another Koke assist in off the far post just before the hour mark for his 20th La Liga goal of the season. — AFP

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SHANGHAI: A general view shows a building (center) where the Panama-based law firm Mossack Fonseca has an office in Shanghai. — AFP

SANCTIONS WEAKENED BY OFFSHORE HAVENS

PANAMA PAPERS LAY BARE HOW BAD ACTORS CIRCUMVENT GLOBAL SANCTIONS

WASHINGTON: The "Panama Papers" have laid bare how readily bad actors can circumvent global sanctions via the maze of anonymous shell companies set up in banking havens, as documented in the massive leak. Terror groups, drug cartels, and pariah countries like North Korea—not just tax evaders—use them to hide flows of money that would otherwise be blocked by sanctions, experts say. "They are designed for concealment and so are as useful for getting around sanctions as they are for tax avoidance or money laundering," said Pascal Saint-Amans, head of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development's unit fighting tax havens.

That's a problem as the United States, Europe and the United Nations increasingly reach for sanctions as their weapon of choice against global trouble-makers. The United States in particular has made economic sanctions a key policy tool against countries like Iran, North Korea and Cuba, as well as extremist groups like Islamic State and Al-Qaeda. To implement its sanctions, the US Treasury publishes extensive blacklists of names of individuals and companies that banks

and other companies are barred from dealing with.

The challenge is that with shell companies, it is often impossible to know the ultimate beneficiary behind it. "They're anonymous so you don't know if it's owned or controlled by somebody who's on a sanctions list. That's a real problem," said Liz Confalone of the organization Global Financial Integrity. According to the BBC, which has had access to the leaked Panama Papers—a law firm's records of thousands of shell companies set up for wealthy and powerful people around the world — 33 US-blacklisted individuals and companies based in Iran, Zimbabwe and North Korea are tied to some of the companies.

US paradox

Even before the Panama Papers hit the headlines, other cases made clear that offshore shell companies were being used to circumvent sanctions. Chinese telecoms giant ZTE had established a network of secret companies which permitted it to reexport US-made electronic components to Iran in violation of the embargo imposed on Tehran for its

nuclear program, according to US authorities. To punish the company Washington placed restrictions on its US business last month. More stunning, anonymous companies set up in the British tax haven of Jersey allowed a bank affiliated with the Iranian government and restricted by sanctions to control a Manhattan skyscraper.

Iranian shipping company IRISL, placed under US sanctions in 2008, used a similar strategy. It dispersed control of its fleet of ships through anonymous companies with no evident Iranian ties in Malta and Hong Kong, according to the report "Global Shell Game" released in 2014. Such cases are only the tip of the iceberg. Investigators chasing a case are often stymied by complex legal constructions involved in the shell companies, and by the ease with which fraudsters and sanctions-evaders move assets from one haven to another.

"It's really a cat-and-mouse game, in which sanctions evaders would get caught and form a new company, get caught again and go form another company," said Bryan Early, a sanctions specialist at the University of Albany. US

President Barack Obama himself condemned the use of anonymous companies to hide the identity of those behind them, but said it will not undermine the effectiveness of US sanctions. "Iran would not have cut a deal to end their nuclear program in the absence of strong sanctions," he said Tuesday.

Yet the United States, in combating banking secrecy, faces its own contradictions. A number of US states, especially Delaware, offers anyone the ability to set up a company and move money and other assets through it while hiding their identity. Saint-Amans said that this gives foreigners the ability to hide their US sanctions-busting activities behind a company based in the United States. "It is the paradox of the country," he said. The US Treasury on Wednesday said that it would submit "soon" a new rule that will make it obligatory to identify the ultimate beneficiary of individual companies registered by foreigners. Once finalized, the Treasury said, the IRS, the US tax authority, "will be far better equipped to ensure that these entities are not facilitating US tax avoidance," a Treasury spokesperson said. — AFP

TAX SCANDAL WEAKENS CAMERON

LONDON: The scandal over his tax dealings and a steel sector crisis have badly bruised Prime Minister David Cameron just three months ahead of a crucial referendum on Britain's EU membership, experts said. Cameron and his Downing Street office issued four comments regarding the Panama Papers before the British leader on Thursday finally admitted he had held shares in his late father's Bahamas-based offshore investment fund. Cameron's popularity has slipped in recent weeks, with only 34 percent of respondents saying they thought he was doing well and 58 percent that he was doing badly, according to a YouGov poll released on Friday. His previous popularity rating in a similar poll in February was 39 percent and 53 percent.

Labor opposition leader Jeremy Corbyn instead has seen his popularity rise from 25 to 30 percent, while those who think he is doing badly fell from 59 to 52 percent. Labor has accused Cameron of "hypocrisy," pointing to his crusading stance on tax evasion and avoidance and his promise of enacting change at an anti-corruption conference in London next month. "The prime minister has lost the trust of the British people," Corbyn said.

Scottish First Minister Nicola Sturgeon joined the criticism, saying the scandal "leaves his credibility in tatters and completely betrays public trust". Ian Bond from the Centre for European Reform think tank said: "His ability to lecture the others at the anti-corruption summit is going to be damaged." But he added: "Most of these political scandals pass quickly." "It's not great news for him but we are weeks away from the referendum so he still has the chance to get back," he said.

'Sixth sense' gone?

Ramon Pacheco Pardo, a lecturer at King's College London, said: "When his government for example is asking companies to pay their fair share of tax, when he's asking individuals to pay their taxes in full, obviously his political capital is really diminished." There has been criticism from within Cameron's own camp too. "His politician's sixth sense seems to have deserted him," Paul Goodman, a former Conservative MP, wrote on the Conservative Home political blog. "The prime minister doesn't always manage to keep his temper... and



LONDON: Protesters demonstrate against British Prime Minister David Cameron outside the Conservative Party's Spring Forum in central London following revelations in the Panama papers in central London yesterday. — AFP

his original instinct may have been, when confronted with claims about a father that he loved, to tell the media to take a running jump.

"The EU referendum is sapping his and Downing Street's energy, focus and judgment—just as it did over Port Talbot last week, the threat to the future of which clearly caught the government machine on the hop." Cameron has been put under pressure by Tata Steel's announcement that it intended to sell some or all of its British operations including Port Talbot in Wales, putting 15,000 jobs at risk. The government was accused of putting close trade relations with China, which has been exporting steel at cheap prices, over protecting steel jobs.

'Eurocepticism rising'

There was more bad news this week when the Dutch voted against an EU-Ukraine trade deal—a referendum seen as reflecting euroceptic sentiment.

Brexit supporters cheered the result and said it was a good sign for their own campaign for Britons to vote to leave the European Union in a referendum on June 23, while Cameron played down the significance. Bond said the Dutch vote would likely have "no direct impact on the Brexit vote" but was the result of "eurocepticism rising across Europe."

Cameron has staked his political future on the EU referendum and the latest polling shows the "Leave" and "Remain" camps neck and neck. The British leader holds weekly public events to try to win over sceptical Britons but is on the defensive in the campaign too over a taxpayer-funded pro-EU leaflet to be sent to all British households. Brexit campaigners cried foul over the government mailshot—costing £9.3 million (11.5 million euros, \$13.1 million)—and an online petition calling for the government to stop campaigning with public money has gained more than 100,000 signatures. — AFP

BRITAIN URGES CHINA TO CUT STEEL PRODUCTION

HONG KONG: British Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond yesterday urged China to reduce its steel production levels as the UK grapples with an industry crisis that could see thousands of jobs lost. Speaking with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi in Beijing, en route to Hiroshima for the G7 Foreign Ministers' meeting, Hammond expressed his concerns about steel over-capacity. India's Tata Steel announced last month it was selling some or all of its loss-making British operations including the Port Talbot works in Wales, putting 15,000 jobs at risk and triggering doom-laden warnings of worse to come for Europe's steel industry.

It cited cheap imports to Europe from China, as well as global oversupply, high costs and currency volatility as reasons for rapidly-deteriorating trading conditions. "I urged China to accelerate its efforts to reduce levels of steel production," a foreign ministry statement quoted Hammond as saying. "The UK's focus is on finding a long-term sustainable future for steel making at Port Talbot and across the UK, and I welcomed the potential interest of Chinese companies in investment in UK steel-making."

A glut of cheap Chinese imports is a major reason why world steel prices have plunged in recent years—and why Port Talbot is now reportedly losing some £1 million (1.3 million euros/\$1.4 million) a day. Prime Minister David Cameron's government has faced damaging claims that its push for closer ties with China is holding back efforts to save steel jobs. It has been racing to find a buyer for Tata as pressure grows from the opposition, the trade unions and the press to safeguard

the iconic British steel industry which dates back to the 19th century. Tata will start the process of selling its British steel assets by Monday, the UK government's business minister Sajid Javid said earlier this week after holding talks with the firm in Mumbai.

Hammond also discussed with Wang the case of a Hong Kong bookseller who went missing last year along with four other colleagues, only to surface in China. The men all worked for the Mighty Current publishing house in Hong Kong, famous for salacious titles about senior Chinese politicians, but the case of Lee Bo has caused the greatest outcry as he was the only one to disappear from Hong Kong. London has termed Lee's case a "serious breach" of the joint agreement made before Britain handed Hong Kong back to China in 1997 which guaranteed its freedoms for 50 years.

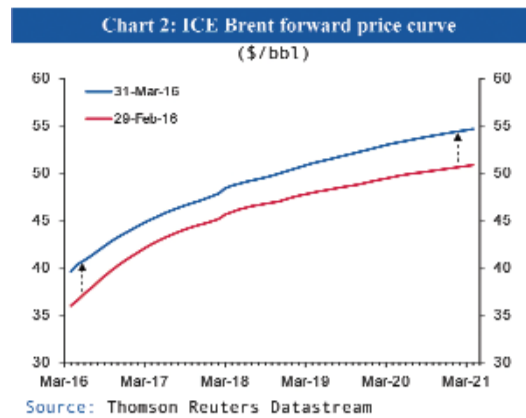
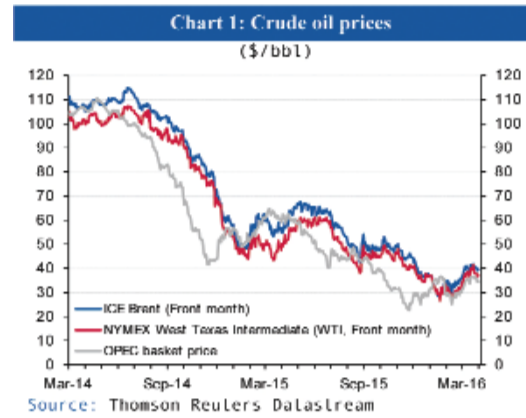
Hammond said Friday Britain had the "obligation and right" to safeguard Hong Kong's autonomy as he visited the city where fears are growing that Beijing's grip is tightening. "The UK's relationship with China is a strategic partnership and we've acknowledged on both sides that such a relationship enables us to raise difficult issues and to discuss them together. In that spirit we discussed the UK's continued concerns over the book-sellers' case and Mr Lee Po (Bo)." Hammond's trip to China comes as part of an East Asian Tour, with Hiroshima his next stop followed by Vietnam. The two-day G7 meeting begins Sunday and is also being attended by diplomats from France, Canada, Germany, Italy and Japan. — AFP

OIL PRICES RALLY IN MARCH

NBK ECONOMIC UPDATE

KUWAIT: Oil prices boosted in March by the OPEC output freeze agreement; but going into April, the rally looks like running out of steam. Oil prices continued to rally through March as more OPEC members looked to join Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Venezuela as well as non-OPEC Russia in freezing oil production at January's levels. By the end of March, the international crude benchmark, Brent, had posted its second consecutive monthly gain, rising by 10% month-on-month (m/m) to close at \$39.6 per barrel (\$/bbl).

Similarly, the US marker, West Texas Intermediate (WTI), increased by 13.6% m/m to close at \$38.3/bbl. Since falling to 12-year lows in mid-January, oil prices have risen by almost 50%, boosted by several factors including the output freeze announcement, major supply outages in Nigeria and Iraq, falling US production and a weaker US dollar. Since its announcement in February, the provisional accord between the two dominant oil producers, Saudi Arabia and Russia, to freeze production has been a major fillip for oil prices. The agreement is expected to be widened to all OPEC



members with the exception of Iran and Libya at a meeting convened in Doha on 17 April. Non-OPEC Russia and Oman are also on board.

The new-found optimism was reflected in the futures markets, with hedge funds placing a record number of bets on oil prices rising further. By the end of March, hedge funds' net long position totaled more than half a million contracts, across both the New York and London futures exchanges. This was equivalent to 579 million barrels of crude, or 6 days of global oil demand. This helped to push the Brent futures curve up by \$3-5/bbl for crude deliveries to 2021.

Of course, oil markets have a tendency to get ahead of themselves, and the recent price rally may have come despite only a small change in demand/supply fundamentals. While US shale oil production-one of the main contributors in recent years to the supply glut-has indeed begun to contract, Iranian production has increased. Indeed, Iran is determined to reclaim the market share it lost to rivals while it was under international sanctions and could realistically replace

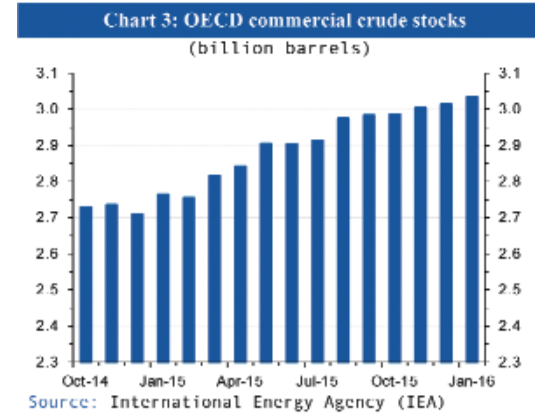
all lost US output by year-end. Global demand growth, for its part, is expected to slow against a weaker macroeconomic backdrop.

Meanwhile, OECD commercial crude stocks continued to accumulate, rising by 20 million barrels in January to remain above 3 billion barrels for the third consecutive month. Going into April, the early indications are that the two-month rally could indeed be running out of steam. As this report went to press, prices had fallen back below \$39/bbl after markets reacted negatively to comments made by the Saudi deputy crown prince, Mohammed Bin Salman, which appeared to expose divisions among oil producers ahead of the upcoming OPEC meeting (17 April).

The prince poured cold water over the idea that Saudi Arabia would cap its production without Iran and others following suit. Iran has, however, repeatedly rejected any limitations being placed on its post-sanctions oil program. The Islamic Republic has ambitious plans to boost crude output by 1 million barrels per day (mb/d) to 4 mb/d; only after attaining this level, Iran says, would it be amenable to a production freeze.

2016 should see demand growth outpace supply growth for the first time since 2013; market rebalance is not expected until 2017. According to the International Energy Agency (IEA), world oil demand and supply are not likely to reach parity until 2017 (Chart 4.) On the demand side, growth is expected to fall from a high of 1.8 mb/d in 2015 to its historical average of 1.2 mb/d this year. Demand is expected to remain flat in 2017. The IEA has stressed, however, that it sees little scope for demand growth to exceed these projections given the uncertain global macroeconomic picture.

Indeed, in view of repeated downward revisions to estimates of global economic growth for 2016 by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and others, the



most recent being January's 0.2% cut to 3.4%, the IEA sees risks as being skewed to the downside. On the supply side of the equation, the situation is a little less ambiguous, with firm evidence that low oil prices are forcing higher-cost, unconventional oil producers such as US shale firms to cut output. Led by a decline in US production (currently down -6% y/y at 9 mb/d), non-OPEC supply is forecast to contract by -0.7 mb/d in 2016, according to the IEA.

Outages in Iraq, Nigeria

February saw OPEC crude output fall by 176,000 b/d to 32.3 mb/d, according to OPEC secondary source data. 407,000 b/d of crude were taken offline as a result of pipeline outages in northern Iraq and Nigeria, as well as field maintenance in the UAE. Output gains in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and, significantly, Iran managed to partly offset these losses, however. News that Saudi Arabia and Kuwait intend to restart production at the 300,000 b/d offshore Khafji field that the two countries share in the Neutral Zone should provide a welcome boost to Kuwait's current production capacity. Moreover, the discovery in March of a new oil field at Manageesh in the west of the country was another bonus for Kuwait's oil sector as it moves ahead with its strategic plan to reach 4 mb/d by 2020.

CONTAMINATED WHEAT IMPORTS 'MISIDENTIFIED', LEBANON SAYS

ORIGIN OF CARCINOGENIC WHEAT UNKNOWN

BEIRUT: Wheat imports into Lebanon said to be contaminated were misidentified as Russian, Lebanon's minister for public health told Reuters, as a delegation from Russia's food safety service visited the country to discuss the issue. Tests carried out in February by Lebanon's Ministry of Public Health on wheat thought at the time to be imported from Russia showed higher than permitted levels of ochratoxin, a carcinogen. The ministry's tests prompted a public disagreement with the ministry of agriculture, which said it regularly conducted tests and had found no problems with imported wheat.

Public Health Minister Wael Abu Faour said on Thursday the wheat in question was now not thought to be from Russia, while sources from Russia's Veterinary and Phytosanitary Service (VPSS), which oversees grain exports, said it had not found a problem with samples from Russian wheat supplies to Lebanon. "We were told at that time by the ministry of economy that [the wheat we tested] was Russian wheat. But then it proved to be not Russian wheat," Abu Faour said.

A VPSS source, familiar with the matter said: "There was a mistake. The problem was not in Russian wheat,

it was with wheat of other country. It is now confirmed." The source added that the VPSS was now in Lebanon to settle the matter. Abu Faour said he did not know the real origin of the wheat. The minister of agriculture was not immediately available for comment. Following the dispute over the wheat test results, the ministers of agriculture, public health and economy agreed to work together to improve wheat import and storage conditions. Abu Faour said a committee will next week submit proposed new regulations which will be announced soon after that. He also said there were no plans to stop importing wheat. Another wheat shipment was held in Beirut port on Wednesday by the agriculture ministry because it contained a high level of humidity, Lebanon's National News Agency (NNA) said. NNA said 2,330 tons were ordered to be returned because they were unsuitable for use while tests would be carried out on the 660 tons that had been distributed to silos.

Garbage trucks

Wheat was also the subject of another controversy this week after Lebanon's public health ministry discovered some trucks being used to transport eight-month-old rotting garbage were also used to transport wheat within the country. "We found in the port the same trucks that are transporting wheat were transporting at the same time the garbage. And sometimes they were also transporting car batteries," Abu Faour told Reuters.

Rubbish has been piling up in the streets of Beirut since the area's main landfill was closed last July and Lebanon's paralyzed political system was unable to agree a long-term solution. Trucks are now moving accumulated, stinking waste to temporary storage sites while new landfill sites are prepared. Abu Faour said the ministry of economy was taking steps to make sure this did not continue. The private company responsible for collecting and moving Beirut's waste, Sukleen, said it procures its lorries through subcontractors and is not responsible for what they transport when not in use by Sukleen. "These are not our trucks they are not our drivers," said Anthony Kurban, Executive Director of Sukleen. "We are not responsible for what they haul in them." — Reuters



MUBASHER HOLIDAYS LAUNCHES A FREE TRAVEL INSURANCE PROGRAM FOR CLIENTS

KUWAIT: AIG MEA Limited (Kuwait Branch) and Mubasher Holidays have partnered to launch a free travel insurance scheme for all Mubasher Holidays' clients. This benefit is made available free of charge through 3500 travel agencies across the Middle East when using Mubasher's online booking service. Mubasher Holiday's Group General Manager, Ahmed EL Hamzawy, said: "the selection fell on AIG due to the company's excellent reputation internationally and the availability of its services globally." EL Hamzawy added: "starting today customers will benefit from free comprehensive travel insurance upon booking through Mubasher International's website through any travel agency in the Middle East." The insurance provides various benefits and features such as:

- In case of baggage loss verified by a common carrier the traveler will be compensated at a maximum of \$ 1,000 (One thousand US dollars) per person.
- If the trip is cancelled for any compelling reason (death / illness), the insured or a relative is compensated for travel and accommodation expenses paid by the insured person with a maximum limit of US \$ 2,000 (two thousand US dollars).
- If an Insured Person whilst traveling on an Insured Journey incurs Medical Expenses as

a result of illness or injury, the Company will pay for those expenses up to the amount of \$ 50,000 (fifty thousand US dollars).

4. in case of death due to accident (common carrier), the company will pay a compensation of US \$ 25,000 thousand (twenty-five thousand US dollars) per person

AIG's General Manager Kuwait, Joseph Bejjani, said: "We are thrilled to launch this initiative in partnership with Mubasher Holidays. We constantly look to create innovative concepts and build local partnerships and this partnership offered us an opportunity to do both. With one of the industry's most extensive ranges of products and services, deep claims expertise and excellent financial strength, we know that our continued success is dependent on being able to develop the tools the market needs and to reflect the environment in which we operate."

AIG's Head of Travel Kuwait & Oman, Rashad Bibi, said: "At AIG we strive to keep pace with the evolving travel & tourism industry in the region and in Kuwait specifically. This is an exciting and innovative scheme which will support regional and international travel. The process to launch this scheme was one of a kind in terms of underwriting and IT and is a testament to our combined team work and perseverance."

NEW OFFER FOR GULF BANK PRIORITY BANKING CLIENTS

KUWAIT: Gulf Bank yesterday announced that its Priority Banking Clients can enjoy a wide choice of local concierge services at special rates when using their premium credit cards through Peacock Concierge, one of Kuwait's leading concierge service providers. Through Peacock Concierge, holders of Gulf Bank's VISA Infinite, VISA Signature and MasterCard World premium credit cards will benefit from a selection of local concierge services:

Dedicated concierge services

A 24/7 Qualified and Bilingual (English & Arabic) Personal Assistant is at the clients' Service, to handle their requests, finding last-minute event tickets to concerts, exhibitions, securing high-end dinner reservations or making full holiday and travel plans in the hotel and airline of their preference.

Messenger Service

A speedy and friendly messenger service to handle clients' everyday tasks with utmost confidentiality, and efficiency. Those tasks could be car maintenance check (service) or paying bills, renewing their license, processing government and legal documents.

Limo Service: Luxuriously tailored Concierge Limo aims to support all of clients' personal and professional travel and transportation needs including Pick-Up and Drop by to Kuwait International Airport.

Valet Parking: Free Valet Parking at many venues and shopping centers in Kuwait.

Airport Meet-And-Assist Services: A fast track service through immigration and assistance in issuing visas and luggage collection.

Road-Side Assistance: A 24/7 vehicle recovery service and mobile workshop service.

The details of Peacock Concierge Services, are listed on Gulf Bank web-page by logging on www.e-gulfbank.com.kw. Peacock Concierge was established in 2011 within our Kuwait office. Peacock Concierge has since made rapid and fruitful expansions within our surrounding GCC neighbors, with global reach. As of 2015, Peacock Concierge offices can now be found in Kuwait, Bahrain, UAE, and Saudi Arabia. As leaders in the region, Peacock Concierge is among the most professionally optimized, culturally oriented lifestyle management powerhouses. They have a keen understanding of the daily needs and demands of clients, along with the quality expertise.

EXCHANGE RATES

AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

ASIAN COUNTRIES	
Japanese Yen	2.740
Indian Rupees	4.566
Pakistani Rupees	2.888
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.094
Nepali Rupees	2.860
Singapore Dollar	224.000
Hongkong Dollar	38.989
Bangladesh Taka	3.855
Philippine Peso	6.553
Thai Baht	8.585
GCC COUNTRIES	
Saudi Riyal	80.683
Qatari Riyal	83.111
Omani Riyal	785.863
Bahraini Dinar	803.510
UAE Dirham	823.750
ARAB COUNTRIES	
Egyptian Pound - Cash	33.925
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	34.444
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.412
Tunisian Dinar	151.580
Jordanian Dinar	426.110
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	2.016
Syrian Lira	2.156
Morocco Dirham	31.899
EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES	
US Dollar Transfer	302.400
Euro	345.190
Sterling Pound	429.110
Canadian dollar	231.020
Turkish lira	107.620
Swiss Franc	317.150
Australian Dollar	229.820
US Dollar Buying	301.200

GOLD	
20 Gram	247.880
10 Gram	126.860
5 Gram	64.270

UAE EXCHANGE CENTRE WLL

CURRENCIES	TELEX TRANSFER PER 1000
Australian Dollar	201.91
Canadian Dollar	219.82
Swiss Franc	306.95
Euro	336.85
US Dollar	299.90
Sterling Pound	431.04
Japanese Yen	2.67
Bangladesh Taka	3.817
Indian Rupee	4.375
Sri Lankan Rupee	2.083
Nepali Rupee	2.732
Pakistani Rupee	2.860
UAE Dirhams	0.08161
Bahraini Dinar	0.7970
Egyptian Pound	0.03819
Jordanian Dinar	0.4265
Omani Riyal	0.7788
Qatari Riyal	0.08269
Saudi Riyal	0.07994

DOLLARCO EXCHANGE CO. LTD

Rate for Transfer	Selling Rate
US Dollar	302.250
Canadian Dollar	230.325
Sterling Pound	429.535
Euro	339.765
Swiss Franc	297.075
Bahrain Dinar	802.260
UAE Dirhams	82.805
Qatari Riyals	84.020

Saudi Riyals	81.545
Jordanian Dinar	427.185
Egyptian Pound	34.053
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.063
Indian Rupees	4.538
Pakistani Rupees	2.891
Bangladesh Taka	3.857
Philippines Peso	6.540
Cyprus pound	577.595
Japanese Yen	3.675
Syrian Pound	2.375
Nepalese Rupees	3.835
Malaysian Ringgit	76.000
Chinese Yuan Renminbi	46.930
Thai Bhat	9.565
Turkish Lira	105.085

BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
Europe		
British Pound	0.420382	0.432280
Czech Korune	0.004714	0.016714
Danish Krone	0.042139	0.047139
Euro	0.0338690	0.0346690
Norwegian Krone	0.032317	0.037517
Romanian Leu	0.076909	0.076909
Slovakia	0.009011	0.019011
Swedish Krona	0.033103	0.038103
Swiss Franc	0.308670	0.318870
Turkish Lira	0.101221	0.111521
Australasia		
Australian Dollar	0.222485	0.233985
New Zealand Dollar	0.201729	0.211229
America		
Canadian Dollar	0.226335	0.234835
US Dollars	0.298400	0.302900

US Dollars Mint	0.298900	0.302900
Asia		
Bangladesh Taka	0.003438	0.004012
Chinese Yuan	0.045291	0.048791
Hong Kong Dollar	0.036919	0.039669
Indian Rupee	0.004287	0.004677
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000018	0.000024
Japanese Yen	0.002629	0.002809
Kenyan Shilling	0.002976	0.002976
Korean Won	0.000253	0.000268
Malaysian Ringgit	0.074085	0.080085
Nepalese Rupee	0.002867	0.003037
Pakistan Rupee	0.002682	0.002962
Philippine Peso	0.006500	0.006780
Sierra Leone	0.000073	0.000079
Singapore Dollar	0.220522	0.226522
South African Rand	0.014542	0.023042
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001695	0.002275
Taiwan	0.009242	0.009422
Thai Baht	0.008269	0.008819

Arab		
Bahraini Dinar	0.795818	0.803818
Egyptian Pound	0.030675	0.035793
Iranian Riyal	0.000084	0.000085
Iraqi Dinar	0.000191	0.000251
Jordanian Dinar	0.422651	0.430151
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000150	0.000250
Moroccan Dirhams	0.020627	0.044627
Nigerian Naira	0.001247	0.001882
Omani Riyal	0.779294	0.784974
Qatar Riyal	0.082378	0.083591
Saudi Riyal	0.079780	0.080730
Syrian Pound	0.001282	0.001502
Tunisian Dinar	0.148393	0.156393
Turkish Lira	0.101221	0.111521
UAE Dirhams	0.081378	0.082527
Yemeni Riyal	0.001367	0.001447

SRI LANKA REQUESTS EQUITY SWAP FOR \$8 BN CHINA DEBT

BEIJING: Sri Lanka has asked China to swap some of the \$8 billion it owes Beijing for equity in infrastructure projects and offered to sell stakes in its companies to Chinese ones, Colombo officials said yesterday. The ouster of President Mahinda Rajapaksa, who steered Sri Lanka toward China until his 2015 election defeat, was a setback for relations as his successor has reviewed projects to check if they were fair and legal.

Now President Maithripala Sirisena's government, faced with falling foreign reserves, a balance of payments crunch and few, if any, alternative investors, is heading back into China's embrace, albeit asking for better terms. Speaking to reporters in Beijing, Sri Lankan Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe said his indebted country was suffering because of global economic uncertainty.

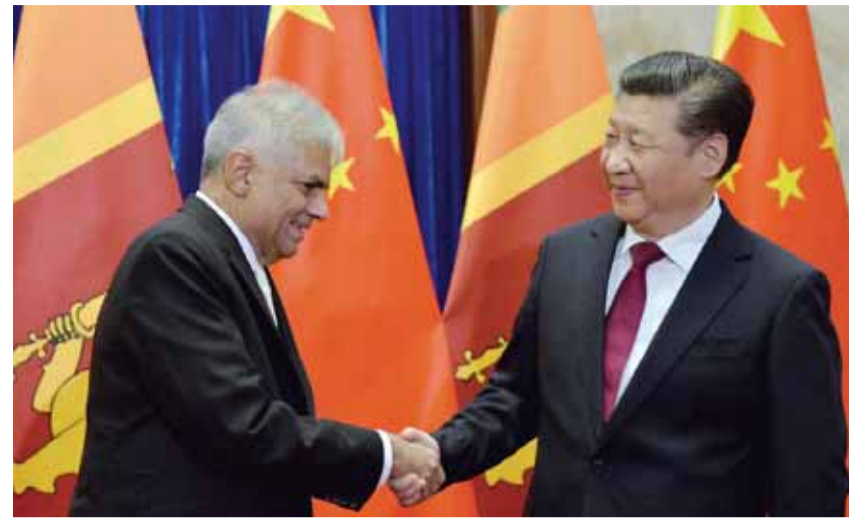
"We've been talking with some companies and also the government of China about the possibility of some infrastructure

projects becoming public-private partnerships, in which part of the debt will become equity held by the Chinese companies," he said. International trade minister Malik Samarawickrama said Sri Lanka would also like additional funds from China, though they had not asked for a specific amount. "We want to reduce the current debt by inviting Chinese companies, Chinese investors, to look at some of the enterprises in Sri Lanka, the state-owned enterprises, with a view to taking at least part of that equity over," he said.

"Then we can reduce the current debt that we have and open up the opportunity for us to take more funds from Chinese banks." Sri Lanka upset China when it ordered a review of a \$1.4 billion Colombo port city project last year, citing irregularities in the awarding of the contract to state-owned China Communications Construction Company (CCCC) by the previous government. Last month, the present government,

grappling with a difficult economy, ordered the Chinese firm to resume work on the project, the country's biggest foreign investment project, that includes apartments, shopping malls and marinas.

But CCCC, which had estimated that the shutdown would result in losses of more than \$380,000 a day, has sought compensation of \$125 million, according to Sri Lanka, which has said it can't pay and wants to negotiate. "The company has asked for additional compensation in view of the fact they say there has been a delay," Wickremesinghe said. "But I think we can talk and settle it." Chinese projects in Sri Lanka have unnerved India, but Wickremesinghe said there was no security threat from the port. "It's an opportunity for everyone to make money. That's what we do in Asia." In a joint communique released by China later, both countries stressed they would increase their military and security cooperation. — Reuters



BEIJING: Sri Lankan Prime Minister, Ranil Wickremesinghe (left) and Chinese President, Xi Jinping shake hands before their meeting at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing. — AFP

JOB HUNTING DURING AN ECONOMIC SLOWDOWN

Are the daunting shadows of an economic downturn wearing you down and derailing all your best professional efforts? Are you finding that job hunting is a demoralizing and frustrating task? At Bayt.com, we believe it doesn't really have to be! You can still land a dream job, despite the receding economy, waning sentiment and reports of rising unemployment, should you decide to get proactive and tune up to a more aggressive job hunting strategy. Here, the career experts at Bayt.com, the Middle East's leading job site, give you 4 tips to help you find the job of your dreams during an economic slowdown:

Understand the market

Extensive research is greatly recommended in these situations. Ask yourself: Is it only your organization that is suffering? Or is it the whole market that is suffering? What are the current growth industries? What industries are resisting the slump? Grab the opportunity that is offered to you at this stage to re-assess your career goals and preferences. The biannual Bayt.com Consumer Confidence Index survey and Job Index survey will give you answers to all your questions. This might be just the right time for you to make an integral career shift into something you have always wanted to do. Seek career coaching if needed as that will help guide you in the right direction. You can find career advice, courses and tests to assess your existing skills, as opposed to skills in demand by employers, on Bayt.com.

Market yourself

Bear in mind that, in difficult times, not all companies advertise their vacant positions online, thus you should make it a point to visit your targeted companies' website or online company page (see Company Pages on Bayt.com), and then call them up, and try to network with people who work there. Bayt.com Specialties will help you establish your presence as an expert in your field through community discussions. Get noticed

by employers, clients and colleagues by asking relevant questions and giving intelligent replies to questions posted by members of the community. Your attitude and expertise can make all the difference. Foster an attitude of excellence among your peers: show passion, persistence and focus on what you can bring to your targeted employer.

Write a great CV, cover letter

This is no longer an option but a necessity. The trick to gaining an interview amongst a large pool of qualified candidates is to personalize your CV and cover letter to the positions you are applying to. It is not advisable to formulate a standardized cover letter and send it to all your targeted companies. Instead, take the time to shed light on the qualifications that you have and that are required by the targeted company. Get professional assistance if needed (contact Bayt.com Career Services for more info). This will double up your chances of triumphing over other candidates and gaining the chance of an interview.

Follow up

Do not wait around to hear from your target company. Instead, drop your interviewer a thank-you note the same night, and follow up assertively (but don't overdo it) until you get a final response. Bayt.com has a directory of over 40,000 well-known companies registered on the site. These companies have company pages on the website where they share their job vacancies, display stories about their culture, and list their latest news.

About Bayt.com:

Bayt.com is the #1 job site in the Middle East with more than 40,000 employers and over 24,250,000 registered job seekers from across the Middle East, North Africa and the globe, representing all industries, nationalities and career levels. Post a job or find jobs on www.bayt.com today and access the leading resource for job seekers and employers in the region.

IRAN EXPORTING 350,000 BPD OIL TO INDIA, HOPES FOR MORE

DUBAI: Iran is exporting around 350,000 barrels of crude oil a day to India and hopes to increase this number, Oil Minister Bijan Zanganeh was quoted as saying yesterday after meeting Indian counterpart Dharmendra Pradhan. The Shana news agency, linked to Iran's oil ministry, quoted Zanganeh as saying Indian oil purchases from Iran were at 350,000 barrels a day, and that "we hope this number will increase now that sanctions have been lifted". The two ministers signed a cooperation agreement covering oil exports, the petrochemical sector and the development of a gas field, though there were no reports of any final deals being signed.

Pradhan said India was ready to invest \$20 billion in the port of Chabahar port in southeastern Iran, according to Shana, adding that "Iran and India's energy ties are no longer limited to crude oil imports". Zanganeh said Indian companies were looking to invest in oil, gas and petrochemical projects in the Islamic Republic, but that reaching deals was "a difficult task and needs time". Industry sources last week said Indian refiners are looking to ramp up purchases of Iranian crude after sanctions on Tehran were lifted in January, bringing India's imports to at least 400,000 bpd in the coming year. — Reuters



SHANGHAI: Clouds are seen around the Shanghai World Financial Center with the Jinmao Tower and the Shanghai Tower (seen left to right) in Shanghai. — AFP

SHANGHAI WEALTH MANAGEMENT FIRM COMES CRASHING TO EARTH

EXECUTIVES ARRESTED; FIRM TOUTS PLUSH OFFICES, HIGH RETURNS

SHANGHAI: Zhongjin Capital Management made a splash in the past couple of years in Shanghai. The wealth management firm's imposing branch office on Shanghai's historic Bund pulled in many eager investors seeking the double-digit returns it promised on short-term financing products. It had a big profile, sponsoring popular Shanghai TV dating program "Saturday Date" and signed up domestic billiards star Pan Xiaoting as a spokesperson.

But this week, the image of riches and success that it had cultivated came crashing down. Police said they arrested 21 executives linked to Zhongjin Capital on April 5 on suspicion of "illegal fundraising," a loosely defined term applied to irregular behavior in China's energetic but opaque shadow banking sector. The only person named by Shanghai police so far has been top executive Xu Qin, who local media said had been arrested at the Shanghai airport on his way to get married in the Vatican. Xu has been described by domestic media as a high roller, who is under 30 years of age.

Chen Jiajing, the 29-year-old chairman of Zhongjin's parent Guotai Investment Holdings, cannot be located. Public statements issued this week by two Hong Kong-listed companies in

which Guotai is a major stakeholder indicated they had been unable to reach her. Zhongjin employees told Reuters that other senior managers had been arrested during a raid on company offices. They were interrogated, allowed to use the bathroom only if they had a police escort, then hauled off, the staff said.

Calls to Zhongjin and Guotai headquarters in Shanghai went unanswered. Both company websites were inaccessible on Friday. The authorities did not provide further information about the case, and what the investigation's focus is. "The really strange part was that our business hit a new all-time high on April 5, but the next day the offices were closed," one employee who gave her name as Jiang said in a phone interview, adding that investors had been paid off on schedule the day prior to the arrests, but were unable to withdraw funds that were scheduled to mature on April 6. "The victims are the small investors and the low-level employees. We all got our friends and family to invest in the company's products," she said.

Defaults and fraud cases in China's shadow banking sector have risen in the past few years as the economy has slowed and struggling companies have been forced to pay higher interest rates

to raise cash as they try to stay afloat. The Shanghai arrests come two days after the municipal government launched a crackdown on illegal fundraising as part of a broader effort to stem financial risks.

Quick returns, high risks

Zhongjin's offices were often in some of the most expensive commercial buildings in the country and known for being full of investors eager to put down millions to buy its products. Investors told Reuters they would line up overnight to get a place in the queue, and offices were often full from 8 am until 11 pm. They looked like banks, and were often located next to banks, giving them an air of respectability - a common practice among Shanghai wealth management firms seeking to burnish their reputations for stability in the face of rising reports of failure and fraud.

Local media showed posts from social media accounts featuring a young woman claiming to be a manager at Zhongjin, including pictures of her holding what looked like six 100,000 yuan bricks of cash garnished with thinner 10,000 yuan sheafs. More boxes of cash were in the background. Other posts show her driving a Ferrari and claiming to have just purchased a

2 million yuan investment product from the company.

Reuters could not immediately verify the authenticity of the images and posts or identify the woman. An investor who gave his surname as Jiang told Reuters in a phone interview that he put 300,000 yuan (\$46,345) of his family's money into the company in March because of its perceived trustworthiness and high profile. "The company's offices were always busy, and they always paid back investments on time. Who would expect this type of company to have problems?" he said.

Investors have been told to take their cases to their local police stations, but one said he was required by the police to sign a statement admitting he was involved in illegal fundraising before they would take up his claim. He balked. On Friday, Zhongjin investors attempted to gather at People's Square in central Shanghai, but the group was broken up by police, according to a Zhongjin investor. Reuters viewed video showing clashes with police in the square, though that couldn't be immediately verified. On Thursday, the police also broke up an assembly of investors and employees outside one of the company's offices. — Reuters

Experience the incredible iPhone SE on the biggest network in Kuwait

ZAIN OFFERS IPHONE SE

KUWAIT: Zain, the leading telecommunications company in Kuwait, yesterday announced it will offer iPhone SE - the most powerful phone with a four-inch display, beginning today. One of Zain's main priorities is to place customers at the forefront of enjoyable experiences and provide them with appealing products and service offerings, reinforcing the company's position as a leader in the Kuwaiti telecommunications market.

iPhone SE packs the power of iPhone 6s in a beloved compact aluminum design that

customers love, featuring a stunning four-inch Retina display and four gorgeous metallic finishes, including rose gold. With the exceptional performance of the advanced 64-bit A9 chip, longer battery life, camera innovations including a 12-megapixel iSight camera, Live Photos, the ability to record in 4K and Touch ID with Apple Pay, iPhone SE is the perfect phone for everyone who wants a smaller phone. Customers can purchase iPhone SE at Zain branches and online at kw.zain.com. For more information on iPhone, please visit www.apple.com/iphone.

ABK LAUNCHES ITS NEW ONLINE PREPAID APPLICATION SERVICE

KUWAIT: Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) yesterday announced the launch of its new Online Prepaid Application Service, which allows ABK and non-ABK customers to apply conveniently online for two of the Banks most popular cards; the Multi-Currency Prepaid Freedom card and the Emirates Visa Gold Prepaid Travel Card. Application fees are KD 10 paid online and customers can collect their cards within two working days for the normal service.

Applicants can also receive the card on the same day if they apply online by 10am provided they are able to collect the card from ABK's Hawally branch between 17:00pm - 19:00pm from Sundays to Wednesdays. The ABK Multi-Currency Prepaid Freedom card offers many benefits to customers, mainly multiple currencies in one card that includes Kuwaiti Dinar, US Dollar, British Pound, Euro, Emirati Dirham, Saudi Riyal, Bahraini Dinar, Qatari Riyal, Swiss Franc and Canadian Dollar. Additional benefits include exchange rates that are locked in to protect customers against future fluctuation rates, as well as free travel insurance of up to \$250.

The ABK Emirates Visa Gold Prepaid Travel Card allows customers to earn Emirates Skywards Miles with local and overseas purchases, free travel insurance up to \$250,000 and it is equipped with the new innovative contactless payment technology; ABK's Tap 'n' Go, allowing cardholders to conduct low value transactions in a faster, more convenient and secure way at any terminal that accepts Visa

payWave. ABK continuously develops its services and products in line with its commitment and determination to deliver Simpler Banking solutions for its customers. Customers can apply for their cards online by visiting ABK's website www.eahli.com



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In a Luxurious and Privileged Compound at Abou Halifa Region Facing the National Park and the Sea

Duplex & Triplex Villa's 3/4 Bedrooms / 3/4 Bathrooms
+Big Salon + Separate pool
All Mezzler Bathrooms is Marble

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

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SECTORS' WEEKLY TRADING ACTIVITY				
Sector	Volume	To Market %	Value	To Market %
OIL & GAS	81,688,123	8.78%	1,595,378	2.53%
BASIC MATERIALS	4,906,740	0.53%	1,412,591	2.24%
INDUSTRIALS	84,297,628	9.06%	5,485,260	8.71%
CONSUMER GOODS	2,727,651	0.29%	2,101,776	3.34%
HEALTH CARE	661,686	0.07%	177,846	0.28%
CONSUMER SERVICES	41,586,849	4.47%	2,192,876	3.48%
TELECOMMUNICATIONS	35,870,876	3.86%	3,251,615	5.16%
BANKS	125,758,603	13.52%	23,708,748	37.65%
INSURANCE	157,249	0.02%	6,468	0.01%
REAL ESTATE	268,275,161	28.84%	9,708,716	15.42%
FINANCIAL SERVICES	281,055,173	30.21%	13,062,631	20.74%
TECHNOLOGY	3,232,328	0.35%	270,279	0.43%

SECTORS INDICES PERFORMANCE				
Sector	Last Week Closing	Previous Week Closing	Weekly Ch. %	Annual Ch. %
OIL & GAS	796.25	787.08	1.17%	-2.75%
BASIC MATERIALS	939.57	954.61	-1.58%	-4.75%
INDUSTRIALS	968.14	984.99	-1.71%	-7.18%
CONSUMER GOODS	1,067.65	1,067.90	-0.02%	-2.49%
HEALTH CARE	927.08	912.92	1.55%	0.19%
CONSUMER SERVICES	922.34	923.86	-0.16%	-8.56%
TELECOMMUNICATIONS	617.49	607.03	1.72%	3.15%
BANKS	818.10	809.61	1.05%	-9.81%
INSURANCE	1,041.15	1,072.13	-2.89%	-7.62%
REAL ESTATE	824.56	822.01	0.31%	-12.35%
FINANCIAL SERVICES	569.58	563.42	1.09%	-4.33%
TECHNOLOGY	954.25	905.09	5.43%	16.35%

KSE ENDS IN THE GREEN ZONE

BAYAN INVESTMENT WEEKLY REPORT

KUWAIT: Kuwait Stock Exchange (KSE) ended last week in the green zone. The Price Index closed at 5,230.44 points, up by 0.03% from the week before closing, the Weighted Index increased by 0.34% after closing at 361.04 points, whereas the KSX-15 Index closed at 852.87 points up by 0.28%. Furthermore, last week's average daily turnover decreased by 31%, compared to the preceding week, reaching KD 12.59 million, whereas trading volume average was 186.04 million shares, recording a decrease of 8.76%.

As far as KSE's performance over the last week; the three stock market indicators were able to realize different gains by the end of the week, however were humble, as a result to the random purchasing operations that included many stocks of different sectors, especially the heavy and leading stocks in the Banks and Financial Services sec-

tors, which positively affected the three indices performance, and pushed it to close in the green zone. Also, the market gains of last week came despite the noticeable decline in the trading activity compared to a week earlier, especially the market cash liquidity that dropped by 31%.

Furthermore, Kuwait Stock Exchange initiated the first session of the week with noticeable losses for the three indicators due to the sharp selling pressures witnessed by a number of stocks in most of the market sectors, especially the stocks in the Insurance and Telecommunication sectors, among a noticeable decline in the cash liquidity levels reached 44.39%. On the second session of the week, the market continued its losses for the three indicators, however at a slower pace, due to the continued selective selling operations executed on some listed stocks espe-

cially the low-priced ones, whereas the Price Index dropped to reach its lowest level since around the end of last February, however the active purchasing activity witnessed by some leading stocks, contributed into decreasing the market losses to some point, in light of a relatively quiet trading activity.

On the mid of week session, the market witnessed a mixed performance for the three indicators, whereas the Price Index continued recording losses, however limited, in light of the quick selling and speculative operations that were executed on some small-cap stocks, whilst the random purchasing operations executed on a limited number of the operational stocks, assisted the Weighted and KSX-15 indices to realize some gain by the end of the session, among a low trading activity, especially the volume, which dropped by 30.94%.

On Wednesday's session, the market was able to hold and realize limited gain by the end of the session, whereas the three indicators met for the first time during the week in the green zone. Such performance came in light of the active purchasing operations that concentrated on the leading stocks, among a noticeable increase in the trading activity. Moreover, the market succeeded in continuing its upward direction, as the three indicators were able to close in the green zone by the end of the week, supported by the active purchasing operations executed on a number of stocks in most of the market sectors, especially the Technology and Insurance sectors, which helped the market in sustaining its weekly gains.

In addition, the market capitalization reached KD 23.45 billion by the end of last week, increasing by 1.93% compared to its level in a week earlier, where it was KD 23.01 billion; however on the annual level, the market cap for the listed companies in KSE

decreased by 7.18% from its value at the end of 2015, where it reached then KD 25.27 billion. As far as KSE annual performance, the price index ended last week recording 6.85% annual loss compared to its closing in 2015, while the weighted index decreased by 5.41%, and the KSX-15 recorded 5.28% loss.

Sectors' Indices

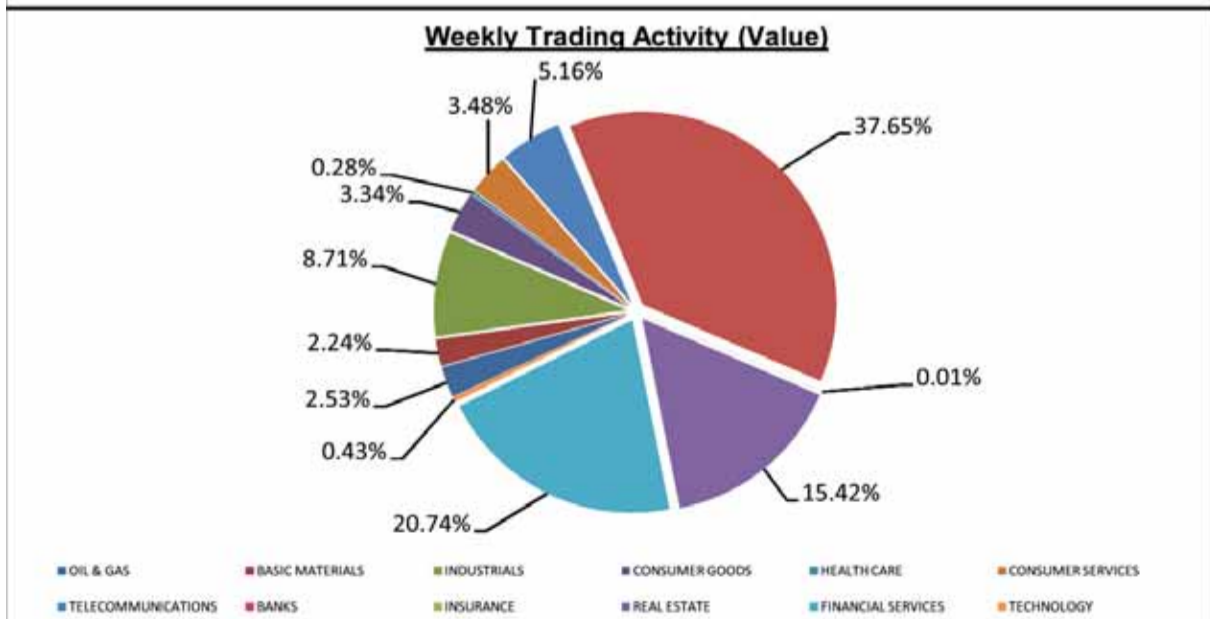
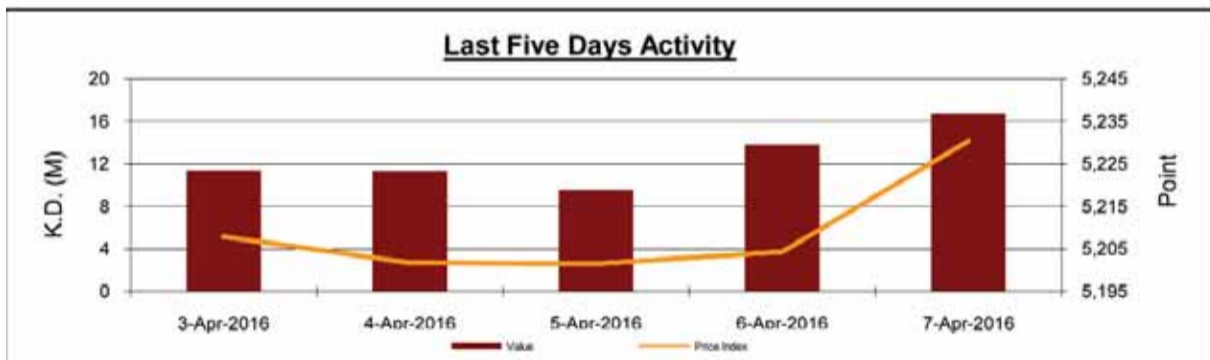
Seven of KSE's sectors ended last week in the green zone, while the other five recorded declines. Last week's highest gainer was the Technology sector, achieving 5.43% growth rate as its index closed at 954.25 points. Whereas, in the second place, the Telecommunications sector's index closed at 617.49 points or 1.72% increase. The Health Care sector came in third as its index achieved 1.55% growth, ending the week at 927.08 points. The least growing sector was the Real Estate sector, as its index closed at 824.56 points increasing by 0.31%. On the other hand, the Insurance sector headed the losers list as its index declined by 2.89% to end the week's

activity at 1,041.15 points. The Industrial sector was second on the losers' list, which index declined by 1.71%, closing at 968.14 points, the least declining sector was the Consumer Goods sector, as its index closed at 1,067.65 points at a loss of 0.02%.

Sectors' Activity

The Financial Services sector dominated a total trade volume of around 281.06 million shares changing hands during last week, representing 30.21% of the total market trading volume. The Real Estate sector was second in terms of trading volume as the sector's traded shares were 28.84% of last week's total trading volume, with a total of around 268.28 million shares. On the other hand, the Banks sector's stocks were the highest traded in terms of value; with a turnover of around K.D 23.71 million or 37.65% of last week's total market trading value. The Financial Services sector took the second place as the sector's last week turnover was approx. K.D 13.06 million representing 20.74% of the total market trading value.

KSE INDICES				
		Price Index	Weighted index	KSX 15
Weekly	Last week	5,230.44	361.04	852.87
	Previous week	5,228.75	359.82	850.50
	Change (Point)	1.69	1.22	2.37
	Change (%)	0.03%	0.34%	0.28%
Annual	Last year	5,615.12	381.70	900.43
	Change (Point)	-384.68	-20.66	-47.56
	Change (%)	-6.85%	-5.41%	-5.28%



MARKET ACTIVITY			
	Last Week	Previous Week	Ch. %
Volume	930,218,067	1,019,512,662	-8.76%
Value (K.D)	62,974,184	91,260,735	-31.00%
Deals	17,770	19,206	-7.48%

MARKET CAPITALISATION (K.D.)			
Last Week	Previous Week	Weekly Ch. %	Annual Ch. %
23,451,864,144	23,007,550,421	1.93%	-7.18%

TOP GAINERS OF THE WEEK				
Company	Last Week Closing	Previous Week Closing	Ch. (fils)	Ch. %
COAST	41.00	35.00	6.0	17.14%
CITYGROUP	530.00	455.00	75.0	16.48%
NINV	104.00	91.00	13.0	14.29%
FIRSTDUBAI	47.50	42.00	5.5	13.10%
CABLETV	27.00	24.00	3.0	12.50%

TOP LOSERS OF THE WEEK				
Company	Last Week Closing	Previous Week Closing	Ch. (fils)	Ch. %
ALDEERA	28.50	35.00	-6.5	-18.57%
HUMANSOFT	560.00	660.00	-100.0	-15.15%
ZIMAH	45.50	53.00	-7.5	-14.15%
ALAQARIA	17.50	20.00	-2.5	-12.50%
WETHAQ	35.50	40.50	-5.0	-12.35%

SECTORS' ACTIVITY

The Financial Services sector dominated a total trade volume of around 281.06 million shares changing hands during last week, representing 30.21% of the total market trading volume. On the other hand, the Banks sector's stocks were the highest traded in terms of value; with a turnover of around K.D 23.71 million or 37.65% of last week's total market trading value.

XCITE.COM LAUNCHES INSTANT, PERSONALIZED GIFTING WITH eGIFT CARDS

KUWAIT: Kuwait's largest Electronics retail player X-cite by Alghanim Electronics has recently launched eGift cards - an exciting new service that enables customers instant & personalized gifting. This convenient service allows customers to send online gift cards to their friends and family instantly via email delivery.

For centuries, the practice of gifting has put shoppers through much stress as they need to ensure to buy gifts that would be appreciated by their loved ones, while at the same time being able to suit their pockets. eGift Cards aims to ease this stress by allowing customers to choose any value between KD 5 and KD 500. Customers can now say goodbye to guesswork involved in choosing gifts, as the recipient of the eGift

Card can redeem the card to purchase any product of their choice on xcite.com ranging from Perfumes to Home Appliances, to the latest Gadgets.

Forgetting important occasions like birthdays and anniversaries is quite common, and eGift Cards aim to help these last minute gifters as well. Delivered instantly via email, this is definitely the fastest solution to giving gifts on the go - whether it's from home or in your car from your smartphone, you don't need to worry about last minute gifting, making it perfect for the last minute shopper.

Gifts always mean a lot more if they are personalized. That's exactly what XciteGift cards allow you to do - Write your own personalized message, upload your own photo

& memories or choose from several preset themes such as birthday, anniversary to give the egift card a unique personalized touch & make them much more valuable to your loved ones. Truly, a gift for every occasion.

So never miss an occasion and let your loved ones know how much you care. Visit Xcite.com today for instant, personalized and convenient gifting for every occasion. All eGift Cards are redeemable on www.xcite.com or via the Xcite App available on the Google Play Store or App Store. Xcite.com is Kuwait's leading ecommerce player offering an easy but rich shopping experience with a wide product variety to choose from, image and video rich product content, thousands of product reviews enabling informed purchases, capability to compare multiple products side by side, easy and secure payment options while offering convenient doorstep delivery as well as buyer protection with an easy return policy.

BELGIUM STRUGGLING TO WIN BACK TOURISTS

BRUSSELS: Gone are the usual snappy crowds on Brussels' famed Grand Place, visits to the Atomium monument have plummeted and hotel rooms are empty. Two weeks after the Belgian capital was hit by terror attacks, the country's tourist industry is in despair. As Belgium struggles to move on from the March 22 Islamic State suicide bombings that struck Brussels airport and a metro station, killing 32 people, the financial impact of the attacks is weighing on the economy.

For some holidaymakers not scared away, the chance to explore the city's delights undisturbed during the normally busy Easter holiday period has been an unexpected boon. "We like it. There's not too many people and we can take great pictures," said a smiling

Lucien Liu from China as he marveled at the near-deserted Grand Place square with its celebrated 15th-century Gothic city hall. Danish tourist Jeppe Strauss, in town for a few days with friends, said they had encountered no queues at the museums.

"It made our trip a lot more pleasant since we did not have to spend a lot of time waiting," he said on a street lined with waffle and chocolate shops. But there is no such silver lining for those working in the tourism industry, which accounts a significant part of the economy, as much as nine percent in some parts of the country. Hotel and restaurant bookings are down by half since the attacks, according to Patrick Bontinck, head of the Brussels tourism office.

'Economic carnage'

"This has never happened before," said Said Rabet, owner of the Saint-Michel hotel which boasts views of the Grand Place and is usually fully booked. Now, just five of his 14 rooms are taken. "It's not enough to say things are going badly, it's worse than that. This is economic carnage in the hotel and restaurant sectors," he added. The effects are being felt across the country. Hospitality businesses in the northern Flanders region, home to the tourist hotspot of Bruges, say revenues are down by a third since the attacks, according to a survey by the Unizo employers' group on Thursday.

Belgium's tourism sector was already struggling in the wake of the Paris terror attacks in November after it emerged

they were largely planned in Brussels. Following the Paris bloodshed, the Belgian capital went into lockdown for several days over fears of an imminent attack, with soldiers deployed on the streets and schools and the metro system closed.

While Belgium remains on high alert, authorities are still hunting for a suspected third attacker whose bomb did not go off at Brussels airport. Prime Minister Charles Michel insisted Wednesday that the country was returning "to normal life". Rudi Vervoort, head of the Brussels regional government, said steps have already been taken since the Paris attacks to reassure visitors. "We can of course guarantee the safety of all visitors, all tourists in hotels, in all the main tourist spots," he said at

the same press conference as Michel.

A special phone line has been set up to respond to visitors' questions and there are webcams at key sites so tourists can go online and "see for themselves that everything is fine", he added. Hopes are high that Sunday's reopening of Brussels airport—whose departure hall was wrecked in the blasts—will help bring back the tourists. For staff at the quirky Atomium, a huge nine-sphered structure offering panoramic views, a return to business as usual can't come soon enough. A second metal detector has been installed to help visitors feel safe. "Last week, 98 percent of my group bookings were cancelled," said Yvonne Boodts, who organizes guided tours of the monument. "I have never seen anything like it." — AFP



NBK CAPITAL PLATINUM SPONSORS CFA CHARTER AWARD CEREMONY

KUWAIT: NBK Capital sponsored the eighth annual CFA Charter Award Ceremony, class of 2016. Board members from the CFA Society - Kuwait, representatives from NBK Capital and a number of professional analysts in the community were present at Salwa Al-Sabah Hall to congratulate the recent CFA graduates. The CFA Society in Kuwait, an organization that promotes the highest ethical standards and professional excellence within the local investment community, organizes this event annually to celebrate the graduation of new professionals who successfully complete the CFA designation requirements.

At the celebration, Faisal Al-Hamad, CEO of NBK Capital said "The CFA Institute is a strategic partner for NBK Capital. We both share the important responsibility of supporting these individuals who have demonstrated their high level of excellence and professionalism. Our goal is to

help them reach new heights in their financial careers." He added, "Our sponsorship falls under NBK Capital's Corporate and Social Responsibility "CSR" strategy, and as evidence of the extent of our commitment to invest in the development of our people, and open new opportunities for them to build a prosperous future.

Today, we welcome a new group of these ambitious professionals into the exciting world of finance, and we want to congratulate them on their great achievements." This is the sixth year in a row that NBK Capital sponsors the CFA Graduation, which is reflective of the robust relationship the company has with the CFA Institute. CFA Society - Kuwait is an association of local investment professionals, consisting of portfolio managers, security analysts, investment advisors and other financial practitioners, that has served CFA charter holders and CFA Program candidates locally since 2008.

YAHOO FAITHFUL SEEK CALM AT THE EYE OF THE STORM

YAHOO'S OVERALL FINANCES FAIL TO IMPROVE

SUNNYVALE: For those faithful to Marissa Mayer's vision for the future of Yahoo, cries sounding the company's demise stop at the door to its Silicon Valley main campus. Shouting by activist investors eager to overthrow the board and critics' proclamations that the end is near are muted inside the campus walls by a confidence by some here that the pioneering internet firm is not dying but being reborn.

"Working inside Yahoo feels nothing like what is being said on the outside," Adam Cahan, senior vice president of product and engineering in charge of video said during a chat on the company's Sunnyvale headquarters. "That stuff I read, I would tell you I am at a completely different company; I am literally having this out-of-body experience." Cahan was promoted by Mayer after she took the job as Yahoo chief executive in 2012 with a mission to return the one-time online search star to its former glory.

She had Cahan lead a belated charge into mobile at a time when lifestyles had shifted to smartphones but the bulk of Yahoo's focus still went into offerings tailored for those going online using desktop or laptop computers. It remains unclear whether Mayer will fulfill her vision for Yahoo, since an activist investor has launched a campaign to oust her and the rest of the board and a deadline for bids for company assets was reportedly set for April 11.

Empty desks can be seen at the headquarters, and employees talk of "poachers" hunting talent at the company. While Mayer injected some energy and glamour into the company, Yahoo's overall finances have failed to improve, with the company's valuation propped up by its stakes in Alibaba and Yahoo Japan. Yahoo is facing perhaps the deepest crisis since helping pioneer Internet users more than two decades ago, having fallen behind online innovators such as Google and Facebook. Earlier this year, the company opened the door to a sale of its core operations at the

same time it is pursuing Mayer's efforts at revitalization. But some shareholders are impatient, and one activist investment group has launched a bid to gain control of the Yahoo board, calling the transformation efforts a failure.

Tilting to engineers

In Sunnyvale, however, the work continues. When Mayer took charge, fewer than 30 engineers out of company that then had about 13,000 employees were developing for mobile Internet. Overall, less than 15 percent of the workforce was involved in technical jobs. Mayer set out to make Yahoo a "mobile-first" company and, in a dramatic internal shift, skewed the workforce to engineers. More than half of the jobs in Yahoo's streamlined workforce are now technical.

Meanwhile, the ranks of people tapping into Yahoo offerings on mobile devices swelled to 680 million, and revenues from mobile, video, native advertising and social climbed over \$1.6 billion. Video viewing is up nearly 80 percent from a year ago, and revenue related to video has jumped 64 percent year-over-year to \$375 million. "For me, it represents the kind of tectonic shift we have been experiencing inside the company that hasn't been apparent on the outside," said Cahan.

Cahan took on video at Yahoo about six months ago, putting him in charge of one facet of Mayer's term of "Mavens"—mobile, video, native advertising and social. A live sport streaming partnership to stream a National Football League game was so successful that Yahoo went on to partner with other US sports leagues. With the Mavens strategy, Yahoo is pursuing areas that promise growth even as it faces headwinds in its traditional search and Web businesses. While outsiders rail that Yahoo's quarterly financial figures lack of growth, insiders see Mavens as hidden success blossoming as the company's old businesses wither. "These are massive growth platforms that can change the course of Yahoo," Cahan said.

Yahoo answer to Siri?

Enrique Munoz Torres heads the team fashioning Yahoo's place in the world of online search, adapting to mobile and tailoring results to individual users while behind the scenes Microsoft and Google handle the heavy lifting of cataloging everything on the Internet. While he wouldn't disclose details regarding what Yahoo may have in mind, he said he was excited by the potential of digital virtual assistants such as Google Now, Apple's Siri, and Microsoft's Cortana. "It is an area that we find fascinating," he said, without elaborating on any specific Yahoo plans in the sector.

Simon Khalaf, who headed the analytics firm Flurry acquired by Yahoo, also sees growth potential. "Yahoo is going to be a property where you consume media; talk about media, and have utility. It is a big departure from what Yahoo used to be," he said. The head of the team behind Yahoo's widely used free email service, Jeff Bonforte, described himself as a "boomerang" employee who left the company for a while then returned when it bought Xobni, a start-up he had joined. Bonforte said the company has made progress in improving products like Yahoo Mail, which draws users into Yahoo's world, where it can then make money with ads or other methods.

Still, many analysts say Yahoo has a long and difficult path to find its former glory. The research firm Trefis said in a note last month that while Yahoo has made progress in some areas, it "has not been able to capitalize on new web-trends in the past, namely social, local and mobile." Trefis analysts say that Yahoo "faces an increased threat to both its search and display advertising businesses" and needs to do more to adapt to mobile. Yahoo needs "a dedicated mobile platform" to showcase its content, and "aggressive marketing" to revamp its image for investors and users, Trefis said. — AFP

TOP REAL ESTATE GROUP PRESENTS 'THE CAPITOL PROJECT' IN CANADA

KUWAIT: Since Top Real Estate Group (TREG) has expanded its real estate business to include Toronto city in Canada, it has prepared studies for the various real estate projects offered in the market to provide its clients and investors in the region with the optimal real estate projects and investment opportunities that give them high yields.

Mohamed W Al-Qaddoumi, the Deputy Managing Director for Marketing of TREG and Manager of the group branch in Canada stated that the group is pleased to present to its clients one of the best real estate investment projects in Ontario, Canada where the economic growth rate is deemed one of the strongest growth rates in the world since 2005. He added that Ontario has announced a plan for development of its infrastructure for an amount of \$ 130 billion over the next ten years which has made it the focus of interest of investors from all over the world.

Al-Qaddoumi said that the Group announces the first one of its projects in Canada i.e. The Capitol located in the heart of Kingston city, Ontario province and is under development by IN8 Development Company that has more than 25 years of experience in the field of real estate development and is deemed one of the leading companies in the field of real estate investment.

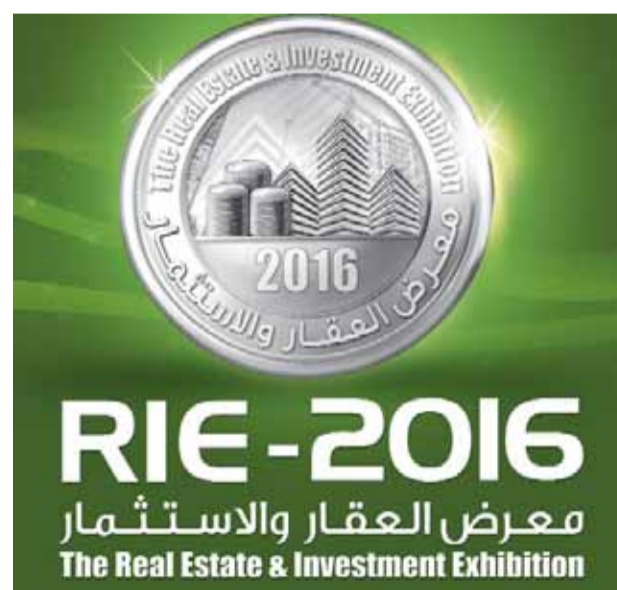
Regarding the project, he stated that it consists of 20 floors containing 223 flats of different models of one bedroom to three bedrooms in addition to many amenities and services such as



Mohamed W Al-Qaddoumi

seven thousand feet of commercial spaces, roof restaurant and hall, theatre hall and gym. He added that the prices start at CAN \$ 240 thousand of which 35% shall be paid upon execution of contract and the balance shall be paid in 2018 upon completion of the project.

Al-Qaddoumi stated that it is forecasted that the value of flats shall increase at the rate of 20-25% during the construction period until the date of completion. He added that the return on



investment arising from the increase of real estate value and rent income may reach 10% per annum starting from the first year to 12% per annum in the following years.

Regarding the city, he stated that Kingston city in Ontario province has strong economy but the downtown currently has an undersupply of flats. He added that the area has a military base "CFB Kingston" that is the largest Canadian military base with about 8 thousand staffs. About 7 thousand employees are working in the health care and government institutions in the downtown. About 35 thousand students live in the city where they study in Kingston University in addition to Queen's University which is the oldest and well established university in Canada at 650 meters from the capitol project.

The number of students of Queens University is forecasted to reach about 24 thousand students, 95% of them from outside Kingston. The university provides 3,900 beds in the campus. The large number of students and employees in the city and the undersupply of flats have resulted in the increasing demand on flats for rent and therefore the project is an appropriate opportunity for investors to realize the highest degree of security with good annual yields of their investments. During the Real Estate and Investment Exhibition (11-16th April, Kuwait International Fairs Ground, Mishref, Hall 8) Top Real Estate Group will be showcasing Canada developments and the company latest projects and services.

KFH NAMES 7 WINNERS OF BANKING CARDS CAMPAIGN

'SHOP AND WIN BACK UP TO KD 50,000 WITH KFH CARDS'

KUWAIT: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) named 7 winners of the twelfth draw of the new banking cards promotion campaign themed "Shop and Win Back Up to KD 50,000 with KFH Cards" that had been launched in an attempt to encourage clients to use KFH credit, prepaid and debit cards while making purchases in Kuwait and overseas. For every KD 10 spent on their KFH cards, clients will get a chance to enter a draw and win back up to KD 500 of their daily spends for 100 days ending April 19th 2016. KFH Credit and Prepaid cards used in domestic and international retail spends and KFH Debit cards used in international retail spends are eligible for the daily draw.

The winners are: Sarah AL Sultan, Bader Alhouthi, Latifa Aladwani, Adel Alazmi, Mohammad Alajmi, Saqr Ali and Faye Mohammad. KFH strives to continuously offer its clients new promotions and discounts in order to distinguish them among peers, not to mention to further bolster

bank's leading position in the field of banking cards. KFH marketing campaigns play a significant role in underlining KFH's principles that include boosting sales, and benefiting clients and merchants.

This new campaign is part of KFH's efforts to reward its clients and grant them additional value; thus achieving customer satisfaction and boosting their confidence. The campaign also aims at enhancing the bank's presence especially that it dominates the largest market share in the field of banking cards. It is worth noting that KFH has won several awards in the field of banking cards which reiterates its success and efficiency in banking cards market. KFH enjoys high confidence and leadership in the market in addition to high quality products which have enabled it to achieve growth in cards market and increase the number of customers. KFH occupies the leading position as the issuer of banking cards and one of leading banks at the GCC level.



BRITISH AIRWAYS: EASY WAYS TO ENJOY FLYING WITH KIDS

KUWAIT: With the summer holidays approaching and families starting to think about flying home or to a new destination, it's worth remembering some basic steps to make flying more pleasant for you, your children and your fellow flyers. To make the holiday planning and journey even more enjoyable, British Airways is running a special sale until 10 April 2016. To make the holiday planning and journey even more enjoyable, British Airways is offering discounted fares across all cabins from Kuwait to London, Europe and North America with travel valid until 30 November 2016.

Paolo De Renzis, Head of Middle East, Africa and Central Asia Sales for

such as bassinets for infants. There's plenty of information about family travel at <http://www.britishairways.com/en-ae/information/family-travel>. Take advantage of all the concessions offered to families, such as being allowed to take strollers to the door of the aircraft when boarding. Families also get priority when boarding and you can wait until other passengers have disembarked before doing so with your family.

Understand air-pressure

The pressurization in passenger aircraft is likely to be your child's main source of discomfort. During ascent and descent, giving the child food or drink will trigger their swallowing reflex, which will help their ears equalize. Most parents have a good idea of which foods make their kids overactive and tetchy, but in general, avoid sweet treats of ones that have artificial colorants when travelling. Chewy snacks like dried fruit will help with pressurizing their ears while limiting the spikes in blood-sugar that can result in tantrums. While it's good to keep the child hydrated, don't overdo it as this can result in nappy-changes and trips to the toilet.

Pack favorite, familiar snacks for the kids, to supplement to meals served on board. Keeping the child occupied is obviously crucial if he or she is awake. One tried-and-tested trick is to gift-wrap treasured toys and present them when the child gets bored. It may also be good time to buy some new toys and ration them out during the flight. This is probably one time to avoid toys like Lego blocks as they can fall in hard-to-reach places. Mobile devices can be a benefit for parents and although many families ration children's use of tablets, a long-haul flight might justify a little leeway. Headphones are useful tools for movies, music, apps and games, but crayons and paper are always favorites. Generally, it's better to not seat kids on the aisle, as they may bump passing trolleys, which have hard edges and hot water.

Don't over-pack. You have to carry it all. You'll need the basics - wipes, nappies, sanitizers and so on - but if you-child is small you'll need to carry him or her as well. Finally, says Paolo, remember that the aircrew are your allies and it's in their interests to ensure that you and your family have an enjoyable flight, so don't be reluctant to ask for help. Return fares start from as little as KD 154 from Kuwait to the UK and Europe and KD 237 to the USA and Canada across the World Traveler cabins. A full timetable of British Airways' flights to London and beyond is available online here where customers can find the lowest fares and book, pay and check-in online for their flights.



British Airways, who has been flying with his three children since they were very young, says being in a confined space with a noisy youngster can be awkward for parents and disturbing to fellow flyers. Often you can avoid this with just a bit of planning and taking a few simple steps to ensure your child is as relaxed, occupied and comfortable as possible. "Most children are naturally quite excited about flying. The trick is to harness that interest, without them getting over-excited, while ensuring they don't become fretful in an unfamiliar environment," says Paolo and suggests the following ways to ease your journey:

A happy flight starts online before you leave for the airport. Sites like www.britishairways.com have comprehensive details of paperwork required for traveling with minors, so you can plan ahead. You can also order children's meals online, better still get them to help you. You can also reserve equipment



LONGINES EQUESTRIAN C

A TRIBUTE TO THE BRAND'S PASSION FOR THE



KUWAIT: As a token of its long-running passion for equestrian sports and its attachment to its lady customers, Longines is launching a new line with shapes and materials inspired by iconic elements of the equine world. Boasting a decidedly bold design, the various models of this collection remain true to the elegance that characterises the winged hourglass brand. The Longines Equestrian Collection has been created as an allegory of the equestrian world.

Longines' history and the history of equestrian sports have been intertwined for over a century. It was therefore natural for the brand to dedicate a collection to this passion. The various models of The Longines Equestrian Collection are linked by their references to the equine world. Shapes and materials derive their inspiration from symbolic elements of this environment, like a sublime echo of the world of horse lovers. Longines thus celebrates the elegance of riders and their mounts. Arches on racetracks evoking horse-shoes, stirrups acting as supports to follow their horse around the high jump course, fine leather of saddles: all these strong images are found in

the bold lines of these watches dedicated to female equestrian sports lovers. On their wrist, the hands waltz to the rhythm of time and merge with the pace of the horses. With the Longines Equestrian Collection, Longines offers a genuine allegory of the equestrian world in tribute to the deep bonds the brand has forged with it.

The models evoking the arch are available in four sizes - 23 mm, 26 mm and 30 mm and 34 mm - while watches drawing their inspiration from the stirrup come in three sizes, 23.50 mm, 26.50 mm and 30 mm. Their steel cases house a quartz movement and each of these watches also comes in a diamond-set version. The polished black lacquer and mother-of-pearl dials are adorned with diamond indexes, while the silver-coloured flinquÉ dial features Roman numerals and the silver-coloured sunburst dial Arabic numerals. The stirrup-shaped model with a mother-of-pearl dial is also available in an even more dazzling version, decorated with a double row of diamonds. All the watches in this collection are fitted with overstitched leather straps matching the rider outfit.



BAHRAH TRADING C WINS FIRE SERVICE C

KUWAIT: Bahrah Trading Company strengthens its position in the government sector bringing high quality heavy equipment products backed by reputation for professional service and providing reliable after sales support. Bahrah Trading Company (BTC), one of the Al Sayer Group Holding Companies and the exclusive distributor of AVIA Ashok Leyland in Kuwait, was recently awarded contracts to supply various firefighting support vehicles to Kuwait Fire Service Directorate (KFSD).

The latest contract awarded to BTC involves supply of 8 nos. AVIA Ashok Leyland half-lorries including refrigerated trucks and self-loading crane trucks with rear lift gate. These are support trucks to assist other fire equipment & vehicles during any fire and rescue incident. According to Mubarak Naser Al Sayer CEO Al Sayer Group Holding "Bahrah Trading won contract among stiff competition from other half-lorry makes in the market. This is the first time Ashok Leyland trucks are being supplied to government sector in the region."

The handover ceremony of the trucks was attended by delegates from Ashok Leyland MENA including Karthik Ganesan, Regional Manager accompanied by U Umashankar, Regional Sales Manager (Trucks) and Ramesh Deshpande, Divisional Manager. KFSD represented by Engr Manosur Obaid Head, Specifications & Tender Study Department in the presence of Capt Eng Abdulaziz Benian received the vehicles. Members from BTC team led by Hamza Melakandy, General Manager also attended the handover ceremony.



Hamza Melakandy General Manager BTC said "For over six decades, Ashok Leyland has been a technology leader in India's commercial vehicle industry, molding the country's commercial vehicle profile by introducing technologies and product ideas that have gone on to become industry norms. From 2.5 tons to 49 tons in trucks, from numerous special application vehicles to diesel engines for industrial, marine and genset applications,

PANASONIC LAUNCHES LUMIX GX85

THE LATEST IN ITS DIGITAL SINGLE LENS MIRRORLESS

DUBAI: Panasonic has announced its new DSLM (Digital Single Lens Mirrorless) camera DMC-GX85, in the LUMIX G range, which incorporates a host of advanced technologies and practical functions in a compact body. The LUMIX GX85 lets users shoot vibrant, true-to-life high quality images with excellent resolution, high contrast and impressive color reproduction. The Venus Engine even reproduces vibrant, impressive color while shooting images like clear sky by dividing hue, saturation, and luminosity, and finely adjusts them separately.

The DMC-GX85 is capable of recording smooth, high-resolution 4K video in 3840x2160 at 30p(60Hz) / 25p(50Hz) or 24p in MP4. Taking advantage of 4K technology, users can capture the fleeting photo opportunities at 30 fps in 8-

megapixel equivalent resolution to save it as a 4K PHOTO. It is easy to get 4K PHOTO with three 4K PHOTO modes which are 4K Burst Shooting, 4K Burst S/S (Start/Stop) and 4K Pre-burst. Other features like Post Focus, Light Composition, 4K Live Cropping are also available. Hitesh Ojha - Deputy General Manager, AV Department PMMAF (Panasonic Marketing Middle East & Africa) comments, "GX85 gives crisp, high resolution images in detail with high contrast, impressive color reproduction.

Users can now enjoy blur-free photo/video shooting from wide to tele, even in low light situations as the LUMIX GX85 incorporates a new 5-axis Dual IS (Image Stabilizer) for more effective suppression of blur and for a larger range of movement than ever before." With an electromagnetic drive in the shutter unit

of GX85, the shock caused by the movement of shutter diaphragm is dramatically reduced and the shutter sound is also minimized. This shock reduction enables users to release mechanical shutter even in the situations where they had no choice but to use electronic shutter.

The DMC-GX85 integrates a LVF (Live View Finder) with 2764K-dot equivalent high resolution and approx.100% color reproduction*. This 16.9 Wide Screen LVF boasts approx.1.39x / 0.7x (35mm camera equiv.) magnification and 100% field of view. For even more creative photography, the LUMIX GX85 integrates a new L. Monochrome mode in Photo Style, that offers an impressive monochrome picture with rich gradation like that of a B/W film. The other new additions are Focus Bracket and Aperture Bracket that allow users to choose best shot later.



FBI DEBATES SHARING IPHONE HACKING DETAILS WITH APPLE

WASHINGTON: The FBI has not decided whether to share with Apple Inc. details about how the bureau hacked into an iPhone linked to a California terrorism investigation, the bureau's director says. James Comey discussed the situation during a speech Wednesday evening in Ohio. He said the flaw the FBI exploited in Apple's software works only on a "narrow slice of phones" - the iPhone 5C, running version 9 of Apple's mobile operating system, not on newer or older models.

"If we tell Apple, they're going to fix it and we're back where we started," Comey said. "As silly as it may sound, we may end up there. We just haven't decided yet." The Justice Department dropped its legal fight to compel Apple to provide it with specialized software that would allow the FBI to hack into the iPhone, which was issued to San Bernardino county health inspector Syed Farook. Farook and his wife, Tashfeen Malik, killed 14 people in December before dying in a shootout with authorities. The iPhone was found in a vehicle the day after the shooting. Two personal phones were found destroyed so completely the FBI could not recover information from them. A US magistrate judge had ordered Apple to provide the FBI with software to help it hack into Farook's work-issued iPhone after the government said only Apple could help authorities access the encrypted and locked iPhone. The order touched off a debate pitting digital privacy rights against national security concerns.

Keeping secrets

Comey told the university audience that the case also inspired a lot of efforts to try to break into the phone. "Someone outside the government, in response to that atten-

tion, came up with a solution," he said. "One that I am confident will be closely protected and used lawfully and appropriately." The government then "purchased a tool that allows court-authorized access to the phone," Comey said. The government has declined to release the identity of the third party that made it possible to access the iPhone.

"The FBI is very good at keeping secrets, and the people we bought this from, I know a fair amount about them, and I have a high degree of confidence that they're very good at protecting it and their motivations align with ours," Comey said.

Comey's comments were the closest hints about what the FBI may do with its knowledge of a vulnerability in Apple's software that could let someone bypass built-in digital locks to access private information. It remains unclear whether the FBI will share details about the technique with state or local police agencies or law enforcement offices.

The encrypted phone in the California case was protected by a passcode that included security protocols: a time delay and self-destruct feature that erased the phone's data after 10 tries. The two features made it impossible for the government to repeatedly and continuously test passcodes. Comey said the new method to get into the iPhone would disappear if Apple changes its software.

The FBI frequently receives requests to help with cellphone forensics, including getting into locked phones. The bureau said it has received requests for technical assistance from state and local law enforcement on more than 500 cellphones during a four-month period beginning Oct. 1 and responds on a case-by-case basis. — AP

SENATE BILL WOULD FORBID UNBREAKABLE ENCRYPTION

WASHINGTON: A draft version of a Senate bill would effectively prohibit unbreakable encryption and require companies to help the government access data on a computer or mobile device with a warrant. The draft is being finalized by the chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, Sen Richard Burr, R-NC, and the top Democrat, Sen Dianne Feinstein of California.

Their goal, they said in a statement, is to ensure adherence to any court order that requires helping law enforcement or providing decrypted information. "No individual or company is above the law." It was not immediately clear when they would introduce the bill. The draft language ran into opposition from another committee member, Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Ore, who said the proposal would require "American companies to build a backdoor" into devices.

"They would be required by federal law per this statute to decide how to weaken their products to make Americans less safe," he said. Wyden pledged to do "everything in my power" to prevent the plan from passing. The emerging measure follows the Justice Department's battle with Apple Inc. over access to an encrypted and locked iPhone - a fight pitting digital privacy rights against national security concerns.

Specialized software

The Justice Department dropped its legal effort to compel Apple to provide it with specialized software that would allow the FBI to hack into an iPhone that was issued to San Bernardino County, California, health inspector Syed Farook. Farook and his wife, Tashfeen Malik,

killed 14 people in December. The couple died in a shootout with authorities.

The iPhone was found in a vehicle the day after the shooting. Two personal phones were found destroyed so completely the FBI could not recover information from them. US Magistrate Sheri Pym had ordered Apple to provide the FBI with software to help it hack into Farook's work-issued iPhone after the government said only Apple could help authorities access the encrypted and locked iPhone. But days before a hearing in the case an outside party showed the FBI an ultimately workable situation to hack the phone.

The government ultimately purchased that solution - which FBI Director James Comey said only works on an iPhone 5C running version 9 of the Apple operating system - and is keeping it secret for now. Comey and Apple CEO Tim Cook have said that Congress, not the courts, should address issues raised in the case. But the senators' draft bill was roundly criticized by technology groups and civil libertarians, many of who also backed Apple against the government.

Kevin Bankston, director of the Washington-based New America's Open Technology Institute, said in a statement that the bill would undermine American cybersecurity and technology products, give foreign competitors an economic edge and allow adversaries to obtain encrypted communications. ACLU legislative counsel Neema Singh Guliani said the draft plan amounted to a "clear threat to everyone's privacy and security" and senators should "abandon their efforts to create a government backdoor." — AP

JETPACK COMPANY EXEC HURT AFTER CRASHING HIS TEST FLIGHT

DENVER: An executive of a company that develops jetpacks is in serious condition after crashing during a test flight of one of his products in Denver. Denver police say Nick Macomber, vice president of Jet Pack International, fell about 10 to 20 feet Friday while using the hydrogen peroxide-fueled backpack.

Company CEO Troy Widgery says Macomber was testing changes he recently

made to the machine. He says it crashed in an industrial park after control issues, leaving Macomber with cuts. The FAA is investigating the crash. Widgery says the jetpack has a range of about a quarter-mile and can reach heights of about 100 feet with a flight time of up to 32 seconds. Jet Pack International flew a man across the 1,053-foot-deep Royal Gorge in southern Colorado in 2008. — AP



MILE HIGH CITY: A jetpack lays at the site of a crash Friday, April 8, 2016, in Denver. The man who was wearing the pack, which was being demonstrated at a private business is in stable condition after the accident. — AP



MOUNTAIN VIEW: In this May 13, 2014 file photo, a Google self-driving car goes on a test drive near the Computer History Museum. — AP

EXPERTS TELL US AGENCY TO SLOW DOWN ON SELF-DRIVING VEHICLES AREN'T UP TO THE DEMANDS OF REAL-WORLD DRIVING

WASHINGTON: Engineers, safety advocates and even automakers have a safety message for federal regulators eager to get self-driving cars on the road: Slow down. Fully self-driving cars may be the future of the automotive industry, but they aren't yet up to the demands of real-world driving, several people told the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration during a public meeting Friday.

A slower, more deliberative approach may be needed instead of the agency's rapid timetable for producing guidance for deploying the vehicles, according to an auto industry trade association. In January, the federal agency announced that it would begin work on writing guidance for deploying the vehicles. Officials have promised to complete that guidance by July.

Regulations and standards

There are risks to using guidance to deviate from the government's traditional process of issuing regulations and standards, Paul Scullion, safety manager at the Association of Global Automakers, told the meeting hosted by NHTSA.

"While this process is often time consuming, these procedural safeguards are in place for valid reasons," Scullion said. Working outside that process might allow the government to respond more quickly to rapidly changing technology, but that approach would likely come at the expense of thoroughness, he said. Issuing new regulations takes an average of eight years, the NHTSA has said. Regulations are also enforceable while guidance is usually more general and open to interpretation.

Mark Rosekind, the NHTSA's administrator, taking note of the "irony" of automakers asking for regulations, said the agency can't wait because early self-driving technologies are already in cars on the road. Tesla's "autopilot" function, for example, enables its cars to automatically steer down the highway, change lanes and adjust speed in response to traffic.

"Everybody asks, 'When are they going to be ready? I keep saying they're not coming; they are here now,'" Rosekind said. Without federal instructions, "people are just going to keep putting stuff out on the road with no guidance on how do we do this the right way." Rosekind emphasized that he sees self-driving cars as game-changing technology that could someday save the lives of many of the more than 30,000 people killed each year on the nation's roads.

New powers

A General Motors official recently told a Senate committee that the automaker expects to deploy self-driving cars within a few years through a partnership with the ride-sharing service Lyft. Google, a pioneer in the development of self-driving cars, is pushing Congress to give the NHTSA new powers to grant it special, expedited permission to sell cars without steering wheels or pedals.

But many of those who addressed the meet-

ing, the first of two the agency has scheduled as it works on the guidelines, described a host of situations that self-driving cars still can't handle: Poorly marked pavement, including parking lots and driveways, could foil the technology, which relies on clear lane markings. Bad weather can interfere with vehicle sensors.

Self-driving cars can't take directions from a policeman. Inconsistent traffic-control devices such as horizontal versus lateral traffic lights. Until the technology has advanced beyond the point where ordinary conditions are problematic, "it is dangerous, impractical and a major threat to the public health, safety and welfare to deploy them," said Mark Golden, executive director of the National Society of Professional Engineers. There have been thousands of "disengagements" reported in road tests of self-driving cars in which the vehicles automatically turned control over to a human being, said John Simpson, privacy project director of Consumer Watchdog. "Self-driving cars simply aren't ready

to safely manage too many routine traffic situations without human intervention," he said.

Rosekind said automakers are learning from the unanticipated situations the vehicles encounter and adapting their software. At the same time, he acknowledged that self-driving cars, like other systems that rely on wireless technology, can be vulnerable to hacking.

James Niles, president of Orbit City Lab, a New York think tank, told the meeting that there is a complete absence of federal regulations and standards to prevent self-driving cars from being turned into weapons by "bad actors." "The concern that an autonomous vehicle could be used as a weapon has gone unnoticed by the general public and probably by the majority of government officials," he said. President Barack Obama has proposed a 10-year, \$3.9 billion automated technologies program, including large-scale pilot deployments of self-driving cars around the country and funding additional cybersecurity research. — AP

TWITTER NAMES PEPSICO CFO TO ITS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

NEW YORK: Twitter has appointed PepsiCo's chief financial officer to its board. Hugh Johnston has served as PepsiCo Inc's CFO since 2010. The 54-year-old executive also serves as vice chairman of the food and beverage company. Twitter Inc. also disclosed in a regulatory filing that Martha Lane Fox will serve as a director. The 43-year-old executive is a co-founder of travel and leisure website lastminute.com.

Board members Peter Currie and Peter Chernin's terms expire at Twitter's 2016 annual shareholders meeting. The filing says Currie and Chernin were not considered for re-election, at their requests. Twitter, a social media site famous for hashtags and a 140-character "tweet" limit, turned 10 years old last month. After a long streak of robust growth that turned it into one of the Internet's hottest companies, Twitter's expansion has slowed dramatically over the past year and a half.

At the end of 2015, it had about 320 million active users, far short of social networking leader Facebook and its 1.5 billion users. Twitter executives have acknowledged their struggle to convince people the service is essential. They have tweaked Twitter's format in a bid to make it easier and more engaging to use. That's seen as key to expanding Twitter's user base, which would in turn allow it to sell more advertis-

ing and to begin to make money for the first time.

The San Francisco-based company last year added a "Moments" feature, a tool that bundles video, photos and links to news stories, making it easier for people to find hot topics of discussion without needing to figure out whom to follow to receive updates. It also got rid of its star icon signifying a "favorite" tweet, in favor of a heart icon, similar to Facebook's "like" button. Twitter then changed the user timeline, showing first the popular tweets related to people users follow, then the real-time feed, a feature users can turn off. Hardcore Twitter users seemed mostly dismayed by the new changes and were borderline apoplectic when rumors circulated that the company was considering doing away with the 140-character limit. The company rehired Dorsey for a second stint as CEO last summer, and he signaled his resolve to make Twitter profitable by laying off 336 employees, or 8 percent of its workforce. But Twitter lost another \$90 million during the final three months of last year, preserving its profitless history. Its stock rose 25 cents, or 1.5 percent, to \$17.23 in Friday morning trading. Twitter's November 2013 initial public offering price was \$26 and it reached \$70 per share in early 2014. — AP

UBER SETTLES DRIVER BACKGROUND CHECK ALLEGATIONS FOR \$10 MN

LOS ANGELES: Ride-hailing company Uber will pay at least \$10 million to settle allegations by California prosecutors that it misled passengers about the quality of its driver background checks. The settlement was signed Thursday in San Francisco, where Uber is based and where the district attorney led a lawsuit that said Uber falsely claimed its criminal screening of would-be drivers was the most comprehensive available. San Francisco and Los Angeles prosecutors sued in 2014, saying Uber's background checks were inferior to what taxi drivers undergo because they did not include fingerprint checks for past convictions. Instead, Uber's process relies on a name search of other criminal databases and motor vehicle department files going back seven years.

Uber has defended the safety of its service amid a steady stream of allegations that its drivers have assaulted passengers, or, in the case of a driver in Michigan earlier this year, killed people. The app lets passengers share their location in real time, Uber points out, and the person who booked the ride is required to rate the driver after each trip, helping weed out unsavory characters.

Under the settlement, Uber agreed to pay \$10 million within 60 days. If the company does not comply with the terms over the next

two years, Uber would have to pay an additional \$15 million, prosecutors said. Uber did not admit wrongdoing, as is standard for such settlements, and said it already has made many changes prosecutors sought.

For example, Uber stopped claiming its background checks were "industry leading" when it settled a separate case brought by riders. Under that \$28.5 million settlement reached in February, Uber also renamed its "safe ride fee" as a "booking fee."

Prosecutors ratcheted up pressure on the

company in August, expanding the lawsuit with claims that Uber failed to uncover the criminal records of 25 California drivers, including several registered sex offenders and a convicted murderer. "The result we achieved today goes well beyond its impact on Uber," San Francisco District Attorney George Gascón said in a written statement. "It sends a clear message to all businesses, and to startups in particular, that in the quest to quickly obtain market share, laws designed to protect consumers cannot be ignored." — AP



SAN FRANCISCO: In this Dec 16, 2014, file photo a man leaves the headquarters of Uber. — AP

EATING FRUIT DAILY COULD LOWER HEART RISKS

MIAMI: Eating an apple a day is uncommon in China, but people who do eat fresh fruit regularly may see a significant drop in their risk of heart disease, researchers said. Similar studies have been done on Western populations, but rarely have researchers examined how eating fruit affects heart health in China, where diet and disease patterns are quite different than in the West. The study in the *New England Journal of Medicine* enrolled nearly half a million healthy adults in China and followed them for seven years. Those who ate fresh fruit dai-

ly—such as apples, pears or oranges—had a 40 percent lower risk of cardiovascular death and a 34 percent lower risk of major coronary events such as heart attack and stroke than those who rarely or never consumed fresh fruit.

Fruit is known to contain potassium, fiber and antioxidants that can lower both blood pressure and blood sugar. Researchers found that the impact of fruit-eating in China—where some 230 million people suffer from cardiovascular diseases such as high blood pressure, stroke and heart failure—was even more

beneficial than seen in previous studies in Western populations. For instance, a recent meta-analysis of six studies involving nearly 680,000 people in the West found that each additional serving of fruit per day “was associated with a five percent lower risk of cardiovascular death, which is not good evidence of a real protective effect,” said the study.

Only 18 percent of those surveyed in China said they ate raw fruit on a daily basis. “The association between fruit consumption and cardiovascular risk seems to be stronger in China, where many still

eat little fruit, than in high-income countries where daily consumption of fruit is more common,” said study author Huaidong Du, a researcher at the University of Oxford. The study enrolled people aged 35 to 74 in 10 urban and rural locations across China. Those accepted had no history of cardiovascular disease or high blood pressure. The study did not examine which kind of fruit people ate, though the most common fruits in China are apples, pears and oranges.

Nor were researchers able to determine if fruit was truly causing the benefi-

cial effects against heart disease and stroke. Nearly all (95 percent) of those in the study reported eating fresh vegetables daily. “It’s difficult to know whether the lower risk in people who eat more fresh fruit is because of a real protective effect,” said senior author Zhengming Chen, a professor at the University of Oxford. “If it is, then widespread consumption of fresh fruit in China could prevent about half a million cardiovascular deaths a year, including 200,000 before age 70, and even larger numbers of non-fatal strokes and heart attacks.”—AFP



LANKIEN, South Sudan: A woman holds a child with severe malnutrition recovering at a clinic run by Doctors Without Borders (MSF) in Lankien, Jonglei State, South Sudan. —AFP

LIVES AT RISK DUE TO MASSIVE DRUG SHORTAGES IN S SUDAN

NAIROBI: Thousands of lives are at risk across South Sudan as massive drug shortages have forced many medical centers to close, a charity said, calling on donors to restore supplies before the deadly malaria season resumes. A quarter of 42 clinics visited by teams from Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) in Aweil, in Northern Bahr El Ghazal, had closed because they did not have essential medicines. A further half were sending patients to buy their own drugs. “(A) preventable medical emergency is unfolding,” MSF’s international president Joanne Liu said in an open letter on Thursday. “Drug outages are now a reality around the country.”

Two in ten South Sudanese have fled their homes since civil war broke out in 2013 in the world’s youngest nation following a political dispute between President Salva Kiir and his former deputy, Riek Machar. The two leaders signed a preliminary peace deal in August and Kiir reappointed Machar as vice president in February but the conflict has continued. Drug shortages became a serious problem

when a donor project, called the Emergency Medicines Fund, ended in June 2015 and responsibility for procurement reverted to the government, MSF said. South Sudan’s economy has taken a hammering during the war and its currency has weakened dramatically, forcing the government to lay off staff at its embassies across the world.

Oil revenues, which finance 98 percent of South Sudan’s budget, have dropped due to falling production and world prices. Healthcare services have been predominantly funded by charities since independence in 2011. MSF called for renewed donor funding ahead of the mid-year rainy season when mosquitoes, which transmit the disease, breed in stagnant water. South Sudan experienced an unprecedented malaria outbreak in 2015, worsened by shortages of anti-malarial drugs, MSF said. “A new rainy season is approaching fast, promising new outbreaks as well as complicated logistics,” Liu said. “Failure to come together will put the lives of thousands in jeopardy.”—Reuters

ARKANSAS MEDICAID APPROVED FUNDING SHOWDOWN LOOMS

LITTLE ROCK: Arkansas Gov. Asa Hutchinson signed into law Friday his plan to keep the state’s first-in-the-nation hybrid Medicaid expansion and urged fellow Republicans to avoid a Washington-style shutdown fight over their efforts to defund the program. The bills outline Hutchinson’s proposal to rework the program, which uses federal funds to purchase private insurance for more than 250,000 low-income people. The House and Senate approved the measures Friday by wide margins, but they were shy of the three-fourths support a Medicaid budget bill funding the program will need in an upcoming legislative session.

The program has received unanimous support from Democrats but has sharply divided Republicans who control both chambers of the Legislature. Some opponents of the expansion have vowed to vote against any Medicaid budget bill that includes the program. But Democrats and many Republicans are just as likely to oppose a measure without the expanded coverage.

“That’s what leads to government shutdowns in Washington. We’ve never had that in Arkansas,” Hutchinson said after signing the measures. “I’ve never had that under my watch. But those are the consequences that are real, and it’s real to tens of thousands of people in Arkansas who are dependent upon these services.” Arkansas was the first state to win approval

for its hybrid approach, created three years ago as an alternative to expanding Medicaid under the federal health law. Hutchinson has proposed adding new restrictions, including a requirement that some participants pay premiums, and renaming the program “Arkansas Works.”

Opponents have called the program an embrace of the federal health care law Hutchinson and other Republicans have called for repealing and are pushing for a separate vote on the program’s funding. They’ve also suggested plans that would either cap enrollment and wind down the expanded coverage or end it Dec. 31 so Hutchinson could negotiate a new program with the next president. “I’ve been consistent in saying I think it’s a detriment to the state of Arkansas what we’re doing,” said Republican Sen. Terry Rice, who said he’s prepared to vote against the Medicaid budget if necessary to stop the program. “Short term, it looks good. But I’m looking long-term ... and there is more coming than we’re being shown and being told.”

Other opponents, however, have left open the possibility of supporting the budget bill if they can’t vote on the expansion alone. “Nobody wants to shut down (the Department of Human Services) over all this, certainly not myself or anybody on either side of this issue,” said Republican Sen. Scott Flipko, who voted against

the expansion plan but stopped short of saying what he’d do if the expansion isn’t stripped from Medicaid’s budget.

Hutchinson rejected the idea of a separate vote. “That vote has been taken. We have voted on Arkansas Works and it’s been adopted by a majority of both parties and both chambers,” Hutchinson said. Hutchinson has warned that ending the expanded coverage would mean a budget deficit of at least \$100 million, which he says would mean steep cuts for some state agencies. House leaders say they’ve been preparing an alternative to Hutchinson’s proposed \$5.3 billion budget to show members the consequences of ending the program.

“It is a very real stepdown from what we’re able to do in a Plan A scenario,” said House Speaker Jeremy Gillam, a Republican. “If we did not have this money, it would be impactful.” The Legislature will take up the funding bill at a session set to begin Wednesday that will focus primarily on the state’s budget. Legislative leaders say they can look at smaller and cash-based agencies initially but that major budget questions can’t be answered until the expansion’s future is decided. “Until you know what happens to Arkansas Works ... you really can’t do a budget,” said Democratic Sen. Larry Teague, who co-chairs the Joint Budget Committee. “It’ll be challenging.”—AFP



This image provided by Bigelow Aerospace shows an illustration of the Bigelow Expandable Activity Module (BEAM) (center right) attached to the International Space Station. —AP

SPACE STATION ASTRONAUTS GET FIRST INFLATABLE ROOM

CAPE CANAVERAL: Forget blowup air mattresses. Space station astronauts are getting their first inflatable room. It’s a technology demo meant to pave the way for moon bases and Mars expeditions, as well as orbiting outposts catering to scientists and tourists. Bigelow Aerospace is behind the experiment, which will get a ride to the International Space Station with another private space company. An unmanned SpaceX Falcon rocket is set to launch late Friday afternoon, carrying a capsule full of supplies with the pioneering pod in its trunk. It will be SpaceX’s first station delivery since a launch accident halted shipments last June.

Once attached to the station, the soft-sided Bigelow compartment will be inflated to the size of a small bedroom. The Bigelow Expandable Activity Module, BEAM for short, will stay there for two years - with astronauts occasionally ducking in. It will be the first time an astronaut steps inside an expandable habitat structure in space. “It’s not just historic for our company, which obviously is the case, but I think it’s historic for the architecture,” said Robert Bigelow, founder and president of Bigelow Aerospace, and owner of Budget Suites of America.

As a precursor to larger systems, Bigelow said BEAM could “change the entire dynamic for human habitation” in space. In the meantime, companies—even countries—are clamoring to put their own experiments inside the empty BEAM, Bigelow said in an interview with *The Associated Press* on Thursday. If everything goes well, that next commercial step could happen in perhaps six months, he said.

The North Las Vegas-based company won’t divulge the material used for BEAM’s outer layers - or even how many layers - just that the layers are spread out to absorb and break up any pene-

trating bits of space junk. Back when NASA was working on the technology in the 1990s, a combination of Nextel, Kevlar, foam and other fabric formed the multilayer shield. NASA called its project TransHab, for Transit Habitat. It never flew to space, despite elaborate blueprints and ground mock-ups. Designers envisioned an inflatable, four-level compartment, complete with dining, sleeping and exercising areas for station crews.

Congress canceled TransHab in 2000 and Bigelow Aerospace bought the patent from NASA. The company launched a pair of expandable spacecraft a decade ago from Russia as an experiment. Called Genesis I and II, they’re still orbiting. NASA, meanwhile, paid Bigelow Aerospace \$17.8 million for the upcoming test flight, making the BEAM the most affordable module ever launched to the space station, said Michael Gold, director of operations and business growth for Bigelow Aerospace.

Expandable habitats like BEAM, officials noted, need to be just as strong - or stronger - than the standard metal cylinders that make up the current space station. BEAM has proven to be equal or better against space debris than metal, said NASA project manager Rajib Dasgupta. Bigelow goes as far as to say: “The aluminum cans are antiquated.” Beyond low-Earth orbit, radiation poses increased health risks to crews inside aluminum walls. So inflatable spacecraft, he said, are cheaper, bigger, safer and, potentially, longer lasting.

Bigelow said BEAM is nothing like a single-membrane balloon - “it’s not going to go bang” - or even a football. Think steel belts in a car tire. Even then, “there really isn’t much of a comparison, there really isn’t. It’s pretty novel.” The beauty of expandable habitats is their compactness for

launch. BEAM will travel in the Dragon capsule’s unpressurized compartment; the space station’s big robot arm will grab the structure and attach it to a berthing port. BEAM will expand four times in volume when it is inflated in late May, with a little station air at first, then special inflation tanks. The collapsed BEAM measures about 7 feet long (2 meters) and 8 feet (21/2 meters) in diameter. Inflated, it will be about 13 feet long (4 meters) and 101/2 feet (3 meters) in diameter, and provide 565 cubic feet (16 cubic meters) of space, about the size of a small bedroom. BEAM has been bunched up and unopened for more than a year - it should have flown last fall, but was delayed by the SpaceX rocket grounding. Bigelow stressed that the main purpose is testing and they don’t know now how well it will work after being compressed for so long. The chamber will stay put for two years, providing measurements on radiation, impact resistance and temperature. Astronauts will venture inside four to six times a year to inspect surfaces, collect air and microbial samples, and change out sensors. Otherwise, the hatch will remain sealed.

After two years, BEAM will be cut loose, eventually burning up on re-entry. Bigelow Aerospace has plans for a much larger expandable habitat B330, providing 11,654 cubic feet of internal space, the size of a couple of buses. Then there’s the company’s envisioned Olympus, a super-size space station-hotel combo. NASA, meanwhile, imagines inflatable modules at Mars awaiting astronauts traveling in the traditional Orion spacecraft that is hooked up with inflatable compartments to ease the eight-month, one-way journey. “It’s an important piece to the human space exploration puzzle,” Gold said. “Regardless of where you go, you need a place to live and work.”—AP



FAIRFIELD: Angela Stoica (center) supervisor of Inorganic Chemistry, works with drinking water samples at Aqua Pro-Tech Laboratories, in Fairfield, NJ. — AP

PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL MEN ESCAPE

SEATTLE: A violent ex-felon who escaped from a Washington state psychiatric hospital that's under federal scrutiny over safety violations remained elusive Friday morning, a Spokane County Sheriff's deputy said. Anthony Garver was charged in 2013 with tying a 20-year-old woman to her bed with electrical cords, stabbing her 24 times in the chest and slashing her throat. He was found too mentally ill for trial and was being held at Western State Hospital after a judge found that he was a danger to himself or others.

Garver, 28, escaped Wednesday night with Mark Alexander Adams, 58, a patient who had been accused of domestic assault in 2014. The two crawled out a window in a locked, lower-security unit of the hospital. Adams was captured the next morning. Spokane County Sheriff's Deputy Mark Gregory said early Friday that there's been no additional sightings of Garver since reports on Thursday and they're not sure whether he left the area or is hiding in the woods. "He's comfortable being out in the wilderness and adapts pretty easily," Gregory said. "He has hidden in the woods before."

Garver's father, who lives in the Spokane Valley area, called authorities Thursday to report that Garver had stopped by, Gregory said. "The father said he was there for a very short time, got spooked and left," Gregory said. The deputy said he hopes the next time Garver is taken into custody, that he'll be held in a more-secure facility. Garver was moved to a less-secure unit at the psychiatric hospital after the murder charge was dismissed and he was placed under a civil commitment. Garver has been convicted of multiple charges and twice fled from authorities by stealing a car or leading a high-speed chase.

History of running

"He has a history of running from law enforcement and of not doing what he's supposed to do, so I hope when he is caught, he'll be placed in a facility that has better security," Gregory said. Western State Hospital says the men were discovered missing 45 minutes after they were last seen, but police said it took an hour and a half. There was no immediate way to reconcile the different timelines. The escape is the latest in a litany of problems at the 800-bed hospital south of Tacoma, where assaults on both staff and patients have occurred.

US regulators have repeatedly cited the facility over safety concerns and threatened to cut millions in federal funding. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services recently extended the hospital's deadline for fixing the problems from April 1 to May 3. But the escapes and two recent violent attacks at the had brought new scrutiny, said Steven Chickering, the Associate Regional Administrator of the Western Division of Survey and Certification for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

"CMS was aware of all three of these situations, and cannot comment on how they will affect Western State Hospital's Federal funding," he said in an email. "CMS is currently following its procedures and processes for these situations." A federal judge also has said the hospital has failed to provide timely competency services to mentally ill people charged with crimes. Garver's lawyer, Jon Scott, said he hopes Garver "is found quickly and safely." Adams also got on a bus and asked the driver how to get to the airport. Someone recognized Adams, and officers picked him up without incident in a town just south of Seattle-Tacoma International Airport, Lakewood police Lt Chris Lawler said. The men were last seen at 6 pm Wednesday during dinner and found missing 45 minutes later during a routine patient check, said Carla Reyes, assistant director of the Department of Social and Health Services' Behavioral Health Administration, which oversees mental health services in the state.

Security units

Police said the absence was discovered at 7:30 pm and officers were alerted just after 7:45 pm. Patients in the hospital's lower-security unit are checked every hour, Reyes said. Garver and Adams were not placed in the high-security unit because a judge granted a state request to hold them as a danger to themselves or others after treatment failed to restore their ability to



These undated photos provided by the Lakewood Police Department shows Mark Alexander Adams (left) and Anthony Garver. Adams and Garver, described as dangerous, have escaped from Western State Hospital, a psychiatric facility, in Pierce County, south of Tacoma. —AP



WASHINGTON: A Spokane County Sheriff's helicopter searches for Anthony Garver, 28, near Forker Road in Spokane Valley, Wash. — AP

understand the criminal charges against them.

Officials are conducting a safety review of the hospital and will bring in outside experts to help, Reyes said. "We can never have too many fresh eyes reviewing a situation as serious as this," Reyes said in a statement. Nursing supervisor Paul Vilja said he was amazed to hear the men who escaped were assigned to a unit with hourly checks, because some of the more-dangerous patients are in units with checks every 15 minutes. Vilja and other hospital workers objected when the hospital first required the 15-minute checks two years ago because they said staffing levels were not adequate to handle the extra duties.

Violent behavior

Workers were required to fill out forms for each check but often fell behind, so not all of them were done, Vilja said. The state has tried to fix some of the

problems by increasing funding to hire more workers. But the hospital has struggled with recruiting and retaining staffers. The state has a history of underfunding its mental health programs, including its facilities, said Lauren Simonds, executive director for the National Alliance on Mental Illness Washington. She said she hopes funding added during the recent legislative session will help move the state from being ranked lowest in the nation. Despite increased federal scrutiny, assaults have persisted at the hospital, according to records obtained by The Associated Press. A patient with a history of violent behavior choked and punched a mental health technician on March 26, according to an internal report. A March 23 report said a male patient slipped out of his monitors and was found in a bathroom with another male patient, who said he was sexually assaulted.

Injured employees missed 41,301 days of work

between 2010 and 2014, and on-the-job injuries forced staff to move to other jobs, like desk work, for 7,760 days during that period, according to state Occupational Safety and Health Administration records. More than half of the 700 injuries reported by nurses, psychiatric technicians, counselors, psychiatrists and other workers during that period were caused by violent patient assaults, the records said.—AP



WASHINGTON: Officials stop vehicles as they search for escaped mental patient Anthony Garver. — AP

PRE-MARITAL HIV TESTS IN RECLUSIVE TURKMENISTAN

ASHGABAT: Turkmenistan has passed a law making HIV tests mandatory prior to marriage, state media reported, in a sign the reclusive Central Asian state fears the spread of a disease it has always downplayed. The law is the closest the highly secretive state of 5 million has come to acknowledging a public health threat from the disease which is prevalent throughout the former Soviet Union. The law, which aims to "create conditions for healthy families and prevent the birth of HIV-infected children" was published in the state newspaper on Wednesday and is effective immediately.

An official from the country's national AIDS Center, speaking on condition of anonymity said that the new law was "very necessary" given the "high risk" of the spread of the virus. The official cited use of intravenous drugs, mostly sourced from neighboring Afghanistan, and prostitution as the main means of transmission. Other than "persons entering marriage", the legislation also enforces HIV tests for blood donors, "persons suspected of narcotics use", prisoners, citizens of foreign countries applying for work visas and stateless persons.

According to the law signed by President Gurbanguly Berdimukhamedov, the government will guarantee anonymity and free treatment for sufferers of the disease. Turkmenistan, which remains largely closed to the outside world, has always downplayed the prevalence of HIV, a disease that attacks the human immune system and is transmitted from person to person via bodily fluids. In 2002, the health ministry, which does not publish data on infectious diseases, claimed the country had only two cases of HIV and that both patients had been infected outside Turkmenistan. — AFP

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A view of the audience.



Tammy Ames presents a book on Canada to Speaker Dr Elias Bikhazi.



Dr Christian Awaraji and Dr Andy Gillam at the reception.

CANADIAN BUSINESS COUNCIL HOLD PRESENTATION ON OUTLOOK OF KUWAITI ECONOMY

Canadian Business Council (CBC) conducted a presentation on the 'Outlook of the Kuwaiti Economy' at the official residence of the Ambassador of Canada. Tammy Ames Counselor (Commercial) at the Embassy of Canada, on behalf of the Ambassador of Canada welcomed CBC members, their guests and the speaker for evening.

CBC President Ishtiaq Malik introduced CBC and its mission to promote the development of business ties between Canada and Kuwait and to increase awareness among Canadian companies and Canadian commercial organizations of the opportunities that exist for trade and commerce in Kuwait. To enhance the business climate for Canadian businesses and business people residing in Kuwait, presentations by diverse professionals are held on a monthly basis. This presen-

tation was one among the series.

CBC President also gave the introduction of speaker Dr Elias Bikhazi, Group Chief Economist at the National Bank of Kuwait (NBK), the largest commercial bank in



CBC President Ishtiaq Malik

Kuwait. Prior to joining NBK, Dr Bikhazi spent over twenty years on Wall Street as an Economist/Fed-watcher with Security Pacific Bank and Deutsche Bank. He also has a background in bond trading and in academia; he taught economics and statistics at Bentley University in Massachusetts. He joined NBK in 2008.

General outlook

In his speech, Dr Bikhazi, Group Chief Economist at NBK, discussed the general economic outlook as well as the outlook for the region and Kuwait. He stated that the world economy was performing moderately near 3 percent growth but below recent pre-crisis standards, and that the outlook for the GCC and Kuwait was more positive, notwithstanding lower oil prices. He emphasized that Kuwait had tremendous financial

reserves, near \$600 billion, accumulating over the past 15 years, and that those would allow Kuwait to weather the new environment of lower oil prices. Thanks to those reserves Kuwait could reform at its own pace,



Speaker Dr Elias Bikhazi

while still supporting a positive and steady outlook for the local economy. He added that any needed reforms or spending cuts currently discussed would be implemented gradually and in a way that would be positive, and not disruptive, for the Kuwaiti economy. At the same time the large infrastructure projects, in the oil and non-oil sectors, were expected to continue apace, and to further support the Kuwaiti economic outlook. After the presentation, the audience has many questions on the speed and nature of economic reforms and upcoming changes.

Tammy Ames on behalf of CBC thanked and presented a book on 'Canada - Discover the Beauty' to Dr Bikhazi. Ishtiaq Malik thanked Executive Board Members Dr Christian Awaraji, Dr Andy Gillam, Dr David McHardy and Nadia Hammouda for their support in organizing this event.



The Aquapark hosted an event recently to signal the beginning of its 'Summer Season' activities. —Photos by Fouad Al-Shaikh



ZAIN LAUNCHES 'MOBILE DIABETES CLINIC'

IN COLLABORATION WITH DASMAN DIABETES INSTITUTE

Zain, the leading telecommunications company in Kuwait, recently launched the "Mobile Diabetes Clinic" health initiative. The company's contribution comes as part of its partnership with Dasman Diabetes Institute, which aims at raising awareness around the disease that is witnessing alarmingly increased rates in the Kuwaiti society.

Zain's Mobile Diabetes Clinic was unveiled during its participation in the "Fight Diabetes"

awareness event, which was organized by Dasman Diabetes Institute in line with the globally celebrated World Health Day. The event witnessed the attendance of Zain Kuwait's Chief Executive Officer Eaman Al-Roudhan, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Dasman Diabetes Institute Dr Hilal Al-Sayer, and Director-General of Dasman Diabetes Institute Dr Qais Al-Duwairi.

In her opening speech, Roudhan commented: "the spread of diabetes on a global level is an

alarming sign, and the latest statistics show that Kuwait is among the first 10 countries around the world with the highest numbers of diabetic patients, affecting 23% of the population".

Roudhan continued: "with the huge changes in health and lifestyle trends within our community during the past few years, we can all recognize the crucial role Dasman Diabetes Institute plays in launching nationwide awareness campaigns to fight this disease".

Roudhan went on to stress that Zain's Mobile Clinic will facilitate the necessary transportation of Dasman Diabetes Institute's medical staff to provide free blood sugar testing throughout the country, serving schools, college campuses, malls, and other locations.

Zain's participation will also include awareness messages that will be shared with the public through social media and SMS services. The messages will promote the concept of healthy

living and preventing the beginning of diseases that are non-communicable, such as diabetes, as well as highlighting the importance of adopting a healthy lifestyle.

Zain's contribution falls under the company's Corporate Sustainability and Social Responsibility strategies and aims to raise awareness within the community and shows its keenness in having a productive role in social and health activities.



The Sabah Al-Ahmad Center for Giftedness and Creativity recently held a ceremony to honor winners of the 2nd 'Mathematics is Life' competition, which was organized recently. Twenty schools were awarded out of 240 that participated in the competition, represented by a total of 1,300 elementary and middle school students.

QUALITATIVE SHIFT IN ADEQUACY OF OPEN, DISTANT LEARNING OUTCOMES TO LABOR MARKET NEEDS: HUMOUD

Professor Moudi Al-Humoud, President of Arab Open University (AOU), stressed on the importance of making a qualitative shift in formulating and adopting measurement criteria for adequacy of Open and Distant learning outcomes to the needs of Arab labor markets after this type of learning has become an international demand in the light of international development and

social, human and economic needs of individuals, communities and countries, including the Arab countries.

This came in a speech delivered by Humoud upon opening the Coordination Meeting of Open and Distant Learning institutions, which was organized by Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO) and hosted by the Arab Open University in Amman, Jordan, during 5-7 April. This meeting came to implement the recommendations of the 14th Arab Education Ministers conference, held in Riyadh in 2014. That conference recommended to organize this meeting to reach adopting joint criteria and mechanisms of academic qualification in the Arab world.

Humoud pointed to the role played by Open and Distant learning institutions in supplying their communities with high-quality and diverse outcomes that contribute to supporting programs of strategic plans of development in their countries and social and economic tracks in the whole world countries, in particular the labor markets of developing countries.



Professor Moudi Al-Humoud



AMC

00:15 Cursed
01:55 Behind Enemy Lines
03:25 Jason's Lyric
05:25 Cannon For Cordoba
07:10 One More Time
08:45 The Night They Raided Minsky's
10:25 Apache
11:55 The Raven
13:20 The Garbage Pail Kids Movie
14:55 Empire Of The Ants
16:25 Solarbabies
18:00 The Adventures Of Gerard
19:30 Robinson Crusoe
21:00 Breaking Bad

ANIMAL PLANET HD

00:45 Mountain Monsters
01:40 Australia Doesn't Just Want To Kill You
02:35 Tanked
03:25 Lion Battlefield
04:15 Gator Boys
05:02 Treehouse Masters
05:49 Australia Doesn't Just Want To Kill You
06:36 Meet The Orangutans
07:00 Swamp Brothers
07:25 America's Cutest Pets
08:15 Australia Doesn't Just Want To Kill You
09:10 Treehouse Masters
10:00 Tanked
11:00 America's Cutest Pets
11:55 Bondi Vet
12:25 Bondi Vet
12:50 Australia Doesn't Just Want To Kill You
13:45 Gator Boys
14:40 Treehouse Masters
15:35 Tanked
16:30 Lion Battlefield
17:25 River Monsters
18:20 Ten Deadliest Snakes With Nigel Marven
19:15 Tanked
20:10 Animal Cops South Africa
21:05 Treehouse Masters
22:00 Ten Deadliest Snakes With Nigel Marven
22:55 Gator Boys
23:50 River Monsters

BBC FIRST

00:15 Eastenders
00:45 New Tricks
01:40 New Tricks
02:30 Silent Witness
03:25 Doctors
03:55 Eastenders
04:25 Doctor Who
05:15 Father Brown
06:00 Doctors
06:30 Doctors
07:00 Eastenders
07:30 Stella
08:15 The Paradise
09:15 Doctor Who
10:00 Doctors
10:30 Eastenders
11:50 Father Brown
11:50 Stella
12:40 The Paradise
13:40 Doctor Who
14:30 Doctors
15:00 Eastenders
15:30 Stella
16:20 Dickensian
17:10 Doctor Who
18:00 Doctors
18:30 Eastenders
19:05 Father Brown
20:00 Hobby City

Bloomberg TELEVISION

00:00 Charlie Rose
01:00 Bloomberg West
02:00 First Up With Angie Lau
03:00 On The Move
04:00 Trending Business
05:00 Trending Business
06:00 Asia Edge
07:00 Bloomberg West



THE A-TEAM ON OSN MOVIES HD ACTION

08:00 Countdown	13:30 Storage Wars Canada	02:30 Loopedidoo
09:00 Countdown	13:55 Garage Gold	02:45 Art Attack
09:30 On The Move	14:20 Outback Truckers	03:10 Henry Hugglemonster
10:00 On The Move	15:10 Wheeler Dealers	03:20 Calimero
11:00 The Pulse	16:00 Fast N' Loud	03:35 Zou
12:00 Bloomberg Surveillance	16:50 Chasing Classic Cars	03:45 Loopedidoo
13:00 Bloomberg Surveillance	17:40 Salvage Hunters	04:00 Art Attack
14:00 Bloomberg Go	18:30 Redwood Kings	04:25 Henry Hugglemonster
15:00 Bloomberg Go	19:20 Superhuman Science	04:35 Calimero
16:00 Bloomberg Go	19:45 Superhuman Science	04:50 Zou
17:00 Bloomberg Markets	20:10 Storage Wars Canada	05:00 Loopedidoo
18:00 Bloomberg Markets:	20:35 Garage Gold	05:15 Art Attack
European Close	21:00 Salvage Hunters	05:35 Henry Hugglemonster
19:00 Bloomberg Markets	21:50 Redwood Kings	05:50 Calimero
20:00 Bloomberg Markets	22:40 Ed Stafford: Into The Unknown	06:00 Zou
21:00 Bloomberg Markets		06:20 Loopedidoo
22:00 Bloomberg Markets		06:35 Art Attack
23:00 What'd You Miss?		07:00 The Hive

CCTV NEWS

00:00 News Update
00:30 Dialogue
01:00 News Update
01:15 China 24
02:00 The Heat
02:30 News Update
03:00 Global Business
03:00 News Update
05:00 Dialogue
06:30 News Hour
08:00 Global Business
09:00 News Update
10:30 Sports Scene
11:00 Global Business
12:00 News Update
12:30 Culture Express
13:00 Africa Live
14:00 News Update

DISCOVERY SCIENCE

00:20 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
01:08 Invenit It Rich
01:55 Space Pioneer
02:42 Eco-Tech
03:29 Mythbusters
04:16 Invenit It Rich
05:03 Space Pioneer
05:50 Building The Biggest
06:37 How Do They Do It?
07:00 How Do They Do It?
07:23 Mythbusters
08:08 Eco-Tech
08:53 Building The Biggest
09:38 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
10:23 Invenit It Rich
11:08 Space Pioneer
11:53 Building The Biggest

CNBC

00:00 Middle East
00:30 Inside China
01:00 U.S. Squawk Alley
02:00 Asia Squawk Box
05:00 Asia Street Signs
07:00 Capital Connection
08:00 Squawk Box Europe
11:00 Europe Street Signs
12:00 Worldwide Exchange
13:00 U.S. Squawk Box
16:00 Squawk On The Street
18:00 U.S. Squawk Alley
19:00 Fast Money: Half Time Report
20:00 U.S. Power Lunch
22:00 U.S. Closing Bell

crime & investigation network

00:00 The Ghost Inside My Child
01:00 The Haunting Of...
02:00 The Haunting Of...
03:00 Cursed: The Bell Witch
04:00 The Ghost Inside My Child
05:00 The Haunting Of...
06:00 Monster In My Family
07:00 Britain's Biggest Heists
08:00 Crime Stories
09:00 Surveillance Oz
09:30 Steven Seagal: Lawman
10:00 Fred Dinenage: Murder Casebook
11:00 After The First 48
12:00 The FBI Files
13:00 Monster In My Family
14:00 Crime Stories
15:00 Fred Dinenage: Murder Casebook
16:00 Britain's Biggest Heists
17:00 After The First 48
18:00 The FBI Files
19:00 Monster In My Family
20:00 Crime Stories
21:00 Fred Dinenage: Murder Casebook
22:00 50 Ways To Kill Your Lover
23:00 My Crazy Ex

Discovery CHANNEL HD

00:20 Fast N' Loud
01:10 You Have Been Warned
02:00 Troy
02:50 Superhuman Science
03:15 Superhuman Science
03:40 Extreme Collectors
04:05 Storage Wars Canada
04:30 Garage Gold
05:00 How Do They Do It?
05:30 Chasing Classic Cars
06:00 Outback Truckers
06:50 Wheeler Dealers
07:40 Fast N' Loud
08:30 Extreme Collectors
09:20 Storage Wars Canada
09:45 How Do They Do It?
10:10 Chasing Classic Cars
10:35 You Have Been Warned
11:25 Troy
12:15 The Carbonaro Effect
12:40 The Carbonaro Effect
13:05 Extreme Collectors

Disney JUNIOR

00:05 Art Attack
00:30 Henry Hugglemonster
00:45 Calimero
01:00 Zou
01:15 Loopedidoo
01:30 Art Attack
01:55 Henry Hugglemonster
02:05 Calimero
02:20 Zou

Disney

00:00 Violetta
00:45 The Hive
00:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
01:15 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
01:40 Hank Zipzer
02:05 Binny And The Ghost
02:30 Violetta
03:15 The Hive
03:20 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
03:45 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
04:10 Hank Zipzer
04:35 Binny And The Ghost
05:00 Violetta
05:45 The Hive
05:50 Mouk
06:00 Lolirock
06:25 Sofia The First
06:50 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
07:40 Jessie
08:05 Shake It Up
08:30 Shake It Up
08:55 Hannah Montana
09:20 Hannah Montana
09:45 Girl Meets World
10:10 Girl Meets World
10:35 A.N.T. Farm
11:00 A.N.T. Farm
11:25 Jessie
11:50 Jessie
12:15 Whisker Haven Tales With The Palace Pets
12:20 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
12:45 Fish Hooks
13:10 Austin & Ally
13:35 Austin & Ally
14:00 Liv And Maddie
14:25 Cars Toons
14:30 Liv And Maddie
14:55 Dog With A Blog
15:20 Dog With A Blog
15:45 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
16:00 Violetta
16:25 Alex And Co
17:50 Dog With A Blog
18:15 Best Friends Whenever
18:40 Gravity Falls
19:05 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
19:30 Violetta
19:30 Good Luck Charlie
21:10 Good Luck Charlie
21:35 H2O
22:20 Binny And The Ghost
22:25 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
22:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
23:05 Hank Zipzer
23:35 Binny And The Ghost

Disney XD

06:00 Boyster
06:10 Super Matrak
06:55 Star vs The Forces Of Evil
07:25 K.C. Undercover
07:50 Supa Strikas
08:15 Annedroids
08:40 Lab Rats
09:10 Kirby Buckets
09:35 Guardians Of The Galaxy
10:00 Rocket Monkeys
10:25 Ultimate Spider-Man
10:50 Boyster
11:20 Boyster
11:45 Pair Of Kings
12:10 Pair Of Kings
12:35 Lab Rats
13:00 Lab Rats
13:30 Phineas And Ferb
13:55 Phineas And Ferb
14:20 Kickin' It
14:45 Kickin' It
15:10 Guardians Of The Galaxy
15:15 Rocket Monkeys
15:40 Guardians Of The Galaxy
16:05 Star vs The Forces Of Evil
16:30 Kirby Buckets
16:55 Gamers Guide To Pretty Much Everything
17:25 K.C. Undercover
17:50 Supa Strikas
18:15 Lab Rats
18:40 K.C. Undercover
19:05 Cars Toons
19:10 Annedroids
19:35 Phineas And Ferb
20:00 Kirby Buckets
20:25 Gamers Guide To Pretty Much Everything
20:55 K.C. Undercover
21:20 Pickle And Peanut
21:45 Lab Rats
22:10 Mighty Med
22:40 Disney Mickey Mouse
23:00 Programmes Start At 6:00am KSA

Disney XD

00:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
00:55 The Grace Helbig Show
01:25 Courtney And Khloe Take The Hamptons
02:20 Loopedidoo
02:35 Art Attack
07:00 The Hive
07:10 Zou
07:25 Loopedidoo
07:40 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
08:05 Sofia The First
08:30 Goldie & Bear
08:45 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
09:10 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
09:35 Doc McStuffins
10:00 Sofia The First
10:30 Goldie & Bear
10:55 Minnie's Bow-Toons
11:00 Miles From Tomorrow
11:25 Special Agent Oso
11:40 The Hive
11:50 Handy Manny
12:15 Jungle Junction
12:30 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
12:50 Sofia The First
13:25 Miles From Tomorrow
13:50 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
14:15 Sheriff Callie's Wild West

Disney XD

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11:25 Special Agent Oso
11:40 The Hive
11:50 Handy Manny
12:15 Jungle Junction
12:30 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
12:50 Sofia The First
13:25 Miles From Tomorrow
13:50 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
14:15 Sheriff Callie's Wild West



BAD PARENTS ON OSN MOVIES HD COMEDY

14:40 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse	20:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians	09:20 Keep It In The Family
15:10 Miles From Tomorrow	21:00 Dash Dolls	10:15 The Chase: Celebrity Specials
15:35 Jake And The Never Land Pirates	22:00 El News	11:05 Eggheads
16:00 Sofia The First	23:00 Fashion Police	11:35 Come Dine With Me Couples
16:25 Jungle Cubs		12:30 Who's Doing The Dishes?
16:50 Aladdin		13:25 Emmerdale
17:15 Gummi Bears		13:50 Eggheads
17:40 Goldie & Bear		14:20 Coronation Street
18:05 Miles From Tomorrow		14:45 Keep It In The Family
18:30 Sofia The First		15:35 Celebrity Exposed: Photography Of Richard Young
19:00 Jake And The Never Land Pirates		16:00 Celebrity Exposed: Photography Of Richard Young
19:30 Violetta		16:30 Grantchester
19:30 Good Luck Charlie		17:25 The Jonathan Ross Show
20:00 Goldie & Bear		18:20 Emmerdale
20:30 Sofia The First		18:45 Coach Trip
21:00 Jungle Cubs		19:10 Coronation Street
21:25 Aladdin		19:35 Celebrity Exposed: Photography Of Richard Young
21:50 Gummi Bears		20:00 Celebrity Exposed: Photography Of Richard Young
22:20 Lilo And Stitch		20:30 Grantchester
22:50 Zou		21:25 The Jonathan Ross Show
23:05 Henry Hugglemonster		22:20 Coronation Street
23:20 Calimero		22:50 Emmerdale
23:35 Zou		23:15 Who's Doing The Dishes?
23:50 Loopedidoo		

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC CHANNEL HD

00:10 Brain Games
01:00 Explorer
02:00 Supercar Megabuild
02:55 Marita Mystery
03:50 Brain Games
04:45 24 Hours In A&E
05:40 Filthy Riches
06:35 I Wouldn't Go In There
07:30 Cesar To The Rescue
08:25 Building Wild
09:20 24 Hours In A&E
10:15 Supercar Megabuild
11:10 The Yard
12:05 Ultimate Survival Alaska
13:00 Building Wild
14:00 80s Greatest
15:00 Megastructures
16:00 Supercar Megabuild
17:00 China From Above
18:00 Dirty Rotten Survival
19:00 The 2000s: The Decade We Saw It All
20:00 Supercar Megabuild
20:50 The Yard
21:40 Dirty Rotten Survival
22:30 Underworld, Inc.
23:20 Filthy Riches

ITV HD CHOICE

00:10 The Chase: Celebrity Specials
01:05 Emmerdale
01:30 Eggheads
02:00 Coronation Street
02:30 Keep It In The Family
03:25 Murdoch Mysteries
04:20 Murdoch Mysteries
05:15 Come Dine With Me Couples
06:10 Who's Doing The Dishes?
07:00 Eggheads
07:30 Murdoch Mysteries
08:25 Murdoch Mysteries

THE COBBLER ON OSN MOVIES HD

WHOSE LIFE WOULD YOU CHOOSE?
ADAM SANDLER
CLIFF "METHOD MAN" SMITH
ELLEN BARKIN AND STEVE BUSCEMI
IN CINEMAS 9 APRIL

NAT GEO people HD

00:10 Dream Cruises
01:00 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces
01:50 Top Tables, Top Cities
02:15 Eat Street
02:40 Eat Street
03:05 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
03:30 The Wine Quest: Spain
03:55 The Food Files
04:20 Maximum Foodie
04:45 Maximum Foodie
05:10 Eat Street
05:35 Eat Street
06:00 Trekking Malaysia With Jason Scott Lee
06:50 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces
07:40 Top Tables, Top Cities
08:05 Eat Street
08:30 Eat Street
08:55 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
09:20 The Wine Quest: Spain
09:45 The Food Files
10:10 Maximum Foodie
10:35 Maximum Foodie
11:00 Eat Street
11:25 Eat Street
11:50 Trekking Malaysia With Jason Scott Lee
12:40 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces
13:35 Top Tables, Top Cities
14:00 Sara's New Nordic Kitchen
14:30 Tom's Istanbul Delight
14:55 Glamour Puds
15:25 Glamour Puds
15:50 David Rocco's Dolce India
16:20 Maximum Foodie
16:45 Maximum Foodie
17:15 East Blies West
17:40 Lee Chan's World Food Tour
18:10 Lee Chan's World Food Tour
18:35 Carnival Eats
19:05 Glamour Puds
19:30 Glamour Puds
20:00 David Rocco's Dolce India
20:25 Maximum Foodie
20:50 Maximum Foodie
21:15 East Blies West
21:40 Lee Chan's World Food Tour
22:05 Lee Chan's World Food Tour
22:30 Carnival Eats
22:55 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces
23:45 Top Tables, Top Cities

NAT GEO WILD HD

00:20 Deadly Instincts
01:10 Wild 24
02:00 Monster Fish
02:50 World's Deadliest
03:45 Ultimate Predators GPU
04:40 Caught In The Act
05:35 World's Deadliest
06:30 Ultimate Predators GPU
07:25 Caught In The Act
08:20 Outback Wrangler
09:15 Race Of Life
09:40 Race Of Life
10:10 America's National Parks
11:05 Animals Gone Wild
12:00 Monster Fish
12:55 Africa's Creative Killers
13:50 I, Predator
14:45 Caught In The Act
15:40 Cameraman Who Dare
16:35 Race Of Life
17:30 America's National Parks
18:25 Animals Gone Wild
19:20 Caught In The Act
20:10 Cameraman Who Dare
21:00 Race Of Life
21:25 Race Of Life
21:50 America's National Parks

NAT GEO WILD HD

00:00 Ted
02:00 Bad Parents
04:00 Rush Hour
06:00 Pitch Perfect
08:00 At Middleton
10:00 Bad Parents
12:00 Orange County
14:00 The Misadventures Of The Dunderheads
16:00 At Middleton
18:00 Grudge Match
20:00 Idiocracy
22:00 Superbad

NAT GEO WILD HD

00:10 Ted
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16:00 At Middleton
18:00 Grudge Match
20:00 Idiocracy
22:00 Superbad

OSN FIRST HD COMEDY

00:00 Parks And Recreation
00:30 Hot In Cleveland
01:00 The Nightly Show With Larry Wilmore
01:30 Married
02:00 The Big C
02:30 Man Seeking Woman
03:00 Mad Love
03:30 The Goldbergs
04:00 Two And A Half Men
04:30 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
05:30 My Name Is Earl
06:00 The Bernie Mac Show
06:30 Community
07:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers
07:30 Two And A Half Men
08:00 My Name Is Earl
09:00 Mad Love
09:30 The Grinder
10:00 Brooklyn Nine-Nine
10:30 Community
11:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
12:00 The Bernie Mac Show
12:30 Two And A Half Men
13:00 My Name Is Earl
13:30 Community
14:00 The Goldbergs
14:30 The Grinder
15:00 Brooklyn Nine-Nine
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OSN FIRST HD COMEDY

00:00 Ted
02:00 Bad Parents
04:00 Rush Hour
06:00 Pitch Perfect
08:00 At Middleton
10:00 Bad Parents
12:00 Orange County
14:00 The Misadventures Of The Dunderheads
16:00 At Middleton
18:00 Grudge Match
20:00 Idiocracy
22:00 Superbad

OSN SPORTS 1 HD

00:30 PGA Tour Special
01:30 PGA Tour Highlights
02:30 NHL
03:00 Gillette World Sport
05:00 Live NHL
06:00 Golfing World
08:00 AFL Premiership Highlights
10:00 Super Rugby
12:00 NFL Premiership
13:00 NFL Premiership Highlights
16:00 PGA Tour Highlights
17:00 Top 14 Highlights
17:30 Gillette World Sport
18:00 Golfing World
19:00 NFL Full Time
19:30 World Rugby
20:00 Top 14 Highlights
20:30 Gillette World Sport
21:00 Players Championship 2015 Official Film
22:00 The PGA Tour Champions Highlights

OSN SPORTS 2 HD

02:30 This Week In WWE
03:00 Live WWE Raw
06:30 Top 14 Highlights
07:00 Darts UK Open
10:30 Top 14 Highlights
11:00 PGA Tour Highlights
12:00 Gillette World Sport
12:30 WWE Experience
13:30 WWE Afterburn
14:30 This Week In WWE
15:00 WWE Raw
18:00 NHL
20:00 WWE Raw
23:00 Indy Car Highlights

OSN SPORTS 3 HD

00:00 AFL Premiership Highlights
01:00 Top 14 Highlights
01:30 The World Sailing Show
02:00 Ping Pong World Championship
03:00 Wuxi Marathon
06:00 Inside Sailing
06:30 The World Sailing Show
07:00 Super Rugby
09:00 Golfing World
10:00 Ping Pong World Championship
11:00 Inside Sailing
11:30 The World Sailing Show
12:00 Trans World Sport
13:00 Europro Tour
14:00 Golfing World
15:00 The Weber Cup
16:00 Super Rugby
18:00 AFL Premiership Highlights
19:00 PGA Tour Special
20:00 Golfing World
21:00 NFL Full Time
21:30 World Rugby
22:00 Super Rugby

CLASSIFIEDS

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www.kuwaittimes.net
e-mail: info@kuwaittimes.net



KNCC PROGRAMME FROM THURSDAY TO WEDNESDAY (07/04/2016 TO 13/04/2016)

Time	Programme	Time	Programme	Time	Programme
12:15 PM	NO FRI+SAT	11:30 AM	MA3 AL KHATAR (Kuwaiti Film)	2:00 PM	MA3 AL KHATAR (Kuwaiti Film)
2:30 PM	KUNG FU PANDA 3	1:30 PM	MA3 AL KHATAR (Kuwaiti Film)	4:15 PM	MA3 AL KHATAR (Kuwaiti Film)
2:15 PM	BATMAN V SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE	3:30 PM	KUNG FU PANDA 3	2:00 PM	KUNG FU PANDA 3
4:15 PM	SARDAAR GABBAR SINGH - Telugu	6:45 PM	KUNG FU PANDA 3	4:15 PM	KUNG FU PANDA 3
6:15 PM	SARDAAR GABBAR SINGH - Telugu	10:15 PM	MA3 AL KHATAR (Kuwaiti Film)	6:15 PM	MA3 AL KHATAR (Kuwaiti Film)
8:00 PM	BATMAN V SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE	3:30 PM	MA3 AL KHATAR (Kuwaiti Film)	8:15 PM	MA3 AL KHATAR (Kuwaiti Film)
11:00 PM	OBSERVANCE	6:45 PM	MA3 AL KHATAR (Kuwaiti Film)	10:30 PM	MA3 AL KHATAR (Kuwaiti Film)
12:45 AM	OBSERVANCE	10:00 PM	MA3 AL KHATAR (Kuwaiti Film)	12:45 AM	MA3 AL KHATAR (Kuwaiti Film)
12:30 PM	FANAR-1	1:15 AM	AVENUES-1	11:30 AM	KUNG FU PANDA 3
1:30 PM	THE BOY AND THE BEAST	1:45 PM	KUNG FU PANDA 3	4:00 PM	KUNG FU PANDA 3
2:30 PM	THE BOY AND THE BEAST	2:45 PM	KUNG FU PANDA 3	6:15 PM	KUNG FU PANDA 3
4:30 PM	MA3 AL KHATAR (Kuwaiti Film)	5:15 PM	KUNG FU PANDA 3	8:30 PM	KUNG FU PANDA 3
6:30 PM	THE BOSS	7:45 PM	10 CLOVERFIELD LANE	10:45 PM	10 CLOVERFIELD LANE
8:30 PM	MA3 AL KHATAR (Kuwaiti Film)	10:00 PM	10 CLOVERFIELD LANE	1:00 AM	10 CLOVERFIELD LANE
10:30 PM	THE BOSS	12:05 AM	AVENUES-2	12:30 PM	MR. RIGHT
12:30 AM	MA3 AL KHATAR (Kuwaiti Film)	1:00 PM	MR. RIGHT	2:45 PM	MR. RIGHT
1:00 PM	BATMAN V SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE	3:00 PM	MR. RIGHT	5:00 PM	MR. RIGHT
4:00 PM	BATMAN V SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE	5:00 PM	MR. RIGHT	7:15 PM	MR. RIGHT
7:00 PM	BATMAN V SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE	7:00 PM	MR. RIGHT	9:30 PM	MR. RIGHT
10:00 PM	BATMAN V SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE	9:00 PM	MR. RIGHT	11:45 PM	MR. RIGHT
1:00 AM	10 CLOVERFIELD LANE	1:00 AM	AVENUES-3	12:15 PM	MA3 AL KHATAR (Kuwaiti Film)
1:45 PM	10 CLOVERFIELD LANE	12:45 PM	MA3 AL KHATAR (Kuwaiti Film)	2:30 PM	MA3 AL KHATAR (Kuwaiti Film)
4:00 PM	SARDAAR GABBAR SINGH - Telugu	2:30 PM	MA3 AL KHATAR (Kuwaiti Film)	4:45 PM	MA3 AL KHATAR (Kuwaiti Film)
7:15 PM	SARDAAR GABBAR SINGH - Telugu	4:45 PM	MA3 AL KHATAR (Kuwaiti Film)	9:15 PM	MA3 AL KHATAR (Kuwaiti Film)
10:30 PM	SARDAAR GABBAR SINGH - Telugu	6:45 PM	MA3 AL KHATAR (Kuwaiti Film)	11:30 PM	MA3 AL KHATAR (Kuwaiti Film)
12:15 PM	THE BOSS	8:45 PM	360°-1	1:15 PM	MA3 AL KHATAR (Kuwaiti Film)
2:15 PM	THE BOSS	10:45 PM	MA3 AL KHATAR (Kuwaiti Film)	3:30 PM	MA3 AL KHATAR (Kuwaiti Film)
4:15 PM	KUNG FU PANDA 3	12:45 AM	MA3 AL KHATAR (Kuwaiti Film)	5:45 PM	MA3 AL KHATAR (Kuwaiti Film)
6:15 PM	KUNG FU PANDA 3	12:45 AM	MA3 AL KHATAR (Kuwaiti Film)	8:00 PM	MA3 AL KHATAR (Kuwaiti Film)
8:15 PM	MA3 AL KHATAR (Kuwaiti Film)	12:15 PM	360°-2	10:15 PM	MA3 AL KHATAR (Kuwaiti Film)
10:30 PM	THE BOSS	2:00 PM	3000 NIGHTS - Arabic	12:30 PM	3000 NIGHTS - Arabic
12:30 AM	MA3 AL KHATAR (Kuwaiti Film)	4:00 PM	3000 NIGHTS - Arabic	2:45 PM	3000 NIGHTS - Arabic
12:00 PM	OBSERVANCE	6:00 PM	3000 NIGHTS - Arabic	5:00 PM	3000 NIGHTS - Arabic
1:45 PM	BATMAN V SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE	8:00 PM	3000 NIGHTS - Arabic	7:15 PM	3000 NIGHTS - Arabic
1:30 PM	SARDAAR GABBAR SINGH - Telugu	10:00 PM	3000 NIGHTS - Arabic	9:30 PM	3000 NIGHTS - Arabic
4:45 PM	OBSERVANCE	12:05 AM	3000 NIGHTS - Arabic	11:45 PM	3000 NIGHTS - Arabic
6:30 PM	OBSERVANCE	12:30 PM	360°-3	12:45 PM	KUNG FU PANDA 3
8:15 PM	OBSERVANCE	2:30 PM	KUNG FU PANDA 3	3:00 PM	KUNG FU PANDA 3
10:00 PM	BATMAN V SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE	4:30 PM	KUNG FU PANDA 3	5:15 PM	KUNG FU PANDA 3
1:00 AM	OBSERVANCE	7:30 PM	KUNG FU PANDA 3	7:30 PM	KUNG FU PANDA 3
10:15 PM	SARDAAR GABBAR SINGH - Telugu	9:30 PM	KUNG FU PANDA 3	9:45 PM	KUNG FU PANDA 3
1:30 AM	OBSERVANCE	12:30 AM	KUNG FU PANDA 3		
12:30 PM	BATMAN V SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE	11:45 AM			

FOR SALE

Owner leaving Kuwait want to sell household items, Samsung smart TV 40", bedroom furniture, drawing room furniture, 1 Ikea office table with two side tables, with 1 Ikea office chair, curtains, dining table, Arabic majlis, 2 gas cylinders. Contact 69302121. (C 5157) 10-4-2016

Contents of a flat (furniture) for sale in Salmiya, next to Donbosco School, expat leaving Kuwait. Contact: 97453334. (C 5156) 7-6-2016

EIG
BUSINESS IN OMAN
We Are Providing
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Business Partner,
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Contact Us: 00968-98457638
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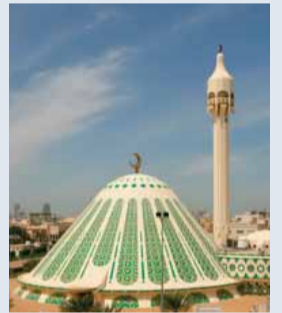
ACCOMMODATION
Sharing accommodation available in Jabriya block 10 str. 9 beside Jabriya Indian School, 1 big room + 1 medium with balcony suitable area. Tel: 55030515, 55983570. (C 5155) 5-4-2016

THE PUBLIC AUTHORITY FOR CIVIL INFORMATION
Automated enquiry about the Civil ID card is
1889988

EMERGENCY 112

PRAYER TIMINGS

Fajr:	04:07
Shorook	05:28
Duhr:	11:49
Asr:	15:23
Maghrib:	18:10
Isha:	19:28



Directorate General of Civil Aviation Home Page (www.kuwait-airport.com.kw)

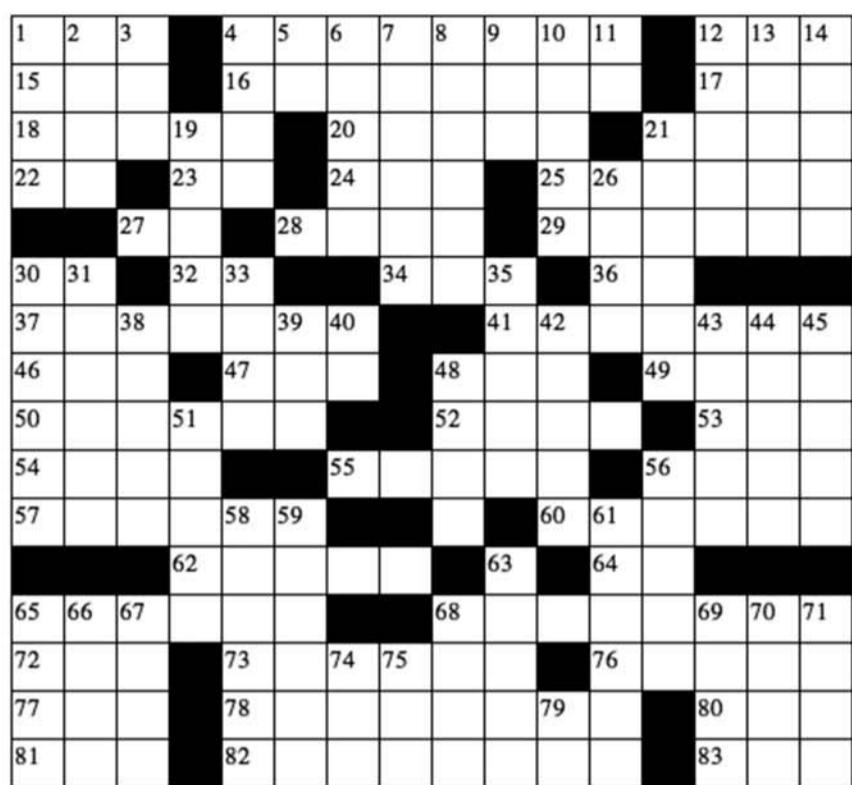
In case you are not travelling, your proper cancellation of bookings will help other passengers to use seats



Arrival Flights on Sunday 10/4/2016				Arrival Flights on Sunday 10/4/2016			
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
THY	772	Istanbul	00:10	AIC	988	Hyderabad/Chennai	00:05
MSC	415	Sohag	00:10	JAI	573	Mumbai	00:25
JZR	267	Beirut	00:30	MSR	615	Cairo	00:30
JZR	239	Amman	00:50	FDB	072	Dubai	00:30
FDB	069	Dubai	00:55	MSC	416	Sohag	01:05
KKK	6506	Istanbul	00:55	THY	773	Istanbul	01:40
DLH	635	Doha	01:00	DLH	635	Frankfurt	02:00
QTR	1086	Doha	01:15	THY	765	Istanbul	02:45
JZR	539	Cairo	01:20	ETH	621	Addis Ababa	02:45
PGT	858	Istanbul	01:40	PGT	859	Istanbul	02:55
RJA	642	Amman	01:45	UAE	854	Dubai	03:45
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	01:45	OMA	644	Muscat	04:00
JZR	555	Alexandria	01:50	KKK	6505	Istanbul	04:05
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:15	FDB	068	Dubai	04:05
UAE	853	Dubai	02:25	ETD	306	Abu Dhabi	04:10
OMA	643	Muscat	03:05	MSR	613	Cairo	04:15
FDB	067	Dubai	03:15	PGT	861	Istanbul	04:30
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	QTR	1077	Doha	04:35
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:15	JZR	560	Sohag	05:00
QTR	1076	Doha	03:25	LMU	511	Cairo	05:00
PGT	860	Istanbul	03:30	ETH	3403	Addis Ababa	06:00
KAC	544	Cairo	03:40	RJA	643	Amman	06:25
LMU	510	Cairo	04:00	QTR	1087	Doha	06:30
ETH	3403	Addis Ababa/Riyadh	04:30	QTR	8512	Doha	06:40
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:10	THY	771	Istanbul	06:45
THY	770	Istanbul	05:15	GFA	212	Bahrain	06:50
QTR	8511	Doha	05:15	FDB	070	Dubai	07:05
KAC	412	Manila/Bangkok	06:15	JZR	164	Dubai	07:15
BAW	157	London	06:40	FDB	5062	Dubai	07:55
FDB	5061	Dubai	07:15	BAW	156	London	08:25
KAC	382	Delhi	07:30	FDB	054	Dubai	08:30
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	07:35	KAC	171	Frankfurt	08:40
KAC	206	Islamabad	07:40	SVA	513	Riyadh	08:50
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:50	JZR	482	Istanbul	09:30
SVA	512	Riyadh	07:50	KAC	787	Jeddah	09:30
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	KAC	671	Dubai	09:30
KAC	354	BLR	08:00	ABY	126	Sharjah	09:45
KAC	156	Istanbul	08:00	UAE	856	Dubai	09:50
KAC	332	Trivandrum	08:15	KAC	117	New York	10:00
KAC	362	Colombo	08:20	ETD	302	Abu Dhabi	10:00
KAC	352	Kochi	08:20	IRC	529	Ahwaz	10:10
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25	IRA	664	Shiraz	10:25
KAC	284	Dhaka	09:00	FDB	056	Dubai	10:40
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	09:05	QTR	1071	Doha	10:45
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:05	KAC	677	Muscat/Abu Dhabi	10:50
IRC	528	Ahwaz	09:10	KAC	501	Beirut	11:00
IRA	665	Shiraz	09:25	KAC	561	Amman	11:20
QTR	1070	Doha	09:30	KAC	741	Dammam	11:35
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	GFA	214	Bahrain	11:35
UAE	873	Dubai	10:40	MEA	405	Beirut	12:00
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	KAC	541	Cairo	12:05
MEA	404	Beirut	11:00	KAC	103	London	12:10
JZR	561	Sohag	11:25	UAE	874	Dubai	12:10
JZR	165	Dubai	11:50	JZR	776	Jeddah	12:15
FDB	075	Dubai	12:25	KAC	785	Jeddah	13:00
SAW	701	Damascus	12:35	JZR	176	Dubai	13:10
UAE	871	Dubai	12:45	JZR	786	Riyadh	13:10
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00	FDB	076	Dubai	13:10
KAC	672	Dubai	14:05	SAW	702	Damascus	13:35
QTR	1078	Doha	14:05				
AXB	393	Kozhikode	14:10				
FDB	057	Dubai	14:20				

DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

CROSSWORD 1222



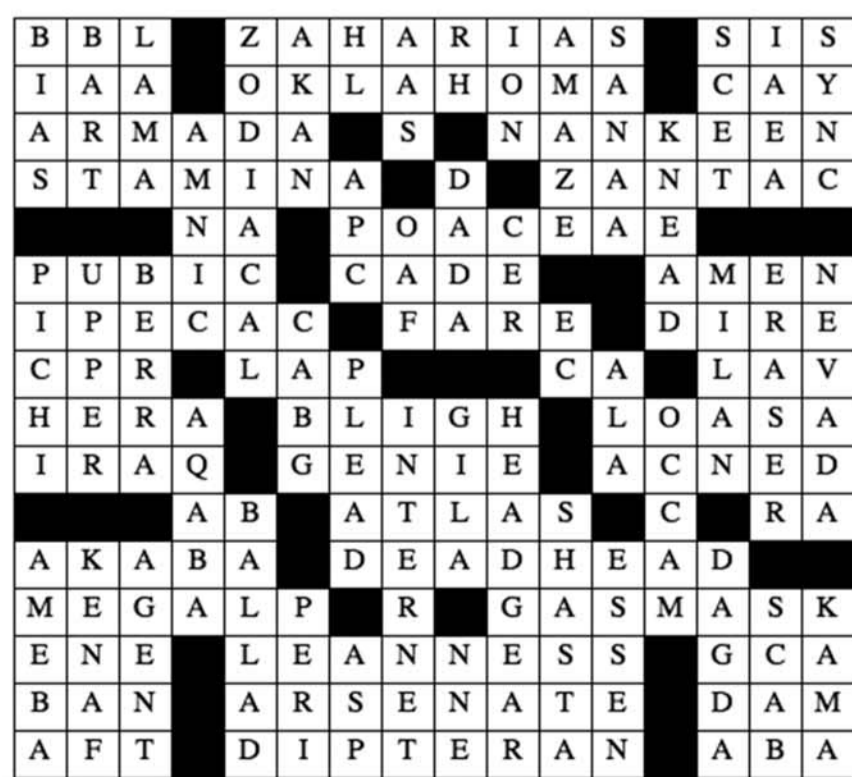
ACROSS

- 1. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
4. A resident of Alabama.
12. The sound made by a pigeon v 1.
15. An ugly evil-looking old woman.
16. A woman's headscarf folded into a triangle and tied under the chine.
17. A humming noise.
18. Lower in esteem.
20. United States biochemist (born in Spain) who studied the biological synthesis of nucleic acids (born in 1905).
22. A soft silvery metallic element of the alkali earth group.
23. A public promotion of some product or service.
24. A metric unit of volume or capacity equal to 10 liters.
25. A bachelor's degree in architecture.
27. In operation or operational.
28. Goddess of the dead and queen of the underworld.
29. Absence of the pupil in an eye.
30. A Mid-Atlantic state.
32. A very poisonous metallic element that has three allotropic forms.
34. A period marked by distinctive character or reckoned from a fixed point or event.
36. The blood group whose red cells carry both the A and B antigens.
37. City in central Iran.
41. A sudden and violent collapse.
46. (computer science) A measure of how densely information is packed on a storage medium.
47. Being one more than two.
49. Any of numerous local fertility and nature deities worshipped by ancient Semitic peoples.
50. Of or denoting or relating to the Balkan countries or their inhabitants or the Balkan peninsula or the Balkan Mountains.
52. A blue dye obtained from plants or made synthetically.
53. The 22nd letter of the Greek alphabet.
54. Beyond what is natural.
55. Wood of a sumac.
57. Coffee-flavored liqueur made in Mexico.
60. Be compatible or in accordance with.
62. A unit of dry measure used in Egypt.
64. The branch of computer science that deal with writing computer programs that can solve problems creatively.
65. Syncopated music in duple time for dancing the rumba.
72. A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
73. Type and sole genus of the family Albulidae.
76. Transient cessation of respiration.
77. (psychophysics) The difference between two stimuli that (under properly controlled experimental conditions) is detected as often as it is undetected.
78. False sabertoothed tigers.
80. Not in good physical or mental health.
81. A Kwa language spoken by the Yoruba people in southwestern Nigeria.
82. Nocturnal burrowing mammal of the grasslands of Africa that feeds on termites.
83. A usually soluble substance for staining or coloring e.g. fabrics or hair.

DOWN

- 1. According to the Old Testament he was a pagan king of Israel and husband of Jezebel (9th century BC).
2. A small cake leavened with yeast.
3. Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
4. In bed.
5. A white soft metallic element that tarnishes readily.
6. The address where a person lives.
7. fastener that fastens together two ends of a belt or strap.
8. A rectangular block of hewn stone used for building purposes.
9. A unit of conductance equal to the reciprocal of an ohm.
10. Jordan's port.
11. A silvery soft waxy metallic element of the alkali metal group.
12. Make a vibrant sound, as of some birds.
13. A unit of apothecary weight equal to 480 grains or one twelfth of a pound.
14. A member of the Siouan people formerly living in the Missouri river valley in NE Nebraska.
19. The capital and largest city of Yemen.
21. African tree having an exceedingly thick trunk and fruit that resembles a gourd and has an edible pulp called monkey bread.
26. Someone who works (or provides workers) during a strike.
31. A parliamentary monarchy in southwestern Europe on the Iberian Peninsula.
33. One of the two main branches of orthodox Islam.
35. A city in southern Turkey on the Seyhan River.
38. Make off with belongings of others.
39. Belonging to or on behalf of a specified person (especially yourself).
40. A hard malleable ductile silvery metallic element that is resistant to corrosion.
42. Any plant of the genus Erica.
43. A hidden storage space (for money or provisions or weapons).
44. An avalanche volcanic water and mud down the slopes of a volcano.
45. Leave or strike out, as of vowels.
48. Russian physicist (1895-1971).
51. A member of a formerly tribal people now living in south central India.
56. Intelligent somewhat arboreal ape of equatorial African forests.
58. A university town in east central Illinois adjoining Champaign.
59. A port city in southwestern Turkey on the Gulf of Antalya.
61. Having a woven pattern.
63. An Indian tree of the family Combretaceae that is a source of timber and gum.
66. A coil of rope or wool or yarn.
67. Relating to the Urdu language.
68. Speaking a Slavic language.
69. A town in north central Oklahoma.
70. Have confidence or faith in.
71. A university in Connecticut.
74. The rate at which heat is produced by an individual in a resting state.
75. Goddess of fate.
79. An ancient city of Sumer located on a former channel of the Euphrates River.

Yesterday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

You can increase your sensitivity and insight into past and future trends. You appreciate the purpose and experience of life and living. At times introspection and meditation create a relaxation you enjoy and you may even feel yourself grow spiritually through this exercise. You could teach the techniques to others. Association with hospitals, institutions or spiritual retreats can be beneficial. You can receive sympathy, comfort and healing if you are in need, or you can be compassionate and generous toward others who suffer. Plans may be made within your travel group to spend some time in the country or take a photographic tour sometime this year. This evening is a great time to enjoy art, theater and music with friends.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Feeling good about yourself does wonders for your attitude. People that have showed little or no support for you in the past will give you a helping hand now. Your support system is much more dependable at this time. You are able to dispense with some unessential matters and develop what is most basic. You encourage better support from others and you will usually receive what you send or give. Do not look for a hidden meaning in another person's compliments their admiration is deserved. Be courteous during the day as you may have your concentration in so many other places that you could seem unappreciative. Healing efforts have a way of multiplying as you continue a health routine. Spring fever hits this evening and love blossoms.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Many distractions today may cause any number of frustrations. Keep your sense of humor and ask the next person who might interrupt you to take a number-you are the new catalog department. You may be looking for an opinion regarding a family matter today, but you have all the answers you need inside your own psyche. This afternoon is a good time to spend with loved ones and family. You could be on a bicycle trip later. You may even decide that one trip a week would be a habit you might like to take on for yourself. Finding fun ways to exercise may be part and parcel of what makes up this afternoon. You may enjoy being at home with a good book this evening. You and a young person may also care for an animal this evening-perhaps a new cat.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

Obtaining and exchanging information can be mentally stimulating. Healing within the family unit is possible with new health information. Communicating feelings becomes important. You work mentally and physically now to become more refined emotionally. Getting your message across and learning how and when to say no successfully, is an important issue. You know that your mind and ego are at risk if you cannot foster discrimination and clearness. Your willpower and intuition are enhanced little by little this month. This is the perfect time to work on communication skills. Personal growth is encouraged, as you will have increased energy and a feeling of wellbeing. You may enjoy some close attention from a special someone this evening.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

A greater appreciation for things of value and the idea of value itself is in order now. This could be a period of great material gain; it is certainly a time when material things have a great deal of importance for you. Spending it all in one place could, however, be the issue. You may want to investigate your options before spending frivolously. Make long-term plans to build your income and financial holdings through careful, conservative methods and investments. You want roots and you crave a sense of intimate connection that will last; remain honest. You also love your freedom. Plan to exchange ideas between you and your loved one concerning future goals and expectations. Free your creative side this evening-paint, write, invent.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

This morning is a wonderful time to toss out debris-to get neat and organized. Minimize stress with efficiency. Later, a family conference may not seem productive, but it could be more beneficial than you think. Other people need time to discuss ideas and views; patience and listening will bring you rewards. You can demonstrate great understanding and sensitivity about the needs of others just now and are in a good position to exchange a few thoughts-perhaps in a meeting. Personally, you may have decided to make some changes in your habits-even if it takes writing a reminder on a calendar each day. There is a longing to see progress and accomplishment in your life. You may even decide that this is a good time to do volunteer work.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

You will gain a fresh perspective toward young people today as you involve yourself in their activities. Perhaps you will learn a new game or participate in some fun activity you remembered playing as a kid. As a future leader of the community, you will be able to help make their playground fun, safe and environmentally healthy. At times you will tend to be serious about your personal environment, making sure that you are not exposed to harmful conditions. You are a real stickler for recycling. You may study physical self-improvement methods and learn practical skills that will make you and others more competitive and productive. As you begin this development, your home and private life come to mean more to you. Tonight is for relaxing.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

Your cheerful, tolerant attitude makes this a good day for romance or social gatherings. Take this day to register these memories in some way. A trigger of a word, sigh or eye roll may seem negative but it can give you a memory trigger to help you remember the positive that comes about on this day. It is important to be able to rise above any negative that you are subject to in order to set the example and move forward. Occasionally, you may feel you need to stay in the negative to understand a situation but set a time limit and keep moving. This is a most positive day... Use it as a learning day. Guests, travel or yes, even marriage will benefit from your genuinely positive self. Involvement in artistic pursuits and volunteer or social service is favorable as well.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

Following the plans for today will cut down on any mischievous behavior that the young people around you can create. Perhaps a friend can help you focus on the plans for today. Perhaps you are teaching a craft or camping with a group. This can be a creative time that you will look back on with fondness. Picture-taking sessions are good. Make sure you schedule some rest... Even fun needs a timeout period. This is a wonderful time to be expressive and to help others be expressive. To satisfy your need to be the center of attention, you will find much praise for any creative expression you decide to involve yourself with for now. There is a lot of pride in what you do and this evening, your enthusiasm makes way for you to exhibit much showmanship.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

This is a good time for surrounding yourself with friends and young people. You may volunteer to observe children at play so that parents can attend a meeting or enjoy a movie or a little quiet time together. You appreciate your particular situation and enjoy support from those around you. This is a powerful time of recognizing and using your intuition and insights. Ownership matters can be under pressure-do everything you can now to ensure your own security. Perhaps hiring a lawyer or gaining some insurance plan would be a good process. If you are planning to invest in property, do so soon. A walk this evening with a friend, or some time for reading a book, will bring back a balance.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

You have greater confidence and assertiveness in approaching and communicating with the public now. Your personal magnetism is high. Marriage and other close relationships can be where your attention is focused this weekend. This is a time to enjoy your ties to others, to seek and promote harmony in the interaction between people. Emotional security, a sense of belonging and nurturing are issues felt instinctively now. If your neighborhood has protected areas where you can walk at night, do so. Listen to the sounds of nature and allow yourself to be expressive through some form of art. Find ways to care for our planet; perhaps you could encourage a neighborhood cleanup program-perhaps you will plant a few flowers as well.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

Consciously work on seeing the positive in your routine work situations. Your highly critical eye is one of your strengths, but it could carry over into an emotional issue with others. If you are working overtime today-smile. You will need to be more flexible to keep up with the recent changes. Avoid burnout by allowing yourself time to take your breaks. Say no when necessary or at least allocate jobs to others, when possible. It may be time to focus upon your goals and set a path to what you want. There are good opportunities this afternoon to become involved with some educational classes, lectures or conferences that will widen your scope of knowledge. Get outside today with a friend, weather permitting, and enjoy an energetic walk.

WORD SEARCH

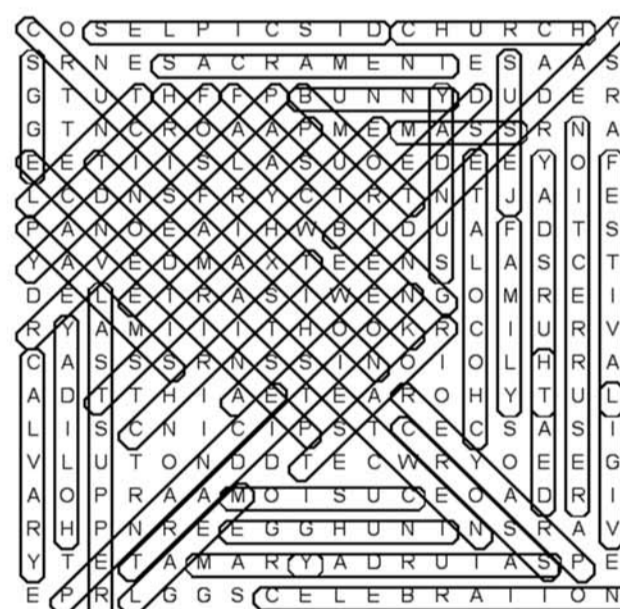
Countries of Europe

Find and circle all of the Countries of Europe that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell a secret message. Note: IRELAND and NORTHERN IRELAND are separately hidden and do not overlap. A A D Y A W R O N I E T S N E T H C E I L W I U T N H S P A I N O D E C A M R A L B A N I A S E A D S F A I N L A N D A Z E R B A I J A N M T E L P O E D N A L E C I C T B U L G A R I A R N R N S R U S S I A N F E D E R A T I O N L I O E B E D R K R A M N E D C F T M O A I R T A R Z Y I D N A E A S E A Z D U R H O V R B A I T T N O A E A P L E L E I I N U A O N E S T N H I A P R M W L H U C O S T N A G N L A L E A E W M O M L O S R H X A V G A E L G C A C Y M R S R L E I S N R E N E A E Z O I E G E T O N E E A N T D E T M H R M R N U R I A C R I Y G N I H P N A E Y T E B M I T C C I I U E R O L D A U G R A E N H E A O R A N S S K K C E T N A B A I E N L A E I N O U A D U S A R E L S U L T N I G O I T N G P M C R R E V A E A A I R O I L V N R O O L R I L A G P L O I R N C E S K A T S T G C I C T O L O N Y A L N G D T I N N E O E S A N I A S E T I N C W S E T H E W D O B Y E R L L V A B A V O D L O M D

- ALBANIA ANDORRA ARMENIA AUSTRIA AZERBAIJAN BELARUS BELGIUM BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA BULGARIA CROATIA CYPRUS CZECH REPUBLIC DENMARK ENGLAND ESTONIA FINLAND FRANCE GEORGIA GERMANY GREECE HUNGARY ICELAND IRELAND ITALY LATVIA LIECHTENSTEIN LITHUANIA LUXEMBOURG MACEDONIA MALTA MOLDOVA MONACO NETHERLANDS NORTHERN IRELAND NORWAY POLAND PORTUGAL ROMANIA RUSSIAN FEDERATION SAN MARINO SCOTLAND SLOVAKIA SLOVENIA SPAIN SWEDEN SWITZERLAND TURKEY UKRAINE SERBIA/MONTENEGRO VATICAN CITY WALES

Yesterday Solution

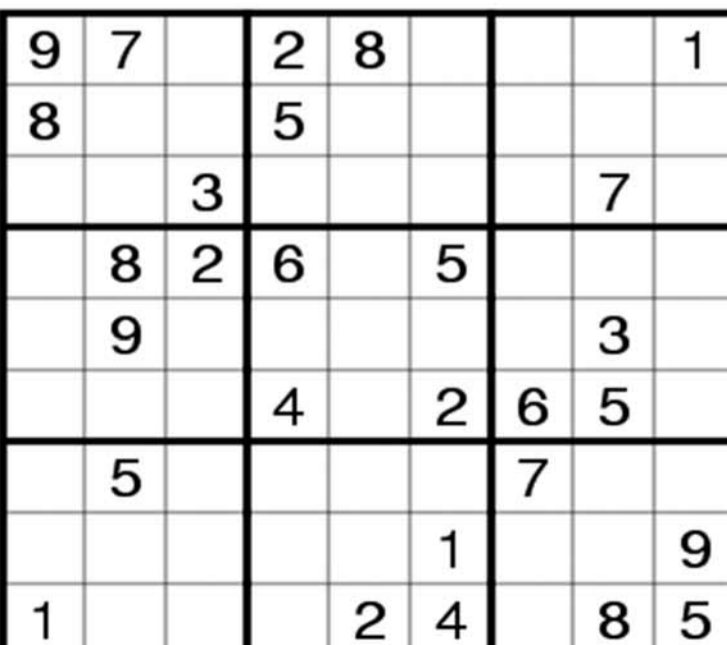
Easter



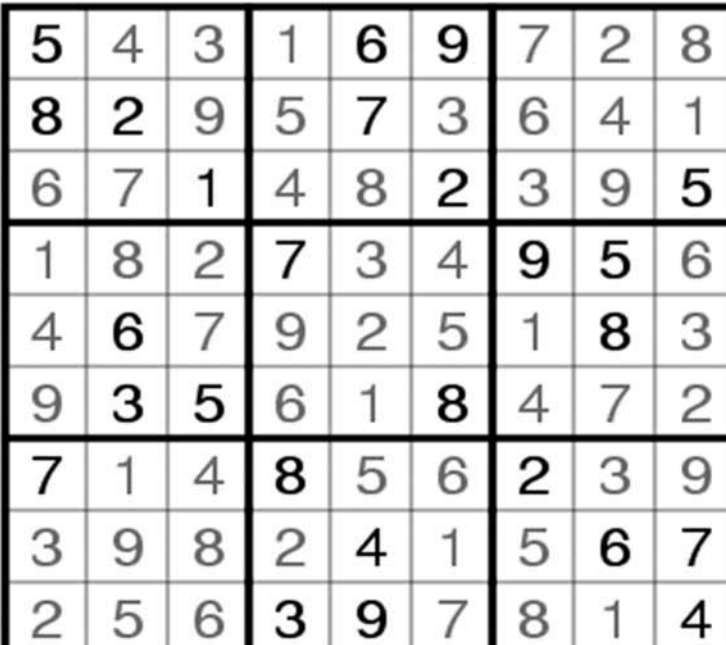
- ASH WEDNESDAY BREAD BUNNY CALVARY CELEBRATION CHOCOLATE CHRIST CHURCH CROSS CRUCIFIXION CUSTOM DEATH DISCIPLES EGG HUNT EGGS EUCHARIST FAMILY FASTING CHURCH FESTIVAL FRIDAY HOLIDAY HOLY WEEK JESUS LAST SUPPER LENT MARY MASS MEAL NEW TESTAMENT PALMS PARADE PASSOVER PENANCE PRAYER RESURRECTION ROAST SACRAMENT SATURDAY SUNDAY THURSDAY TOMB TRADITION VIGIL

The hidden message is: ONE EASTER TRADITION IS TO DECORATE EGGS

Daily SuDoku



Yesterday's Solution



For labor-related inquiries and complaints:
Call MSAL hotline 128

Hospitals

Sabah Hospital	24812000
Amiri Hospital	22450005
Maternity Hospital	24843100
Mubarak Al-Kabir Hospital	25312700
Chest Hospital	24849400
Farwaniya Hospital	24892010
Adan Hospital	23940620
Ibn Sina Hospital	24840300
Al-Razi Hospital	24846000
Physiotherapy Hospital	24874330/9

Clinics

Kaizen center	25716707
Rawda	22517733
Adaliya	22517144
Khalidiya	24848075
Kaifan	24849807
Shamiya	24848913
Shuwaikh	24814507
Abdullah Salem	22549134
Nuzha	22526804
Industrial Shuwaikh	24814764
Qadsiya	22515088
Dasmah	22532265
Bneid Al-Gar	22531908
Shaab	22518752
Qibla	22459381
Ayoun Al-Qibla	22451082
Mirqab	22456536
Sharq	22465401
Salmiya	25746401
Jabriya	25316254
Maidan Hawally	25623444
Bayan	25388462
Mishref	25381200
W Hawally	22630786
Sabah	24810221
Jahra	24770319
New Jahra	24575755
West Jahra	24772608
South Jahra	24775066
North Jahra	24775992
North Jleeb	24311795
Ardhiya	24884079
Firdous	24892674
Omariya	24719048
N Khaitan	24710044
Fintas	23900322



PHARMACIES ON 24 HRS DUTY

GOVERNORATE	PHARMACY	ADDRESS	PHONE
Ahmadi	Sama Safwan Abu Halaifa Danat Al-Sultan	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	Lithuania	00370
Albania	00355	Luxembourg	00352
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
Azerbaijan	00994	Marshall Islands	00692
Bahamas	001242	Martinique	00596
Bahrain	00973	Mauritania	00222
Bangladesh	00880	Mauritius	00230
Barbados	001246	Mayotte	00269
Belarus	00375	Mexico	0052
Belgium	0032	Micronesia	00691
Belize	00501	Moldova	00373
Benin	00229	Monaco	00377
Bermuda	001441	Mongolia	00976
Bhutan	00975	Montserrat	001664
Bolivia	00591	Morocco	00212
Bosnia	00387	Mozambique	00258
Botswana	00267	Myanmar (Burma)	0095
Brazil	0055	Namibia	00264
Brunei	00673	Nepal	00977
Bulgaria	00359	Netherlands	0031
Burkina	00226	Netherlands Antilles	00599
Burundi	00257	New Caledonia	00687
Cambodia	00855	New Zealand	0064
Cameroon	00237	Nicaragua	00505
Canada	001	Niger	00227
Cape Verde	00238	Nigeria	00234
Cayman Islands	001345	Niue	00683
Central African	00236	Norfolk Island	00672
Chad	00235	N. Ireland (UK)	0044
Chile	0056	North Korea	00850
China	0086	Norway	0047
Colombia	0057	Oman	00968
Comoros	00269	Pakistan	0092
Congo	00242	Palau	00680
Cook Islands	00682	Panama	00507
Costa Rica	00506	Papua New Guinea	00675
Croatia	00385	Paraguay	00595
Cuba	0053	Peru	0051
Cyprus	00357	Philippines	0063
Cyprus (Northern)	0090392	Poland	0048
Czech Republic	00420	Portugal	00351
Denmark	0045	Puerto Rico	001787
Diego Garcia	00246	Qatar	00974
Djibouti	00253	Romania	0040
Dominica	001767	Russian Federation	007
Dominican Republic	001809	Rwanda	00250
Ecuador	00593	Saint Helena	00290
Egypt	0020	Saint Kitts	001869
El Salvador	00503	Saint Lucia	001758
England (UK)	0044	Saint Pierre	00508
Equatorial Guinea	00240	Saint Vincent	001784
Eritrea	00291	Samoa US	00684
Estonia	00372	Samoa West	00685
Ethiopia	00251	San Marino	00378
Falkland Islands	00500	Sao Tome	00239
Faroe Islands	00298	Saudi Arabia	00966
Fiji	00679	Scotland (UK)	0044
Finland	00358	Senegal	00221
France	0033	Seychelles	00284
French Guiana	00594	Sierra Leone	00232
French Polynesia	00689	Singapore	0065
Gabon	00241	Slovakia	00421
Gambia	00220	Slovenia	00386
Georgia	00995	Solomon Islands	00677
Germany	0049	Somalia	00252
Ghana	00233	South Africa	0027
Gibraltar	00350	South Korea	0082
Greece	0030	Spain	0034
Greenland	00299	Sri Lanka	0094
Grenada	001473	Sudan	00249
Guadeloupe	00590	Suriname	00597
Guam	001671	Swaziland	00268
Guatemala	00502	Sweden	0046
Guinea	00224	Switzerland	0041
Guyana	00592	Syria	00963
Haiti	00509	Serbia	00381
Holland (Netherlands)	0031	Taiwan	00886
Honduras	00504	Tanzania	00255
Hong Kong	00852	Thailand	0066
Hungary	0036	Togo	00228
Ibiza (Spain)	0034	Tonga	00676
Iceland	00354	Tokelau	00690
India	0091	Trinidad	001868
Indian Ocean	00873	Tunisia	00216
Indonesia	0062	Turkey	0090
Iran	0098	Tuvalu	00688
Iraq	00964	Uganda	00256
Ireland	00353	Ukraine	00380
Italy	0039	United Arab Emirates	00976
Ivory Coast	00225	United Kingdom	0044
Jamaica	001876	Uruguay	00598
Japan	0081	USA	001
Jordan	00962	Uzbekistan	00998
Kazakhstan	007	Vanuatu	00678
Kenya	00254	Venezuela	00582
Kiribati	00686	Vietnam	0084
Kuwait	00965	Virgin Islands UK	001284
Kyrgyzstan	00996	Virgin Islands US	001340
Laos	00856	Wales (UK)	0044
Latvia	00371	Yemen	00967
Lebanon	00961	Yugoslavia	00381
Liberia	00231	Zambia	00260
Libya	00218	Zimbabwe	00263
Lesotho	00266		

STATE OF KUWAIT DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT



Tel: (+965) 161 Ext: 2627 - 2630
Fax: (+965) 24348714
www.met.gov.kw



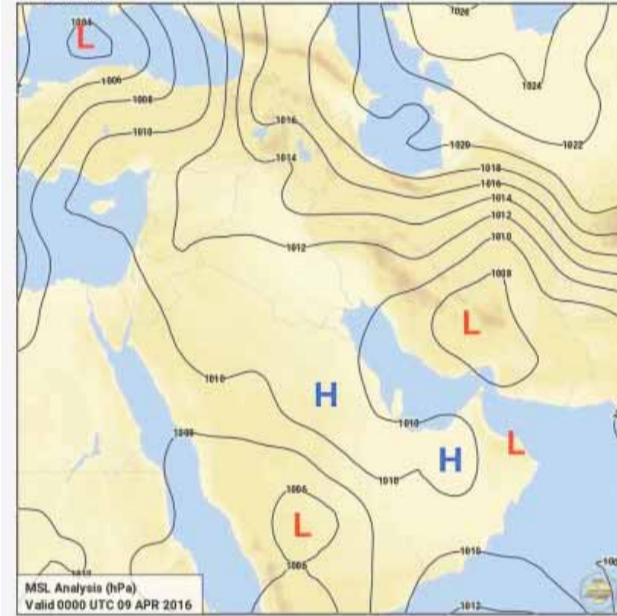
Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

Issued 09/04/2016-07:00 LT UTC +3hr

Max Temperature 36 °C

By Day : Sunny with light to moderate north westerly wind, with speed of 12 - 32 km/h
By Night : Fair with light variable wind, with speed of 08 - 20 km/h

SFC. CHART



Four-Day Forecast

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
Expected Weather	Mostly sunny	partly cloudy + dust+scattered thunder rain	partly cloudy + dust+scattered thunder rain	dusty
Min Temp °C	20	22	22	20
Max Temp °C	38	38	37	39
Wind Direction	variable wind changing to light to moderate south westerly	southerly to south easterly	south westerly changing to south easterly	south westerly
Wind Speed km/h	10 - 30	15 - 40	15 - 40	25 - 50

All times are local time (GMT+3) unless otherwise stated

Warnings & Weather Watches

no warnings or weather watches

Kuwait Forecast

Station	MIN °C	REC	Max °C
KUWAIT CITY	25		34
KUWAIT AIRPORT	18		36
ABDALLY	19		37
BUBYAN	20		32
JAHRRA	21		38
FAILAKA ISLAND	20		32
SALMIYAH	25		29
AHMADI	25		33
JAL ALIYAH	19		37
QAROH ISLAND	22		30
UMM AL-MARADEM	22		30
NUWAISIB	20		34
WAFRA	20		36
MANAGISH	19		36
SALMY	18		35
MUTRIBA	18		40

Recorded Yesterday at Kuwait Airport

Max Temp (°C)	34
Min Temp (°C)	18
Max Rel Hum (%)	70
Min Rel Hum (%)	15
Max Wind Speed (km/h) and Direction	36 S
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR	0 mm
Sunrise	05:28
Sunset	18:11

Prayer Times

Fajr	04:07
Sunrise	05:28
Zuhr	11:50
Asr	15:23
Sunset	18:11
Isha	19:29



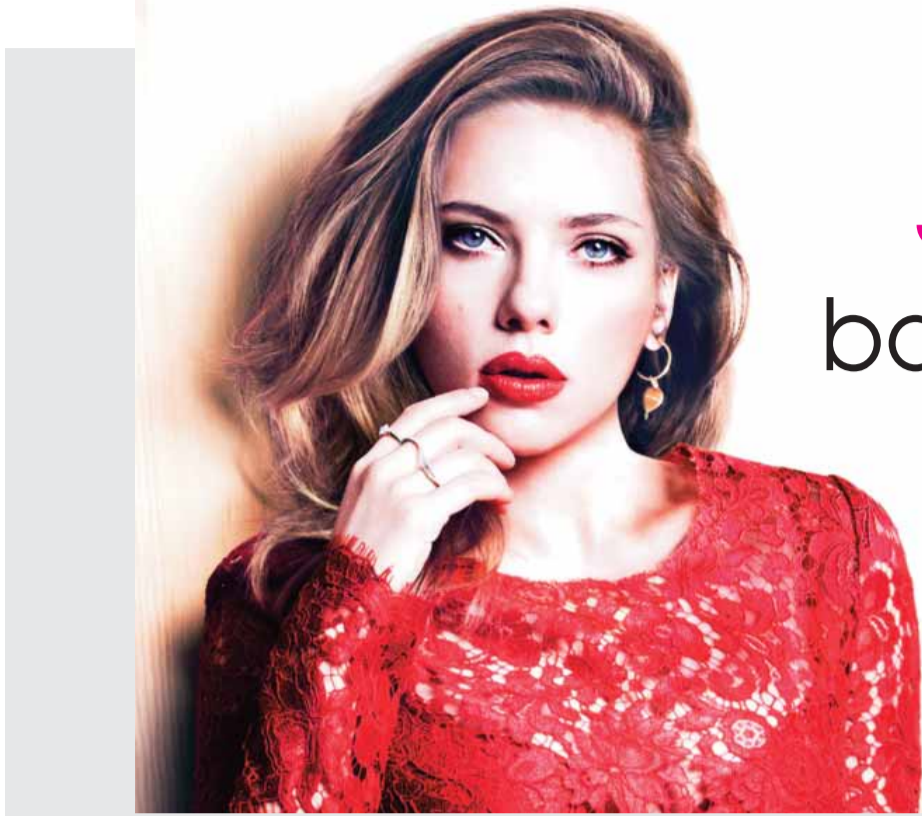
PRIVATE CLINICS

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
Ear, Nose & Throat (ENT)	
Dr. Ahmed Fouad Mouner	2455050 Ext 510
Dr. Abdallah Al-Ali	25644660
Dr. Abd Al-Hameed Al-Taweel	25646478
Dr. Sanad Al-Fathalah	25311996
Dr. Mohammad Al-Daory	25731988
Dr. Ismail Al-Fodary	22620166
Dr. Mahmoud Al-Booz	25651426
General Practitioners	
Dr. Mohammed Y Majidi	2455050 Ext 123
Dr. Yousef Al-Omar	24719312
Dr. Tarek Al-Mikhaezem	23926920
Dr. Kathem Maarafi	25730465
Dr. Abdallah Ahmad Eyadah	25655528
Dr. Nabeel Al-Ayoobi	24577781
Dr. Dina Abdallah Al-Rafea	25333501
Urologists	
Dr. Ali Naser Al-Serfy	22641534
Dr. Fawzi Taher Abul	22639955
Dr. Khaleel Abdallah Al-Awadi	22616660
Dr. Adel Al-Hunayan FRCS (C)	25313120
Dr. Leons Joseph	66703427

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	
Dr Adrian arbe	23729596/23729581
Dr. Verginia s.Marin	2572-6666 ext 8321
Dr. Fozeya Ali Al-Qatan	22655539
Dr. Majeda Khalefa Aliyami	25343406
Dr. Ahmad Al-Khooly	25739272
Dr. Salem soso	22618787
General Surgeons	
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	2455050 Ext 210
Consultant Cardiologist	
Dr. Mohammad Zubaid MB, ChB, FRCP, PACC Assistant Professor Of Medicine Head, Division of Cardiology Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital	25339667
Dr. Farida Al-Habib MD, PH.D, FACC	2611555-2622555
Inaya German Medical Center	Te: 2575077 Fax: 25723123



Johansson once hit 'rock bottom' after a toxic relationship

The 31-year-old actress may now be happily married to Romain Dauriac, with whom she has 19-month-old daughter Rose, but she has admitted she'll never forget the difficult romance she had with someone who was always "unavailable." Speaking to Cosmopolitan magazine, the blonde beauty - who was previously married to Ryan Reynolds from 2008 until 2011 - said: "Long, long ago, I had someone in my life who was forever unavailable ... but, like, so attractively unavailable. You have to get to your breaking point." But, after a while of feeling disappointed and let down, the 'Jungle Book' star decided to cut the mystery man loose because she realized she

was missing out on life with her friends and family while waiting for him to become available. She explained: "Rock bottom is the moment when you're like, 'I've lost myself. Why am I standing outside this bar at 1.30 in the morning texting while my friends are inside? Or taking a taxi to see him at some ungodly hour? This isn't me.' That is the moment you've gotta cut it off. Otherwise, it will keep coming back, suck your blood."

Banks wants marijuana 'legalized' in all states in America



Perry says there's a '45 per cent' chance of a 'Friends' reunion

The 46-year-old actor played Chandler Bing in the sitcom for 10 years alongside Jennifer Aniston, Lisa Kudrow, Courtney Cox, Matt LeBlanc and David Schwimmer, and has admitted the likelihood of a comeback is less than 50/50 because the writing team is wary of tarnishing the show's legacy. Speaking about the possibility of the NBC program returning, he said: "Friends' ended because it was time for the show to end. We had done 10 years; 237 episodes and the stories were kind of finished. "I don't think there is going to be a reunion. People talk about that all the time but I don't think that's going to happen, because we ended on such a high note that I don't want to risk doing something bad and ruining, tarnishing the image of it. I would say 45 per cent that it could happen. I think the actors would do it, I'm not sure that the writers would do it." Perry is currently starring in his stage show 'The End of Longing' in London and LeBlanc is in the UK filming the new revamped series of motoring show 'Top Gear' and Perry is hoping to see his old friend soon. Speaking on Magic FM Radio - the UK station on which he is hosting a show on Saturday afternoons - Perry said: "I haven't seen Matt yet. I want him to come to see the play though. I'm not sure if he's here now. But I love Matt LeBlanc. He's funny and great and sweet and nice."



The '212' hitmaker thinks everyone should be permitted to smoke or use the illegal substance and took to Twitter to share her opinions with fans and suggest a number of other reforms for the country she thinks are long overdue. During a rant on the social media site on Friday, the star ranted: "Just legalize ALL drugs in Vegas and Miami, impose a 10pm curfew for those under 18, impose a huge 'party hardy tax'... Legalize marijuana in all states. America is missing out on lots of tourism money by not legalizing weed, I think. "Civil unions for everyone. Tax the churches, abolish the death penalty. NO GUNS WHATSOEVER (sic)" The 24-year-old musician continued her rage but turned her attentions to the "fat white lard" of America "expect" an "amazing" life at the cost of the government. She raged: "All the hillbillies in the middle of America who get high on meth, shop at Walmart and do absolutely nothing, are the FIRST ppl to have their hands out. They expect an amazing quality of life with out actually doing anything to deserve it, other than be white. "My tax dollars go right into those hillbillies pockets, so they can go to Walmart and make Walmart rich. While Walmart pays little to no tax... the fat white lard that is middle America (not middle CLASS America) is stagnant. they are the real American problem. (sic)" The outspoken singer finally concluded: "America misses so many chances to LEAD the globe, being so busy trying to CONTROL it."



Axl Rose has broken a bone in his foot

The 54-year-old rocker announced the news hours before he was due to go on stage with Guns N' Roses - which also includes Slash and Duff McKagan - on Friday night for one of two Las Vegas warm-up shows ahead of their slot at the Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival later this month. The 'Sweet Child O' Mine' hitmaker shared a video with the orthopaedic nurse who treated him, which explains the process of the medical procedure he underwent. Alongside the video posted on his Twitter account, Axl wrote: "This is what can happen when you do something you haven't done in nearly over 23 years." The medic revealed that he is in a cast and will need to "limit" the amount of weight on his left foot for a month, but assured fans that he will be "stage ready" in time for the show. She explained: "Axl sustained a fracture of the fifth metatarsal, which is one of the

bones in his foot. "Axl underwent what we call an internal fixation where we go in and put the bone pieces back together and realign them and we placed plates and screws to hold them in place whilst healing. "Right now he is in a cast and we are limiting how much weight he puts on it. So right now he's having a set designed so he can perform for everyone still. "He'll be limiting the weight from the foot for about four weeks and then we will let them gradually progress from there, so we can get him ready for his stage ready action." It's believed Axl sustained the injury after slipping over at the band's surprise concert at the Troubadour in West Hollywood last week.



Springsteen cancels Carolina show over anti-gay 'bathroom law'



The 66-year-old rocker released a lengthy statement in which he shunned the Public Facilities Privacy and Security Act, which decides which toilet a transgender person can use. The statement posted on his band's website reads: "As you, my fans, know I'm scheduled to play in Greensboro, North Carolina this Sunday. As we also know, North Carolina has just passed HB2, which the media are referring to as the "bathroom" law. HB2 - known officially as the Public Facilities Privacy and Security Act-dictates which bathrooms transgender people are permitted to use." The 'Born To Run' hitmaker says he's cancelled the concert in Greensboro to show his "solidarity" in the fight against prejudice of "LGBT citizens". He continued: "Just as important, the law also attacks the rights of LGBT citizens to sue when their human rights are violated in the workplace. No other group of North Carolinians faces such a burden. To my mind, it's an attempt by people who cannot stand the progress our country has made in recognizing the human rights of all of our citizens to overturn that progress. Right now, there are many groups, businesses, and individuals in North Carolina working to oppose and overcome these negative developments. Taking all of this into account, I feel that this is a time for me and the band to show solidarity for those freedom fighters. As a result, and with deepest apologies to our dedicated fans in Greensboro, we have canceled our show scheduled for Sunday, April 10th. Some things are more important than a rock show and this fight against prejudice and bigotry-which is happening as I write-is one of them. It is the strongest means I have for raising my voice in opposition to those who continue to push us backwards instead of forwards (sic)."

Azalea says ex-husband 'controversy' only exists online

A few weeks ago the 'Team' hitmaker had to suffer the indignity of a video leaking online which showed her fiancé Nick Young admitting to his Los Angeles Lakers teammate D'Angelo Russell that he had cheated on her. Speculation has been rife about the status of their relationship and Iggy was directly quizzed about her romance by Ellen DeGeneres on her talk show. Ellen commented: "That's a beautiful ring by the way and you're engaged to a Laker? There's been some controversy..." To which Iggy replied: "Of course there is. There always is. But we're good. There isn't at home just on the Internet." Ellen then added: "At home you're good?" Prompting Iggy to say: "Yeah. We're good." During the candid chat, the 25-year-old rapper also addressed the criticism she faced for getting plastic

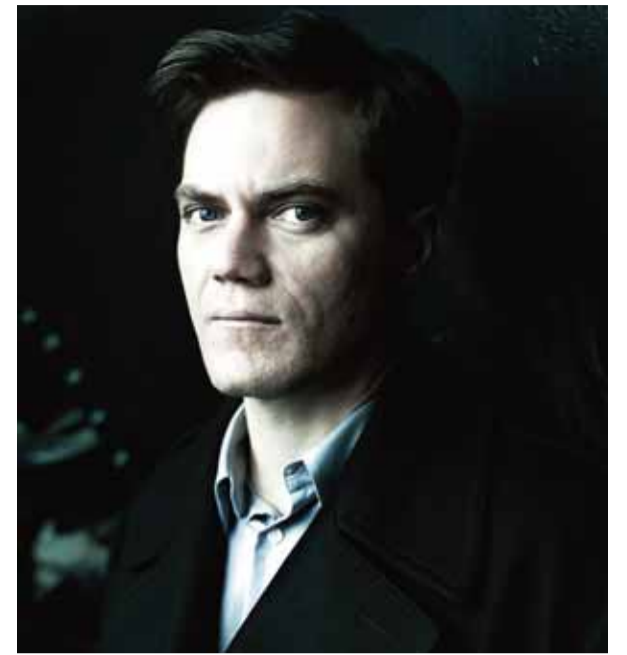
surgery and explained her motivation for getting a nose job and a breast enlargement operation. She said: "There was nothing wrong with me. I think it's a personal choice and anybody, man or woman, they should be able to make an informed decision and if you want to change something then that's up to you. I changed my nose and I got boobs, I didn't have boobs before I just had nipples and now I have breasts. Thought I could use some, that would be a good addition!" Iggy and Nick - who live together in Tarzana, California - began dating at the beginning of 2014 and got engaged last year.

Shannon calls the Oscars is the world's most exclusive 'prom'

The 41-year-old actor believes Hollywood and the movie-making business is more obsessed with beauty now than at any other time in history. And the annual Academy Awards epitomizes that trend with fashion designers and jewelry makers all clamoring to dress the stars for the big party. In an interview with The Guardian newspaper, he said: "Filmmaking is a visual medium. It's motion pictures. So basically you're just a model that talks. Look at any actor nowadays - they're just models. Going to the Oscars is like going to the prom. Everybody dressed up.

It used to be that when you went to the Oscars, you'd pick up something nice from the mall. Now it's this big hoo-ha. It's off the freaking rails. Even with me, when I do some press conference, some designer will say they want to put their suit on me. Put their suit on me! I never in my wildest dreams thought I would be hearing that phrase." Shannon admits the Hollywood lifestyle is a world away from his humble beginnings growing up in Lexington, Kentucky. And even though he has been an A-lister for some time now, he will never take his good fortune for granted. The

'Midnight Special' star explained: "I can't begin to explain (my career). Free drinks on the plane. Life of Riley. I'm from Kentucky and when I was a kid I'd go out in the backyard and there was a creek at the end. I'd stand waist-deep in the creek and catch crawdads with my hands. And now look at me. Look at how crazy life is. I'm drinking bottles of perfectly still water inside a five-star London hotel."



McCarthy joining the 'Gilmore Girls' Netflix revival

The 'Spy' star starred in the original TV series as chef Sookie St James, the best friend of Lorelai Gilmore, and despite previously claiming she had not been asked to return, has confirmed that she will star in the new series. Speaking on the Ellen DeGeneres show, Melissa said: "It is really exciting. There has been something that I've been asked about so, so many times and it hasn't worked out. They're making four new movies of the 'Gilmore Girls', which is a show that was near and dear to my heart for four years and we could not get those schedules to work. "There was a whole thing and I was going

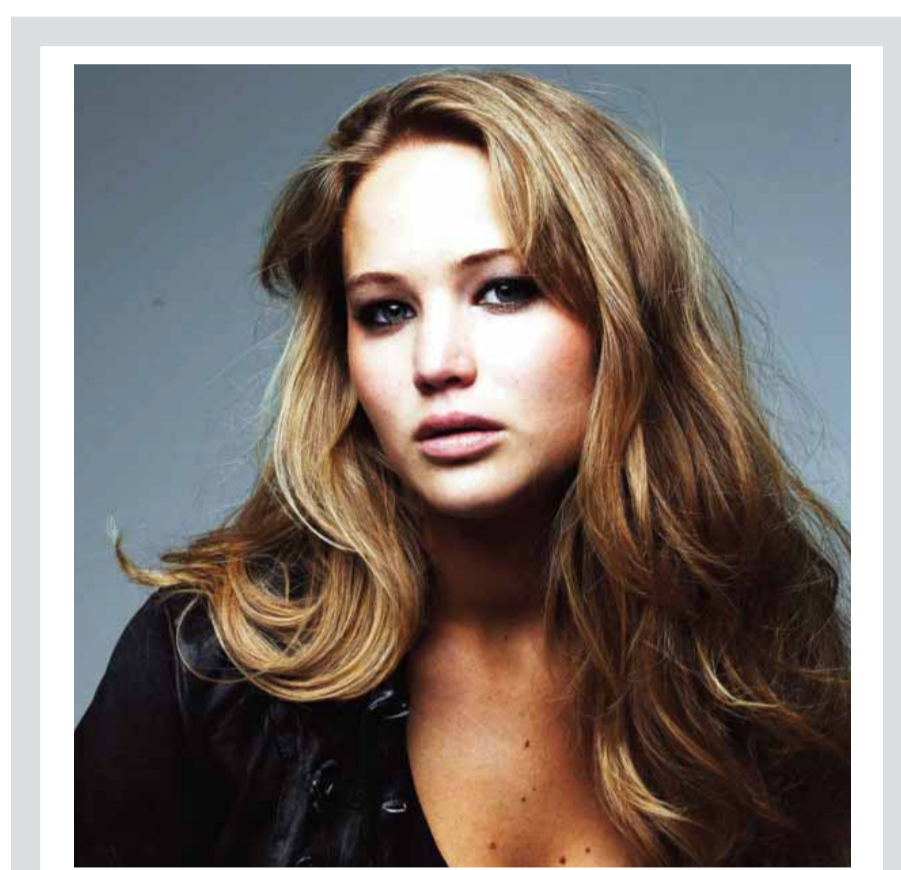
to be out of the country. And literally about an hour and a half ago we figured out that I am gonna go back and do it! And I am so excited!" And Melissa revealed she worked with the show's creator managed to work out a way to get her back for filming. She said: "It's gonna be amazing. Amy Sherman Palladino's gonna squeeze me in to do it and I'm very happy to go back to Star's Hollow. I'm just really excited about that. So, it just happened; I got asked a lot about it. As of not even two hours ago, it's happening."



Gomez thinks Calvin Harris is 'wonderful'

The 23-year-old singer had "so much fun" hanging out with close friend Taylor Swift and her DJ boyfriend at the iHeartRadio Music Awards last weekend and couldn't be happier with her pal's choice of man. She said: "He's great, honestly, he's such a wonderful guy." The 'Hands to Myself' singer is the most-followed person on Instagram, and though she enjoys having a presence on social media, she thinks the sites can also cause problems so does her best to "spread love". She told 'Entertainment Tonight': "I'm very lucky that I have the platform I have, but on social media, as much as it's a blessing and it's fun, it can really tear people down. I always hope the people I'm involved with, and who support me, can just kind of spread

love within that. It's hard." Away from her music career, Selena is executive producing Netflix TV show '13 Reasons Why', and is also working with producer Aaron Kaplan on another new series. The brunette beauty is excited by her new career direction and wants to produce "great" work. She said: "My mom and I are actually producing a few projects together. It's something we've always loved to do, creating content that inspires people that moves people. "Why I love filmmaking, why I love making music, is because it affects people. That's kind of something I've always wanted to be a part of, whether I'm in it or not, I want to make things great."



Lawrence always sick when she goes out partying

The 'Joy' actress insists she is "a bummer" when it comes to socializing because she never stays out late and can't handle too much alcohol. She admitted: "I don't really stay out late. I'm kind of a bummer. I'm a nana. It's hard to get me out, and when I do go out I don't really stay out late. If I do stay out late and I'm partying hard, I will throw up. I don't have the tolerance to black out; I just start puking." The 25-year-old star was left with fellow actress Emma Stone "rubbing [her] back" while she vomited after a recent night out. She added to America's Harper's Bazaar magazine: "Ask Emma Stone. It was the night we saw Adele in LA She just started rubbing my back. She was really sweet. I was like,

"Get out of here. It's so gross." And the night got even more "crazy" after her 'Hunger Games' co-star and houseguest Woody Harrelson was left nursing an injured foot when she made a mess after throwing up in his bedroom. She continued: "Woody cut his foot. He stayed over in one of my guest bedrooms, but that's where I started puking. I broke a candle because I can't just puke like a normal person—I flay my arms everywhere. "And I didn't clean it up because I'm a stupid idiot. The next day he cut his foot open. I was like, am I going to get sued? And he's like, 'Are you going to ask if I'm OK?'" That night got crazy."



Jessica Simpson knows the key to a successful marriage

The 35-year-old star - who has children Maxwell, three, and Ace two, with husband Eric Johnson - believes many couples forget about the "intimate" nature of a passionate kiss and they often fall by the wayside as a relationship progresses. She said: "I think the secret to a beautiful, loving marriage is just making out! "Don't forget to kiss. It's more intimate sometimes for a lot of people and if you forget that, you forget why you fell in love in the first place. It always begins with a kiss." The 'Dukes of Hazzard' star may have a multimillion-dollar fortune, but she still enjoys playing the lottery thanks to a tradi-

tion she established when she was younger, which convinced her she is "lucky". She told People magazine: "Growing up, some of my best memories are road trips. "Somehow I always got lucky on the way to my nanny's house and I would get a lotto ticket and I would win. Even if it's a dollar, I still would always win! "Now when we go on road trips I'm always like, 'Hey, Eric. We have to buy a lotto ticket! I bet we'll win!'"



Meghan Trainor wants to date Ed Sheeran

The 22-year-old singer revealed she has a huge crush on the 'Thinking Out Loud' hitmaker and she would jump at the chance to go out with him. She said: "I would love to be his date. He would wrap his arms around me, and we would just do that side thing." While she would be thrilled if Ed, 25, asked her out, Meghan opened up about her worst chat up experience. Speaking to KISS FM, she said: "I was in a club with my family, and it was one of my brother's birthdays. We were on the dance floor, and my song came on - 'All About the Bass' - and this dude saw us having a great time. And he was like, 'oh is this you singing', and I was like, 'dude, you've just taken my picture, five seconds ago.' "Yeah, at first he tried to dance with me, and I'm like, 'no, I'm cool, I have my brother, we're gonna dance over here.' "And then he started taking pictures of me, and I was like, 'you don't have to', and he was like, 'oh are you a singer'. And I was like, 'oh, well, you know.'" Meanwhile, Meghan also revealed she is eyeing up Cheryl Fernandez-Versini's place on 'X Factor' after the judge quit this week, saying: "I would love to. I would love to do it; I want to do it so bad. I'm gonna do it, I will, I promise."

Hudson is a 'wild mom'

The 'Almost Famous' actress - who has sons Ryder, 12, with ex-husband Chris Robinson, and Bingham, four, with former fiance Matt Bellamy - admits she has an unusual bond with her older child as she was so young when she became a parent. She said: "I was really young, like, 23, when I had Ryder. So, our relationship has always been [a little unusual]. "I mean, we're close, and I am his mom. I'm big on manners. I'm big on politeness. I'm big on gratitude. But I'm a bit of a wild mom." The 36-year-old star admitted she sometimes "deliberately" hides from her children when she needs time to herself, though she hates being away

from the boys for any period of time. In an essay for America's InStyle magazine titled 'Sometimes I Feel Like a Bad Mom', she wrote: "Some days I feel like I should win best mom of the day award, and some days I find myself doing strange things that don't have any real purpose, in faraway corners in my house, and I realise I am literally and deliberately hiding from my children. ... "Even as I write this, I am traveling for a week away from my children to promote my book, 'Pretty Happy', and I'm so happy to have some time to myself and excited to have this experience. "But there's this tight, pulling sensation that never goes away that it comes at the cost of

missing a week of my children's lives, and it aches." But the 'Fool's Gold' star doesn't think she would be the "best mom" she could be if she didn't have her work. She added: "I wouldn't be the best mom I could be if I didn't follow my creative endeavors. "I would feel an emptiness that would be felt in our home. So a stay-at-home mom will never be my life and that will never be my kids' experience of me."

—Bangshowbiz





Inductees Dr Dre, from left, Ice Cube, MC Ren and DJ Yella from N.W.A appear at the 31st Annual Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony at the Barclays Center on Friday, April 8, 2016, in New York. — AP photos



Inductees Bun E Carlos, from left, Tom Peterson, Robin Zander and Rick Nielsen from Cheap Trick appear at the 31st Annual Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony .

N.W.A. joins rock hall with 4 rockers from the 1970s

N.W.A. triumphantly entered the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Friday, with the groundbreaking quintet that brought the rough streets of Los Angeles into homes through their music defiantly refuting those who suggested rappers didn't belong in the institution.

They joined the rock hall in a ceremony at Brooklyn's Barclays Center with 1970s-era rock acts Cheap Trick, Chicago, Deep Purple and Steve Miller.

N.W.A.'s rough-hewn tales tilted the balance toward West Coast rap in the late 1980s on songs like "F--- the Police," "Boyz-n-the Hood" and "Straight Outta Compton." Following the act's breakup, Dr. Dre became one of music's most in-demand producers and a billionaire with a high-tech headphone company. Ice Cube moves between music and a successful acting career.

For all the success, some traditional rockers have resisted the inclusion of rap acts into the hall, most prominent Kiss' Gene Simmons, whose band was inducted last year. "I want to say to

one of music's hottest artists, Kendrick Lamar, who said N.W.A. members were heroes to kids like him growing up. They "proved to every kid in the ghetto that you could be successful and still have your voice while doing it."

They were the only act inducted Friday not to perform, however. Chicago was known for a brassy, jazz-rock fusion in its early days and settled into a comfortable career penning pop hits. Among their favorites were "Saturday in the Park," "25 or 6 to 4," "If You Leave Me Now" and "Does Anyone Really Know What Time It Is?"

Singer Rob Thomas, while inducting Chicago, indicated that Chicago was tougher and more innovative than people had given them credit for. "If you think Chicago was your mom's band, man I want to party with your mom," Thomas said. He then joined the band for a verse of "Does Anyone Really Know What Time It Is." The band is still active. In his acceptance speech, member Lee Loughnane said he wanted to thank "my ex-wives for making sure

Trick," he said. "That's when you think, we kind of suck. I better step up my game." Cheap Trick led the traditional jam session that ended the show, which started and ended with "Ain't That a Shame."

Tributes galore

The rock hall also paid tribute Friday to two recently deceased rockers, with David Byrne and the Roots collaborating on David Bowie's "Fame" and Sheryl Crow singing the Eagles' "New Kid in Town" to honor the late Glenn Frey.

Metallica drummer Lars Ulrich described seeing the night's first inductees, Deep Purple, when he was nine years old and taken to their concert in Copenhagen. He said it changed his life.

"Almost without exception, every hard rock band of the last 40 years - including mine - traces its lineage back to Black Sabbath, Led Zeppelin and Deep Purple," Ulrich said. "They are always considered equal. In my heart, I am bewildered that they are so late in getting into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame."

The band was without one of its founding members, guitarist Ritchie Blackmore, who stayed away because current members wouldn't agree to play with him. But the inductees regarded him warmly in their speeches and paid tribute musically - performing "Smoke on the Water" with the signature riff that the guitarist came up with. Ulrich called it the guitar riff "that has actually been banned from playing in music stores to preserve the sanity of the staff."

Steve Miller and his band played his crowd-pleasing hits "Fly Like an Eagle," "Rock 'n' Me Baby" and "The Joker" to an audience of fellow musicians and industry professionals sitting at tables in the Brooklyn arena and ticket-buying members of the public in the surrounding stands.

"If you listened to the radio, you listened to Steve Miller," said the Black Keys' Dan Auerbach, who inducted Miller with his partner Patrick Carney. He cited Miller's run of hits that also included "Jet Airliner" and "Jungle Love." Miller stressed his blues roots in a speech, and showed off licks in the extended version of "Fly Like an Eagle." He thanked Les Paul, T Bone Walker, his parents and grandmother and a succession of band members. And the audience.

"Without you, nothing is possible and with your support, everything is possible," he said. The hall also inducted songwriter and producer Bert Berns. HBO is filming Friday's show and will air highlights on April 30. The rock hall also announced that starting in 2018, it would begin alternating the annual induction ceremony between New York and Cleveland, where the Hall of Fame and Museum is located. — AP



Inductee Steve Miller performs



Steven Van Zandt speaks at the 31st Annual Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony.

Gene Simmons, hip-hop is here forever," said MC Ren. "Get used to it." Rock 'n' roll is not just a musical style but a spirit that connects people, be they bluesmen or punk rockers, Ice Cube said. "Rock 'n' roll is not conforming to the people who came before you but creating your own path in music and in life," he said. "That is rock 'n' roll and that is us."

Ghetto voice

Named for one of N.W.A.'s best-known songs, the movie "Straight Outta Compton" told the band's story and was one of the biggest box office winners of 2015. They were inducted by

I have to keep working."

The pride of Rockford, Illinois, Cheap Trick's career soared in the late 1970s when a live album recorded before a gleeful Japanese audience added excitement to tracks like "Surrender" and "I Want You to Want Me." Turning up the volume for the night, they performed both songs. "In 1974, we rehearsed three times in (guitarist) Rick (Nielsen's) garage and never stopped touring since," singer Robin Zander said.

They were inducted by a fellow Midwesterner, Detroit's Kid Rock, who noted that most bands in attendance that night consider themselves great live acts. "Then you go and see Cheap

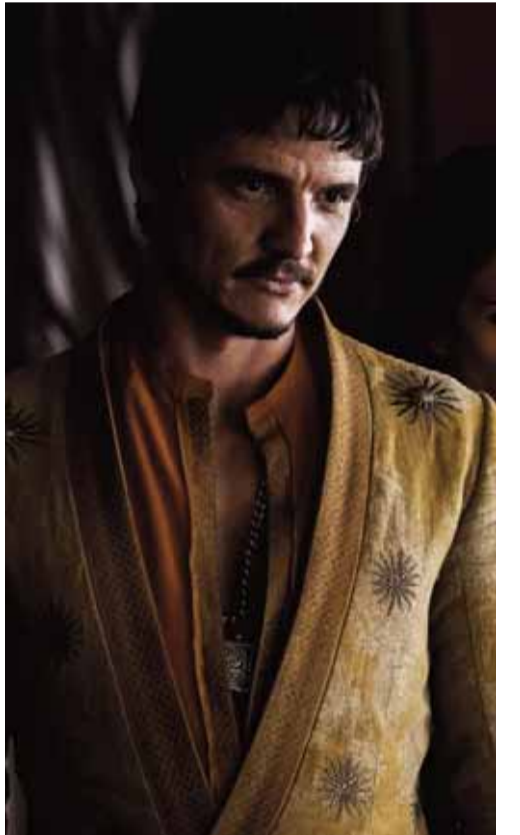
'Game of Thrones' star Pedro Pascal joining 'Kingsman' Sequel

"Narcos" star Pedro Pascal has joined Fox's spy comedy "Kingsman: The Golden Circle" opposite Taron Egerton. Matthew Vaughn is returning to direct from a script he co-wrote with Jane Goldman. The 2014 original,

"Kingsman: The Secret Service," was based on the comic book "The Secret Service," created by Dave Gibbons and Mark Millar, and follows the training of a potential secret agent to take on a global threat from Samuel L. Jackson's Richmond Valentine. Vaughn also produced the original, which grossed a surprisingly healthy \$415 million worldwide.

Colin Firth, Mark Strong and Michael Caine also starred. Halle Berry has been in talks to star as the director of the Central Intelligence Agency. Several recent reports have indicated that Julianne Moore has been in talks to play the villain in the sequel. It's unclear whether Strong will return for "Kingsman 2" but Egerton recently indicated in a Tweet that Firth will come back. Fox has dated "Kingsman 2" for release on June 16, 2017.

Pascal, a native of Chile, portrays a DEA agent on Netflix's "Narcos." He played Oberyin Martell in the fourth season of "Game of Thrones" and has wrapped on Zhang Yimou's "The Great Wall." Pascal is repped by WME and Untitled Entertainment. The news was first reported by Deadline Hollywood. — Reuters



Pedro Pascal as Oberyin Martell in the fourth season of "Game of Thrones".



Alyasra Fashion introduces Marella Store, debuts Spring/Summer 2016 Collection

Alyasra Fashion introduced the newly refurbished Marella store at Second Avenue, The Avenues, and simultaneously debuted the Spring/Summer 2016 collection. The new design of the store reflects the romanticism and femininity of the brand and is more contemporary and personal, offering customers a more secluded space to try on their favorite pieces.

Marella's new collection celebrates Summer 2016 without falling into banality. Clothes express lightness, vitality and energy, like the season to which they are dedicated, without losing the practicality and functionality of the brand. They are thought for an urban traveler, a woman who chooses travelling not just as an escape from reality, but also as an experience and constant reference for her daily life. Clothes have ethnic graphics, while spicy orange brings color into black and white patterns.

Everything follows vaguely 70s shapes, but denim withdraws any exotic vibe. The silhouettes evoke a journey: Kimono jacquard jackets or clean-cut blouses match fluid pants and maxi vests, creating a new idea of the suit in neutral hues, light as bamboo. Travelers love dreaming and their romantic mood is perfectly injected in the collection with lace dresses and tulle midi skirts that pair with active garments like the parka. Layering is unexpected with prints too: polka dots and stripes, small and big, alternating on cotton and crêpe de chine, on knitwear and trench. As the summer heat gets closer, the navy style gets revamped: sailor stripes are triumphant and unique, while the range of blues add personality and originality.

The collection is blooming, as flowers get bigger and colors get softer with choices of grey, ivory and bamboo for the shirt dress, a maxi skirt and a silk vùile top. The Seventies vibe is still strong with jumpsuits and wrap jersey dresses, but the party style is very Sixties with fit'n'flare silhouettes for flirty dresses in jacquard, duchess and georgette in sorbet colors: anise, lemon cream, pink grapefruit, lime, raspberry.

MARELLA ART 365

A seasonless fabric and a collection that adds new silhouettes and details every six months. For Spring Summer 2016, cuts are sharper and more contemporary and details get noticed. An example? The maxi shirt dress with sheer details featured in the advertising campaign.

MARELLA BE SMART

It doesn't crease and you wash it at home - the Be Smart collection is so friendly that you can't do without it. That's why every season a pattern or a new item is added. It all started with a jacket, and now includes a boxy blouse, a pencil skirt and a waist-cut dress, in white, black, baby blue and pink.

MARELLA SPORT

The Seventies are still a destination, but the collection absorbs chic details and the style stays sporty. Flare denim pants are paired with a yellow duchess techno-cape and light down jacket. The tapestry prints upgrade the elegance of the sporty coat. Covers do the talking in the first part of the collection



with an embroidered wind jacket, the leather or black and white wicker jacket, the jacquard cardi-coat, the khaki safari jacket matched with cropped pants, the sweatshirt-dress, the lace culotte pants or a denim total look. White, black and denim dictate the color guide of the whole collection, but purely summer shades like watermelon, sunflower and ultramarine

blue brighten the summer selection of the collection with stripes, Gingham and flowers on A-line dresses, shorts and blouses.

Fashion



Massimo Dutti at marina mall introduced its exciting new spring summer 2016 collection

This year's collection displayed a fusion of color and lines that could well be considered the stars of the new season at the Massimo Dutti store in Marina mall on Wednesday April 6th. Welcoming the 2016 Spring Summer collection through an entertaining evening with its experienced staff and ambient music, were Massimo Dutti Kuwait's loyal VIP customers, media personnel and trendy influencers, who were also presented with gift vouchers to shop at their favorite store while being familiarized with this year's finest attires that overflow with their own style and brimming with expressiveness for all age groups.

Setting the trends every season, the line ranges from olive greens to the khaki and petroleum blues of the Industry collection, right through to the arabesque airs and reddish tones of the Asilah Collection followed by the Ikat motifs, prints and earthy colors that make up the small Atlas Collection. The refreshing Saint Malo Collection, brings out the cold blues with greys in which the shirts highlight the beginnings of a well-worked part of the Dutti tailoring craft.

Earthy shades, indigos and beiges recalls the wondrous decade of the fifties in Cuba, country that holds the starring role in the entire Spring Summer

Dutti Collection for men. The B&G Collection is represented by colors such as yellows, greys and the novelty of black tones for the girl's collection whereas in the boy's collection we have to underscore the denim shirts and light-weight feather parkas as essential accessories for casual and laid-back looks. The 2016 Spring Summer collection can be viewed exclusively at its stores in Marina mall and The Avenues mall.



KENZO celebrates the release of 'The Jungle Book' with new clothing line

To celebrate the worldwide release of Walt Disney Pictures' live-action adventure "The Jungle Book" in April 2016, Parisian fashion house KENZO is delighted to announce its exciting return to the jungle, producing a limited edition collection of men's and women's ready-to-wear pieces. The collection, inspired by the story's classic characters, will arrive in-store on the 16th April and reawaken the spirits of all fans of Mowgli and his gang of unlikely heroes and friends.

KENZO Creative Directors Carol Lim and Humberto Leon delved deep into the Disney archives to source some of the original drawings from the classic animated movie, "The Jungle Book". Once they discovered these fantastically joyful sketches, the prints swiftly followed and Mowgli, Bagheera the panther, King Louie the orangutan, Hathi the elephant, Baloo the bear and Akela the wolf suddenly came back to life in two abundant and richly colorful jungle scenarios. The prints will be featured on a women's collection of silk

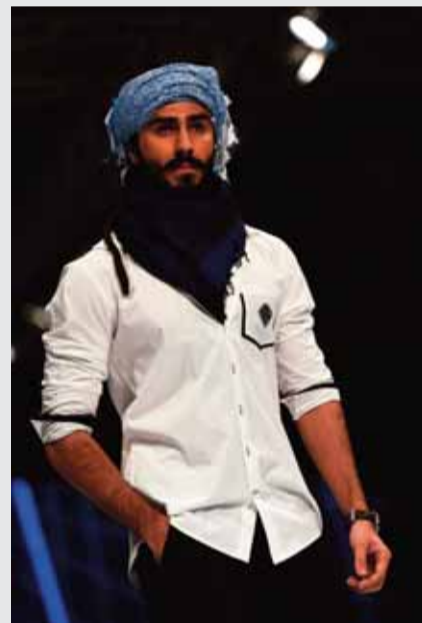
and cotton summer shirts, dresses, jackets and tops and on the men's collection which features light jackets, trousers, shorts and Hawaiian shirts.

For this first collaboration with Disney, one of KENZO's most renowned emblems has been cheekily usurped on a line of sweaters and tee-shirts by none other than the fearsome tiger, Shere Khan. Roaring his way onto the jersey pieces, the appearance of Shere Khan on KENZO's traditional tiger sweater symbolizes the indisputable partnership that made the collaboration so obvious for Disney and KENZO from the get go. The collection is rounded off with knitwear featuring Kaa the python and an intarsia Shere Khan pullover.

"What we found most appealing for this project was to marry strong Jungle Book elements with details that we know as quintessential KENZO. There's a way that everything comes together that is slightly familiar but also really fresh and exciting. The silhouettes we chose for the garments and accessories were inspired by the new direction Disney has taken with the live-action movie. There is a slight nod to jungle / safari elements (and even beautiful printed silk shorts directly inspired by Mowgli's costume). Everything has been executed in a way that feels elevated and modern which has been the collective goal of Disney and KENZO from the very beginning of this collaboration." Carol Lim & Humberto Leon



Pakistan Fashion Week



Models presents the creations of Pakistani designers Jafferjees, Huma Adnan and Gul Ahmed during the Pakistan Fashion Week in Karachi. — AFP photos



Lifestyle

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'Game of Thrones' star Pedro Pascal joining 'Kingsman' Sequel

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Spanish matador Lopez Simon performs a pass with muleta on a bull during a bullfight at the Maestranza bullring, in Sevilla on April 7, 2016. — AFP

Hollywood woos 'Generation Xbox' with 'Hardcore Henry'

First-person live-action shooter "Hardcore Henry" hits theaters this weekend in a blaze of buzz hailing the movie as a new cinematic genre for "Generation Xbox" - but sharply dividing critics. The Russian-American production shares the aesthetic of hit "point-of-view" video games like "Halo" and "Call of Duty," but with real actors, filmed on GoPro cameras attached to the main character.

decade that has seen Hollywood flirt with gaming franchises like "Tomb Raider" and "Resident Evil" to attract "Generation Xbox," a term popularized by British screenwriter Jamie Russell.

Ultraviolence galore

In his 2012 book "Generation Xbox: How Videogames Invaded Hollywood," Russell argues that Hollywood has been losing the prime

Shot mainly in Moscow, with a few days in Los Angeles, the film opens with protagonist Henry having lost his memory and learning he is a cyborg who must protect his wife from a gang of ultraviolent criminals. The audience is not shown Henry's face even in the mirror-apart from one fleeting half-glimpse near the end, and the character is not assigned to an actor in the credits.

"Hardcore Henry" grew from a first-person music video made by Naishuller for his punk band "Biting Elbows" that became a viral sensation, attracting over 120 million views on video-sharing sites. Filmmaker Timur Bekmambetov, whose credits include thriller "Unfriended," and fantasy "Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter," persuaded the novice director to turn his concept into a feature film.

'Transformative filmmaking'

"I admired Ilya's daring, creative spirit. There are three major factors that draw me to a project - originality and boldness, and an interesting concept," said Bekmambetov. In front of the GoPro for much of the running time is South African actor Sharlto Copley who played lead roles in a string of hits including "District 9," "Elysium" and "Maleficent" - as Henry's mentor who guides him through a series of increasingly deadly assignments.

Haley Bennett, who was in Antoine Fuqua's 2014 film "The Equalizer" and stars in his upcoming remake of 1960 western "The Magnificent Seven," appears as Henry's wife, while Britain's Tim Roth makes a brief appearance as his father.

The movie has been touted as a potential game-changer to rival CGI, introduced in "Westworld" (1973), the "steadicam" in 1980's "The Shining," or the slow-mo "Bullet Time" of the 1990s "The Matrix" trilogy. "If 'Hardcore Henry' succeeds, then Naishuller's technique could go from being greeted as a gimmick to zeitgeist transformative filmmaking that disrupts traditional notions of the movie-going experience," said Ross Lincoln, a critic for film website Deadline Hollywood. — AFP



This file photo taken on September 11, 2015 shows actor Sharlto Copley, director Ilya Naishuller and producer Timur Bekmambetov attending the "Hardcore" photo call during the 2015 Toronto International Film Festival. — AFP

"Action cinema has always thrived when it captured the sensation of participating in dangerous situations that most people would much rather avoid in real life," said Russian first-time director Ilya Naishuller. "The goal with 'Hardcore Henry' was to push it a step further, to put the audience right into the body of the protagonist, to have them experience the primal, exhilarating feeling that we usually view from a much safer distance."

The first-person device isn't new; audiences have gazed out from behind the eyes of the hero or antagonist in all manner of action and horror movies, from "Halloween" and "The Evil Dead" to "Predator" and "Jaws."

What is new is a movie that uses almost no other type of camera angle, from its violent opening scenes until its blood-spattered conclusion, 96 minutes and several dozen gruesome deaths later. It is the logical conclusion of a

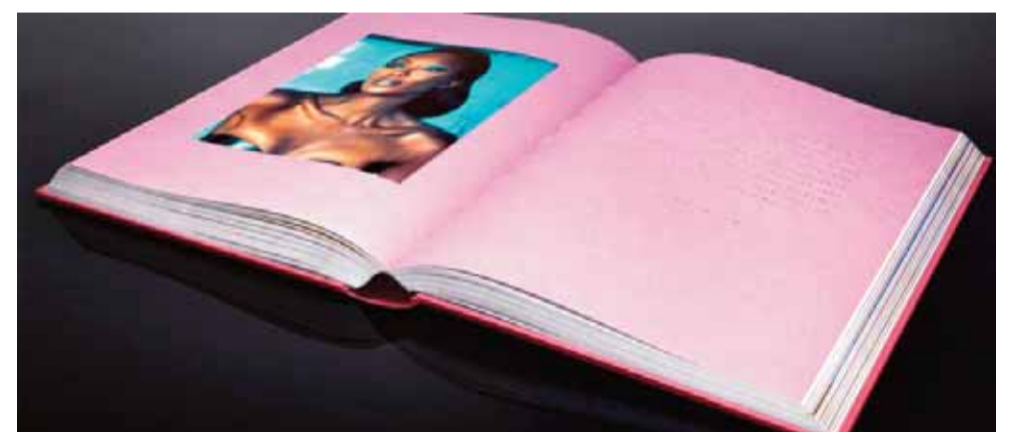
moviegoing demographic of 18 to 24-year-olds who are increasingly thinking: "Why watch a movie, when you can live inside one?"

"Generation Xbox knows that the once solid boundary between games and movies has become a permeable membrane. They use their Xbox 360s and PS3s to watch Netflix movies. They create their own machinima videos out of the latest first-person shooters," he says. "They're more likely to have a poster of Nick Bellic from 'Grand Theft Auto IV' on their bedroom wall than Travis Bickle from 'Taxi Driver' or Tony Montana from 'Scarface'."

"Hardcore Henry" opened on 3,000 screens in the United States over the weekend, distributed by STX Entertainment, which snapped up the worldwide rights at the Toronto Film Festival. It also debuted in Russia, mainland Europe and Britain, with critics divided over what to make of cinema's latest innovation.



'Working model' Naomi Campbell releases career chronicling anthology



By Thari F AlRashed

Supermodel Naomi Campbell has finally released her much-anticipated anthology book on Thursday titled "Naomi, The Art of Beauty". The "sumo-sized" edition, which is limited to only a thousand copies, has been released after being pushed back countless times. The anthology contains two volumes that chronicle Naomi's 30-year career with extensive illustrations hand-picked by the versatile model herself.

The fact that this anthology is being produced by Taschen, a German art book publishing company founded in 1980 by Benedikt Taschen, makes this book a must have for any serious art and fashion collector. Previous 'sumo' books have been known to re-sell way above their original price. For instance, Kate Moss's anthology - "Kate Moss" by Mario Testino is now valued at \$2,000, up from the original \$500 price tag. While Helmut Newton's collectible king-size book fetches around the \$15,000 range, a whopping 1000% increase on its initial retail value.

"The Art of Beauty" is divided in two parts and comes in an acrylic case that can be used as art and displayed on a wall. The case is designed by artist Allen Jones, who is known for his uniquely daring furniture that was a big part of 1950s' Pop Art Movement.

The first volume is a large 496-page portfolio gathering Naomi's best shots by the likes of Mert Alas and Marcus Piggott, Richard Avedon, Steven Meisel, Helmut Newton, Herb Ritts, Mario Testino, Ellen von Unwerth, Bruce Weber, and Peter Lindberg, to only name a few. The books also include detachable photo-quality prints that can be used as art on your wall just like Allen Jones's cover case.

The second volume is a smaller 368-page autobiography, illustrated with scrapbook-style snapshots from Naomi's personal trove of childhood pictures, runway looks, magazine covers, designer fittings, and art collaborations.

Naomi is also celebrating the end of the three year dating break she started in 2013. She decid-

ed to go on a "man detox" after her last boyfriend Russian millionaire Vladimir Doronin left her for Luo Zilin, a former contestant on Naomi's model search reality show "The Face". During those three years, she has continued her lengthy modeling career in new fashion territories that would benefit greatly from her involvement such as Moscow and Taiwan. Naomi has also become a mentor for new sister supermodels Gigi and Bella Hadid whom have gone on record and stated that Naomi taught them how to runway walk.

The model had a release party on Thursday co-hosted by her and Marc Jacobs. The event took place in New York City at Diamond Horseshoe, which located in the basement of the Paramount Hotel. The affair had such a serious A-list crowd that even the queen of fashion Anna Wintour made an appearance.

Naomi Campbell, the Art of Beauty retails for \$1,750 in the US and 1,250 Pounds in the UK.

