

MoH issues
12 licenses
for drug
factories



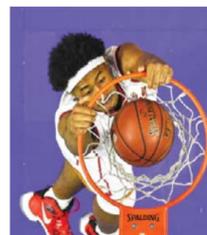
Suu Kyi must
stop Rohingya
'genocide':
Malaysia PM



Sami Yusuf:
Art alone can
portray how
peaceful Islam is



Kuwait Times
infographic:
NBA Power
Rankings



CLEAR DIVISIONS APPEAR IN NEWLY-ELECTED ASSEMBLY

OPPOSITION MPs PRESS TO BLOCK RETURN OF SOME MINISTERS



Max 22°
Min 11°
High Tide
01:53 & 16:27
Low Tide
09:33 & 21:35



150 FILS

NO: 17071

40 PAGES

JOINT OILFIELDS EXPECTED TO RESTART SOON

DUBAI: Saudi Arabia and Kuwait are expected to agree this month to resume oil production from the jointly operated oilfields in the Neutral Zone that lies between both countries, industry sources told Reuters yesterday. The closure of the Neutral Zone's fields, mainly Khafji and Wafra, has become a political sticking point between the two Gulf OPEC allies and senior officials have been trying to resolve the issue for months.

Khafji was shut in Oct 2014 for environmental reasons and Wafra has been shut since May 2015 due to operating difficulties. The restart would come at a sensitive time for the oil markets after OPEC agreed last week to reduce output by around 1.2 million barrels per day (bpd) from January in a bid to reduce global oversupply and prop up prices. A resumption of production from the joint oilfields would not be immediate and would be gradual, industry sources said.

"It will take some time," said one industry source, adding that the decision to restart the fields was likely to be made in December.

Continued on Page 13



KUWAIT: Lawmakers including (from left) former speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem, Safaa Al-Hashem and Abdullah Al-Roumi gather at the diwaniya of pro-government MP Saadoun Hammad yesterday. Both Ghanem and Roumi are expected to vie for the speakership of the National Assembly. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: Early divisions surfaced yesterday among newly-elected lawmakers as only 20 MPs attended a meeting called by pro-government MP Saadoun Hammad, which was completely boycotted by the opposition. The meeting was attended by former speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem, former communications minister Essa Al-Kandari, Safaa Al-Hashem, Hamad Al-Harshani and the six Shiite lawmakers, among others.

Hammad said he had invited all Assembly members to the event, but only 20 attended and seven others sent their apologies including opposition MPs Jamaan Al-Harbash and Waleed Al-Tabtabaei. Last week, a group of 25 opposition MPs held a meeting to discuss the election of the speaker and agree on a number of priority issues. Two more MPs who did not attend expressed their support.

The meeting formed a committee to try to convince one of two MPs to withdraw from the speakership race in favor of the other. Roumi also attended yesterday's gathering, but left before the meeting ended. He later said he had left to attend a funeral.

Hammad said that nothing political was discussed during the meeting - especially the election of the speaker - which should be decided in the Assembly chamber, adding that he plans to contest the deputy speaker's post. He said that if divisions persist in the Assembly, there will be a major problem over cooperation. Hashem said it is sad to see the start of the new Assembly with divisions, adding that she hoped to see all members at the meeting because people are fed up of divisions.

Continued on Page 13



CHENNAI: All India Anna Dravida Mennetra Kazhagam party members yesterday pray in front of a hospital where Chief Minister of the Indian state of Tamil Nadu Jayaram Jayalalithaa is being treated. — AFP

POPULAR HEAD OF SOUTH INDIA STATE SUFFERS CARDIAC ARREST

NEW DELHI: The ailing chief minister of southern India's Tamil Nadu state, Jayalalithaa Jayaram, yesterday suffered a cardiac arrest only days after she handed many of her responsibilities to a deputy because of illness. "CM (Jayaram), who is undergoing treatment at Apollo Hospitals, suffered a cardiac arrest this evening," doctor Subbaiah Viswanathan from the hospital said in a statement to the Press Trust of India news agency. "She is being treated and monitored by a team of experts, including

cardiologists, pulmonologist and critical care specialists," the statement added.

The hospital gave updates about the chief minister's health in a series of tweets, also asking all to pray for her "good health and well being". Indian President Pranab Mukherjee too wished for her speedy recovery. "Distressed to hear about CM Jayalalithaa suffering a cardiac arrest, my prayers for her speedy recovery," he posted on Twitter.

Continued on Page 13

FAKE US EMBASSY SHUT DOWN, ISSUED VISAS FOR A DECADE

ACCRA: Authorities in Ghana have busted a fake US embassy in the capital Accra run by a criminal network that for a decade issued illegally obtained authentic visas, the US State Department said. Until it was shut down this summer, the sham embassy was housed in a run-down, pink two-storey building with a corrugated iron roof and flew a US flag outside. Inside hung a portrait of President Barack Obama.

"It was not operated by the United States government, but by figures from both Ghanaian and Turkish organized crime rings and a Ghanaian attorney practicing immigration and criminal law," the State Department said in a statement released late on Friday. Turkish citizens, who spoke English and Dutch, posed as consular officers and staffed the operation. Investigations also uncovered a fake Dutch embassy, the State Department said. Officials in the Netherlands were not immediately reachable for comment yesterday.

The crime ring issued fraudulently obtained but legitimate US visas and false identification documents, including birth certificates at a cost of \$6,000 each, the statement said. During raids that led to a number of arrests, authorities also seized authentic and counterfeit Indian, South African and Schengen Zone visas and 150 passports from 10 different countries along with a laptop and smartphones.

The statement did not say how the gang obtained the authentic visas. And the State Department did not say how many people were believed to have illegally entered the United States and other countries using visas issued by the crime ring, which used bribery to operate

Continued on Page 13

FIDEL CASTRO LAID TO REST IN CUBA

SANTIAGO DE CUBA, Cuba: Fidel Castro's ashes were entombed in a massive stone next to national heroes yesterday, as Cuba opens a new era without the communist leader who ruled for decades. President Raul Castro placed his brother's cedar urn inside the tall round monolith near the mausoleums of 19th century independence icon Jose Marti and comrades of Castro's rebellion in the eastern city of Santiago de Cuba. Capping a week of massive tributes, a simple, dark green

marble plaque bearing just his first name - "Fidel" - was placed over the niche at the Santa Ifigenia cemetery.

Raul Castro gave a military salute at the private ceremony attended by his family and some foreign dignitaries, including Latin American allies from Venezuela and Nicaragua, according to official photos. "There were no speeches. It was very simple. There were just the ashes that were interred, the family, the government

Continued on Page 13



SANTIAGO DE CUBA: Cuban President Raul Castro places the urn with the ashes of his brother Fidel Castro in his tomb at the Santa Ifigenia cemetery yesterday. — AFP

AUSTRIA FAR-RIGHT PRESIDENT HOPEFUL SOUNDLY DEFEATED

VIENNA: The candidate vying to become Europe's first freely elected far-right head of state since World War Two conceded defeat in Austria's presidential election soon after polls closed yesterday evening. The result is a blow to populists who had hoped a wave of anti-establishment anger sweeping Western democracies would carry Norbert Hofer to power after Britain's Brexit referendum and Americans' election of Donald Trump as president.

Hofer, of the anti-immigration and anti-Islam Freedom Party (FPÖ), conceded he had been soundly beaten by former Greens leader Alexander Van der Bellen. "I am infinitely sad that it didn't work out," Hofer said in a posting on his Facebook page less than an hour after polls closed and the first projections were broadcast. Austria's president traditionally has a largely ceremonial role. But the election, a re-run of a May vote that was overturned due to counting irregularities, had been seen as another test of populist sentiment in Europe ahead of elections in France, Germany and the Netherlands next year.

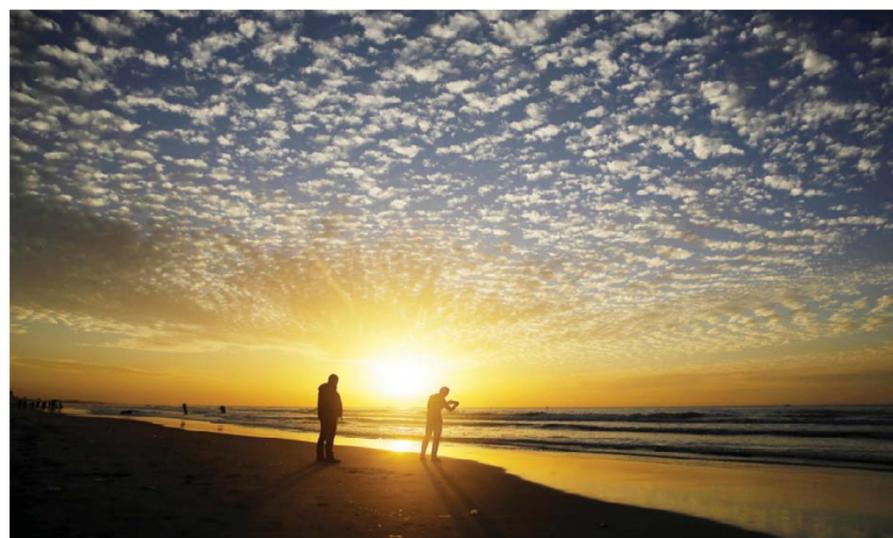
Voters may have heeded Van der Bellen's increasingly strident warnings that Hofer wanted to follow Britain's lead and pull Austria out of the European Union. Van der Bellen

had a clear lead over Hofer, according to a projection by pollster SORA for broadcaster ORF that included a count of 69 percent of votes. The projection showed Van der Bellen on 53.3 percent and Hofer on 46.7 percent, with a margin of error of 1 percentage point. "Should this projection really be true, at which point we can be pleased, it is a good day for Austria," Van der Bellen's campaign manager Lothar Lockl told ORF minutes after polls closed.

Continued on Page 13



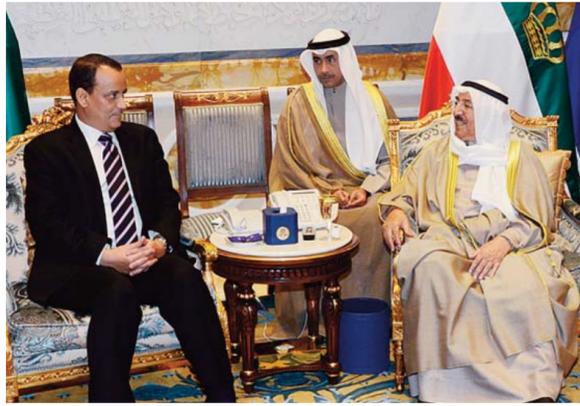
VIENNA: Austrian far-right presidential candidate Norbert Hofer (left) and his victorious rival Alexander Van der Bellen attend a post-election TV talk yesterday. — AFP



GAZA CITY: Palestinians are silhouetted by the sunset at Gaza port yesterday. The harbor is one of the few open public spaces in this densely populated city. — AP



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with GCC Secretary-General Dr Abdullahif bin Rashid Al-Zayani. —Amiri Diwan and KUNA photos



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with the UN Special Envoy to Yemen Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed.



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.



KUWAIT: First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah meets with the UN Special Envoy for Yemen Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed.

AMIR MEETS GCC CHIEF, UN OFFICIAL

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received yesterday at Bayan Palace First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Secretary-General Dr Abdullahif bin Rashid Al-Zayani. During the meeting, His Highness the Amir was briefed on the top issues listed on the agenda of the 37th GCC summit due to be held in Bahrain tomorrow.

His Highness the Amir also received Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled along with United Nations (UN) Special Envoy to Yemen Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed. The two meetings were attend-

ed by Deputy Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Ali Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah. Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled later held meetings with Zayani as well as Ould Cheikh Ahmed; during which he voiced Kuwait's firm support of the UN official's efforts to establish a roadmap towards lasting peace in the war-torn Yemen.

Earlier yesterday, His Highness the Amir met with His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. Meanwhile, His Highness the Crown Prince received His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak, Sheikh

Sabah Al-Khaled, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah, as well as Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and Acting Minister of Oil Anas Khaled Al-Saleh.

His Highness also received Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah, along with Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs and Acting Minister of Justice Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah.



KUWAIT: His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and Acting Minister of Oil Anas Khaled Al-Saleh.



37TH GCC SUMMIT CONVENES TUESDAY

MANAMA: The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) leaders are meeting in Manama, Bahrain tomorrow for their 37th summit, amid drastic political and security conditions dictated by the conflicts and crises in the region. GCC leaders will seek to reach a unified vision to face the escalating regional developments, motivated by unwavering belief in a common destiny and keenness on maintaining the interests of the nations and peoples of the region.

Together with the latest developments on the regional and international scenes, the GCC leaders will also address further consolidating the march of bloc as well as the pan-GCC cooperation in all fields, embodying the historical ties among the member states and their people.

The GCC Foreign Minister held a preparatory meeting for the summit in Manama in November, when they discussed the political and security developments in the region including the conflicts in Iraq, Libya, Syria and Yemen and the international anti-terror efforts.

On the security level, the GCC states are exerting unremitting efforts to counter acts of terror that some of them have suffered from since the 1980s. They have also adopted strategies and plan to combat the so-called Islamic State (IS).

In spite of the military operations conducted by the Saudi-led coalition in support of legitimacy in Yemen, the GCC members support peaceful solutions, and dialogue among the warring parties in the country to end the crisis and stop further bloodshed.

On the political level, the summit comes in the wake of the shock victory of US presidential-elect Donald Trump. Thus, the future of GCC-US ties is expected to feature high on the agenda, with a new administration that will soon take over, and also in the aftermath of the Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act (JASTA) recently passed by the US Congress, facing Gulf and international rejection.

Established in 1981, the GCC member states have survived a multitude of security and economic threats. Security has been a major issue of cooperation among the member states over the past years, and remarkable achievements have been made in this regard, topped with the Comprehensive Security Strategy approved in Muscat, Oman, in 1987, later reviewed, amended and then endorsed by the GCC Supreme Council in 2008. In addition, a strategic planning commission was formed to monitor security achievements, focusing on combating terrorism. —KUNA

GCC MOVING STEADILY TOWARDS GREATER INTEGRATION: REPORT

RIYADH: Since its inception, the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) has forged ahead with solid steps toward achieving progress, welfare and integration among member states and strengthening strategic relations with countries around the globe.

In a lengthy report released a few days ahead of the 37th GCC summit in Bahrain, the GCC General Secretariat cheered the remarkable achievements of the six-member Gulf bloc. The report cited examples of achievements and success stories reached in various domains. It noted that the bloc is moving steadily toward meeting the aspirations of Gulf nationals of greater integration among the member states.

In its report, the General Secretariat stated that several framework and technical cooperation agreements have been hammered out and strategic partnerships have been reached with various commercial partners. The Gulf bloc has also launched negotiations for free trade agreements with other countries and regional and international blocs. In the Arab region, the GCC inked agreements to buttress economic and commercial relations with Morocco, Jordan and Yemen.

Strategic & security ties

On strategic relations with the United States, the report recalled the latest GCC summit in Riyadh's recommendation to build more robust strategic relations and broader cooperation in various domains with the United States. The report also high-

lighted the deeply-rooted relations with the European Union, the United Kingdom, France, Australia, Russia and Turkey.

On the military and security front, the GCC report noted that member states have taken further steps to bolster mutual coordination, organizational and executive cooperation. Moreover, a timetable was set for materializing Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz's vision to build a comprehensive and integrated Gulf defense system.

The report also cited the success of the First Arabian Gulf security exercise which was held in Bahrain recently as an example of the development in this domain. It also detailed the achievements in planning and development as well as the economic, financial and judiciary cooperation among member states.

Banking & economics

In the banking sector, the report noted that the GCC has adopted a new work mechanism and approaches of the GCC banking system's monitoring and oversight committee. It also pointed to the endorsement of the GCC unified anti-illicit trade law. It added that the Gulf states have embarked on a unified law for enhancing competitiveness.

Furthermore, the GCC leaders have agreed to extend customs duty exemptions for national industries to help national industries grow and develop as well as make GCC products more competitive with similar products from other countries. —KUNA



KUWAIT: Ambassador of Ukraine to Kuwait Volodymyr Tolkach hosted a reception recently to commemorate his country's national day. Senior Kuwaiti government officials led by Minister of Health Dr Ali Al-Obaidi, diplomats and other dignitaries attended the event. —Photos by Joseph Shagra

Legalese

STARTING A BUSINESS IN KUWAIT

By Attorney Fajer Ahmed

Starting a business can be one of the most rewarding things in life, especially social entrepreneurship, where you create a community that implements solutions for social, cultural and/or environmental issues. In Kuwait, we are blessed to have a multicultural and diverse community of talented individuals, and we see new business ideas and entrepreneurs becoming successful in Kuwait all the time.

Yet there is still this idea that starting a business in Kuwait is difficult. Is this true? If we compare Kuwait to other countries in the region like the UAE and Bahrain, or to other developed countries, then yes, the process in Kuwait is very difficult. Fortunately though, the government in Kuwait realized how important SMEs are to the economy and has now introduced new legislations to make the process easier.

Today I have taken the time to answer more business-related questions from my clients and readers. I hope they are of help.

Business center

Question: I heard there is a new business center in Kuwait to establish companies. Is this true? Can I use it without a lawyer? What do you suggest? Do they speak English?

Fajer: Yes, there is a new center in Kuwait - it is called Kuwait Business Center (KBC). It is a new center, but I have been down there a few times for clients and I must say I am very impressed. There are many departments there and even a department of the KDIPA. The staff is friendly, professional and speaks English. They were extremely helpful.

It is always good for you to go to a lawyer in the early stages of your plan, so you can find out what type of company you want, what kind of commercial license you need and what kind of partnership would you like. Once you have agreed on these three points, you can try to establish the company yourself.

As a lawyer, it is more beneficial for me financially if you come in and ask me for advice before you go to the business center, but I would actually suggest that you go there first to establish the company, and then if you need assistance, you can always ask a lawyer to establish the company for you. I believe that I should share the information that I have with the public and I strongly believe that more people need to create sustainable jobs for themselves, and therefore I would like to see the SME market in Kuwait grow.

Skills

Question: I am a mother and wife and I do not have a job in Kuwait. I came in on my husband's visa. I read before that some type of work is not considered commercial, but I am not sure if it applies to me. I am a photographer, but I am on a dependent visa. Can I still take photos of people without establishing a company or having a commercial license?

Fajer: Yes, not all types of businesses require a commercial license. There are certain jobs that are seen as skilled and therefore have a more lenient set of rules when it comes to providing these services for the public. Legal consultations, music recordings and photography are seen as skills. Therefore, you do not need a license to provide someone with photos for a monetary amount and neither do you need a visa for such an act.

For any legal questions or queries, email ask@fajertelawyer.com

TWO CANDIDATES OFFICIALLY CONTEST ELECTION RESULTS

NO WORK TRANSACTION SUSPENSION FOR INVENTORY THIS YEAR

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: Two recent election candidates - Mubarak Al-Waalan and Farraj Al-Arbeed - yesterday filed complaints at the constitutional court contesting the election results in the fourth constituency. Meanwhile, Deputy chairman of the cooperative sector employees syndicate Jamal Al-Fadhli urged lawmakers who signed the cooperation covenant to respect and not ignore it as it represents national labor aspirations in terms of vocational stability, Kuwaitizing leading positions and preventing co-ops' privatization. Fadhli added that Kuwaitis working in the co-ops sector should be well-trained through accredited

training courses jointly run by PAAET and the Manpower and Government Restructuring Program. He also urged MSAL to issue a decision on Kuwaitization to protect national manpower from the abuse of some co-ops' board of directors.

Annual inventory

The Public Authority for Manpower's official spokesperson and Public Relations Director Aseel Al-Mazyad announced that according to the director's instructions to facilitate the flow of transactions towards the end of the year, all the services provided at various labor departments would continue as usual, and will not be suspended for the

annual inventory. In the meantime, the investor will be done after official working hours, Mazyad added.

Council session

The Municipal Council scheduled its fourth meeting today since Chairman Muhallhal Al-Khaled cancelled the Nov 21 session due to lack of quorum. The council will discuss a letter from Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Sabah concerning the cases of five council members who ran in the parliamentary elections. Notably, according to article 13 of law number 33/2016 pertaining the Municipality, 'A municipal council member is deemed to have resigned from the council if he runs in the parliamentary elections.'



KUWAIT: Defense Minister Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah meets with Armed Forces Director of the Premiership in Bangladesh Abu Bilal Mohammad Shafi. —KUNA

RESTRICTIONS ON HIRING EXPATS IN AWQAF MINISTRY WINTER 'OFFICIALLY' STARTS WEDNESDAY

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: A Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs official issued an administrative decision regulating the appointment of expats in various ministry departments and the monthly payment per position. According to the decision released by Undersecretary Faeed Emadi, a supervisor general will get KD 300, a center supervisor will get KD 250, an administrative supervisor will get KD 200, a teacher and Quran instructor will get KD 250, an accountant will get KD 180, a secretary will get KD 150 and a guard will get KD 30 per month.

The decision also stressed that expats will only be appointed if their services are urgently needed. In addition, the decision ordered the formation of a central committee presided by the undersecretary to take decisions on these appointments.

No suspension

Meanwhile, the information ministry strongly denied suspending the salaries of those working for monthly payments as a part of its rationalization plans to cut expenses. The ministry explained it has cut the incentives paid for taking part in various programs and that some technicians and administrative staff who had been working on monthly payments, whom the ministry does not currently need, have been laid off to meet the ministry's budget.

Winter close

Meteorologist Essa Ramadan said the weather was stable yesterday, with a possibility of rainfall despite scattered clouds. Ramadan added that winter will official start on Wednesday with a considerable decrease in temperature and high waves affected by active northwesterly winds, during which it would be advisable to wear warm clothing.

DEFENSE MINISTER, BANGLADESHI OFFICIAL DISCUSSES ISSUES

KUWAIT: Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah discussed yesterday with visiting Armed Forces Director of the Premiership in Bangladesh, Abu Bilal Mohammad Shafi issues of mutual interest.

During the meeting, the two sides also touched on bilateral military ties, Ministry of Defense's Public Relations Department said in a press statement. The meeting was attended by ambassador of Bangladesh to Kuwait S M Abul Kalam and senior officials of the Ministry of Defense. —KUNA

INTERIOR PREPARED FOR RAINY SEASON

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: The Director General of the Relations and Security Information Department at the Interior Ministry Brigadier Adel Al-Hashash said security authorities have taken all necessary steps to prepare for the rainy season and reduce its effects to a minimum. He said there is continued cooperation and coordination between concerned ministry departments including general security, central operations department, traffic department, civil defense, najda and the relations and security information department.

Hashash said that central operations received 4,306 calls, while traffic received 2,053 - 526 for reckless driving - and civil defense received 17 calls during the rains. He said all calls to 112 are handled immediately, adding that anyone facing a problem should not hesitate to call. He said citizens and expats should follow all instructions to guarantee safety and security. He added drivers should be careful and remain within the speed limits, use seatbelts and refrain from using a mobile phone while driving.

Municipality campaign

Kuwait Municipality continued its inspection campaigns on food outlets, restaurants, co-ops and stores. Shift A of the emergency team in Mubarak Al-Kabeer governorate inspected the Qurain markets area, confiscated five kilograms of expired food and issued seven citations.



Brigadier Adel Al-Hashash

WORLD CELEBRATES INT'L VOLUNTEER DAY TODAY

KUWAIT: The world celebrates today the International Volunteer Day (IVD) which comes on December 5 every year, being a great opportunity to reflect the efforts of workers in that field, especially in Kuwait.

Kuwait has always been known for its keenness in supporting this domain out of being a center for the humanitarian work, as the volunteering work is not restricted to the governmental institutions of the private sector, but goes beyond that to cover work of Kuwaiti youth group.

Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah indicated that Kuwait, represented by the Youth Affairs Ministry, offers youth volunteers great care and attention.

Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) has had a bright history in relief and volunteering works through offering help to people in need inside Kuwait and abroad. A large number of Kuwaiti youth formed volunteering teams which offer assistance to people in various forms and occasions.

Head of volunteers department at



The Tarahum volunteering team.

(KRCS) Dr Musaad Al-Enezi said that the volunteers' numbers exceeded 1,700 females and males who practice their volunteering activities inside Kuwait and abroad, saying that they are trained and qualified through the help of KRCS' courses and lectures. Director of Rifood volun-

teering Project Mariam Al-Essa said that this project is considered a humanitarian non-profit youth initiative aiming at encountering the food-waste through collecting extra food and consumer goods, and rearrange them through a hygienic method to be reused for needy people.

Meanwhile, Head of 'Tarahum' volunteering team Noura Al-Bassam said that this team which was established in 2012, is dedicated in offering aid to Syrian refugees in surrounding countries who suffered war and displacement from their homeland. —KUNA

KUWAIT ESTABLISHES SEWING FACTORIES TO HELP SYRIAN REFUGEES IN TURKEY

HATAY: Seeking to alleviate their suffering in a number of countries across the globe, the State of Kuwait has been providing numerous humanitarian aid to the Syrian families who have been facing tough conditions since the outbreak of the crisis.

Kuwait's charitable institutions have established some sewing factories to help Syrian women earn money to support their families living in southern Turkey. This generous move represented a beacon that illuminates the dark situation in which female Syrian refugees are suffering from.

Despite their tragedy, Syrian women have been struggling to overcome challenges and difficulties around them through learning many crafts. They joined the sewing factories established by some Kuwait's charities so as to earn money to help their families.

Last May, Zakat House founded, in collaboration with Turkey's IHH Humanitarian Relief Foundation, a sewing factory in Reyhanli town in Hatay city in southern Turkey to serve Syrian women. The town is hosting about 130,000 Syrian refugees.

Al-Rahma International Charity, an affiliate of

Kuwait's Al-Islah Society (Society for Social Reform, carried out a training project so as to create jobs for Syrian women in the same city. The project was suitable for beneficiaries who highly appreciated the key role of Kuwait's leadership and people in mitigating their suffering.

Necessary needs

Mona Al-Saeed, a Syrian woman who joined Zakat House's sewing factory, expressed her gratitude to the State of Kuwait and the House for helping refugee widows and orphans. Saeed, a mother of four orphan children, said the sewing factory includes 23 trainees and helped them meet their necessary needs. She stressed the keenness of all trainees to work hard in order to increase the production.

Shahama Khattab, another trainee, thanked Zakat House for this humanitarian project which contributes to easing difficulties facing many Syrian women. Khattab, a mother of an orphan, said the project is a glimmer of hope for Syrian refugee widows, voicing her happiness for joining the sewing machine.

Also Amina Al-Hamwa, a Syrian refugee woman, voiced her appreciation to Kuwait and Zakat House for founding the project which, as she says, contributed to making a self-sufficiency of Syrian women. Hamwa has a very severe tragedy as she lost her husband, father and siblings in the current conflict in Syria. Now she is supporting her mother, children and some nephews.

Women empowerment

Meanwhile, Abdulrahman Al-Mutawah, a senior official at Al-Rahma International Charity, said that the charity has carried out some projects focusing on empowering Syrian women in Turkey so as to help them take care of their children.

The charity provided a training and rehabilitation project to help widows learn crafts so as to feed their children, he added. He noted that the sewing factory includes clever women, stressing that the aim of project is to create jobs for female Syrian women in a bid to remove their psychological pressures. The State of Kuwait has been providing humanitarian aid and relief for needy people. —KUNA



HATAY: Women work in sewing factories established by Kuwait's charitable institutions in Hatay, Turkey to help Syrian women earn and to support their families living in southern Turkey. —KUNA



In Brief

AMIR CONGRATULATES THAI KING

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent yesterday a congratulatory cable to Thai King Maha Vajiralongkorn on the occasion of his inauguration. In the cable, His Highness the Amir wished him best of luck, good health and wellbeing, and better relations between Kuwait and Thailand. His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent the Thai King cables of similar sentiments. — KUNA



AMIR CONGRATULATES POET

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a cable of congratulations to poet Dr Suad Al-Sabah on the occasion of receiving the Arab Women Award for 2016 in the field of culture and literature and for her prominent role in enhancing the status of Arab women and serving culture and arts of Arabic language. His Highness the Amir wished Dr Suad success and to achieve all aspirations she seeks of achievements to raise the name of Kuwait high in various forums. — KUNA



BANK SPONSORS CAMPAIGN

KUWAIT: In collaboration with Hawalli Governorate, the Commercial Bank of Kuwait (CBK) recently sponsored a national campaign organized by the governorate to conserve electricity and water consumption at mosques in Al-Zahra area. Commenting on the initiative, Hawalli Governor retired Lieutenant General Sheikh Ahmad Al-Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah hailed CBK's constant support to various activities held by the governorate. Meanwhile, CBK's assistant public relations officer Amani Al-Wera' stressed that CBK is an integral part of the community and is always keen on supporting public awareness programs.



Photo

of the day



KUWAIT: A photo showing the exterior of the Kuwait National Library in Sharq. —Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

KUWAIT DETERMINED TO PRESERVE DIVERSITY: EPA

CANCUN: The State of Kuwait is determined to keep building natural reserves and provide full support to any environmental initiative to safeguard biodiversity, Environment Public Authority (EPA) chief has said.

Kuwait is keen on implementing plans based on relevant legislations and laws with the objective of preserving biodiversity to achieve sustainable development, Sheikh Abdullah Al-Sabah, EPA Board Chairman and Director General told a conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, in Cancun, Mexico. These endeavors, he was quoted as saying by an EPA statement issued in Kuwait Saturday, were upon instructions of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

The Environment Law in Kuwait compels all relevant institutions to put into consideration environmental impact of their projects on fishing traps, animal feed, air quality projects and underground water drilling, he said.

Sheikh Abdullah explained that the environment law paved way for appointment of monitors on how projects or institutions were harming or preserving environment. He said biodiversity has become an economic, social and



CANCUN: Sheikh Abdullah Al-Sabah attends a conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, in Cancun, Mexico. — KUNA

human issue, and an integral part of sustainable development. EPA, said Sheikh Abdullah, was updating the national biodiversity strategy to cope with the 2011-20 strategy of the conferences of parties, in order to preserve biodiversity in the world. — KUNA

ANNUAL BAZAAR IN VIENNA TO HELP NEEDY CHILDREN WORLDWIDE: ENVOY

VIENNA: Kuwait's Ambassador to Austria Sadeq Marafi said Saturday an annual bazaar organized by society of women of UN in Vienna aimed at helping children in need in different parts of the world. Marafi, also Kuwait's representative to the International Organizations in Vienna, said the participation of Kuwait in the bazaar, held at the conventions center, was to highlight civilized aspects of Kuwait, and humanitarian culture of the Kuwaiti citizens.

Marafi said the fact Arab embassies gathered in one zone in the bazaar made it easy for visitors to get acquainted with Arab traditions and customs in one place. The Kuwaiti booth featured different food products, traditional clothes, souvenirs and Arabic perfumes, he said. The revenues, said Marafi, would be deposited in a special fund to be spent

on philanthropic acts for children in need in the world. Palestine Ambassador to Austria and International Organizations, Salah Abdushafi, commended the Kuwaiti booth which featured a variety of products and was attractive to visitors. Abdushafi said Palestine was taking part in the bazaar for the first time since the hoisting of the Palestinian flag on the UN premises, which would enable Palestine to send a message to the world that the Palestinian people deserve to have a free, independent and sovereign state.

Chairperson of the Arab women diplomats, Dalanda Jumaa, said in a statement the revenues would be distributed on countries that would establish charity projects. Jumaa, spouse of the Tunisian Ambassador, described the Arab participation in the bazaar as very important. — KUNA



PUTRAJAYA: A collection of distinguished traditional costumes displayed at the event. — KUNA

KUWAIT TAKES PART IN PIIACUF

PUTRAJAYA: Kuwait is taking part in Putrajaya International Islamic Arts and Culture Festival (PIIACUF), held in Putrajaya, Malaysia between December 2-11, with a collection of distinguished traditional costumes that drew the audience's attention.

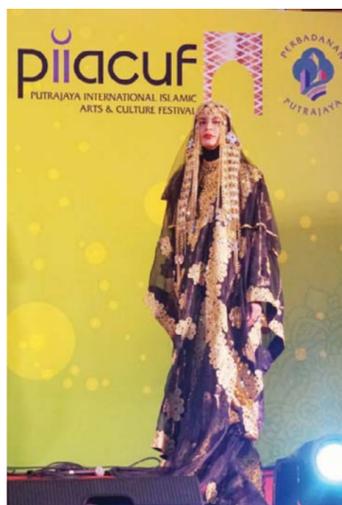
Kuwaiti designer Noha Al-Mansour said that her participation in this event came to reflect Kuwait's prominent cultural role and distinguished heritage. She is displaying a collection of folkloric costumes, especially the ones worn at weddings and Eids.

Mansour chose these costumes and accessories as part of Kuwait's celebrations as being the capital of Islamic culture for 2016. "Kuwait's heritage is part of the Islamic heritage which calls to promote values, ethics and humanitarian civilized behavior".

She expressed her thanks to the Kuwaiti embassy in Malaysia, headed by Ambassador Saad Al-Asousi whose visit to the Kuwaiti pavilion in (PIIACUF) was of high consideration. The PIIACUF's coordinator praised the Kuwaiti participation in this event which

reflects the marvelous Gulf culture. "The Kuwaiti costumes being loose and beautiful reflect the core of the Islamic costumes," she added.

She thanked the Kuwaiti diplomat for his keenness on the Kuwaiti participation for the second consecutive time in the festival. The festival hosts a number of exhibitions, like the textile fair, handicrafts fair, Holy Quran "Al-Noor" fair, besides offering religious cultures, folkloric dances and Islamic fashion shows.— KUNA





KUWAIT: A scene from the GCC drug registration meeting. — KUNA

KFAED, EGYPT INK LOAN, GRANT ACCORDS

KFAED'S 43RD LOAN FOR EGYPT

KUWAIT: One loan and two grants agreements were signed yesterday in Cairo between the Egyptian Government and Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development whereby the fund will lend Cairo KD 35 million (about \$115.5 million) to assist in financing construction of the desalination of sea water plant project for the East Port Said City.

One of the two grants, valued at KD 200,000 (\$664,451.83), will be for financing a feasibility study for establishing solar energy plants and the other, worth some KD 4.57 million (\$15 million), will be a contribution to financing projects aimed at relieving socio-economic impacts in health, municipal services, water, and sanitation within host communities in Egypt of Syrian refugees. They were signed by Egyptian Minister of International Cooperation Dr Sahar Ahmed Mohammed Abdul-Moniem Nasr and KFAED Director General Abdulwahab Ahmed Al-Bader.

The desalination project aims at securing potable water, whether for drinking or commercial and industrial uses, in the new Eastern Port Said City, which is currently under construction. It involves construction of a sea water desalination plant with a production capacity of 150,000 cubic meters per day, using the technology of reverse osmosis, together with structures for the intake of sea water and disposal of used water designed for a plant of a capacity of 250,000 cubic meters per day to take account of future expansion in the production capacity of the desalination plant.

The project includes all civil works required for the desalination plant and the construction of the networks for transmission and distribution of water, with a total length of about 700 kilometers, as well as the storage tanks required for the said networks, fittings, measurement and control equipment, all electrical and mechanical works required for the operation of the desalination plant. It is forecast to complete by the end of 2019. Its total cost is estimated, according to prevailing conditions at the end of July 2016, at about 2,871 million Egyptian pounds, equivalent at the time to about KD 95 million (some \$311).

The loan will be for a term of 25 years, including a grace period of five years, and is to be repaid in 40 semi-annual installments, the first of which will be due on the first date on which interest or other charges on the Loan will fall due in accordance with the agreement, after the expiration of the said grace period. It bears interest at the rate of 1.5 percent per annum, in addition to a service charge of 0.5 percent per annum to meet administrative costs and other expenses.

The Syrian refugees grant aims at addressing



CAIRO: Egyptian Minister of International Cooperation Dr Sahar Nasr (right) and KFAED Director General Abdulwahab Ahmed Al-Bader sign the loan agreement. — KUNA

the needs of the refugees and host communities, by increasing the level of health services in fighting infection by increasing health awareness to fight spreading of diseases, and by availing basic vaccinations.

Furthermore, the project aims at contributing to raising the level of municipal services in areas of Syrian refugees' concentration in Giza Governorate by purchasing necessary vehicles.

The project further aims at enhancing water and sanitation services in some host areas by increasing the efficiency and the development of three secondary pumping stations, strengthening water and sanitation networks in New Damietta, three secondary pumping stations in New Cairo, one pumping station in Sixth of October and a main sanitation station. It is KFAED's 43rd loan for Egypt. — KUNA

MOH ISSUES 12 LICENSES FOR DRUG FACTORIES

KUWAIT: The Ministry of Health (MoH) has granted 12 companies medical permits to build pharmaceutical factories in collaboration with the Public Authority for Industry (PAI), a health official said yesterday.

Speaking on the sidelines of a GCC drug registration meeting, Assistant Undersecretary of Pharmaceutical and Medical Necessities Affairs Dr Amr Al-Sayid Amr said that the 12 licenses are for drug factories containing pharmaceutical necessities.

Moreover, he noted that the endeavor is part of efforts to establish a focal center that provides quality pharmaceuticals at affordable prices, adding that a total of 5,200 medicines have been registered in the GCC. "We have around a year and a half's supply of these drugs," the official said, noting that the ministry meets the

health needs of all medical facilities in the country and that all medicines are thoroughly examined before they go on sale.

On the meeting, Amr said that it yielded suggestions to bolster GCC medical inspection ties, as he underscored in a speech that such meetings are supported by GCC health ministers. He also said that recent developments germane to pharmaceutical registry has prompted the GCC central health committee to revamp its guidelines on registry, adding that work is underway to form a comprehensive pharmaceutical guide with all information needed on different types of drugs. The three-day meeting features discussions over issues related to the registry of new pharmaceutical companies, in addition to other similar developments.—KUNA

ENVOY DISCUSSES PROJECTS IN EAST SUDAN

KHARTOUM: Kuwait's Ambassador to Sudan Bassam Al-Qabandi and officials of the Eastern Sudan Reconstruction Development Fund (ESRDF) have followed up on the implementation of resolutions made by the International Donors and Investors Conference for Eastern Sudan Kuwait hosted in 2010.

Qabandi and the ESRDF Executive Director state minister Abu Obeida Duj, and his deputy Nafea Ali Nafea, discussed at the embassy in Khartoum on Sunday the ongoing work and what has been achieved so far, in the projects in health, education and other fields.

During the meeting, the envoy reiterated Kuwait's commitment to honor all its pledges of the conference, as well as the country's keenness to offer all forms of sup-

port to the Sudanese people. He expressed hope that the projects would help people in eastern Sudan have dignified living conditions. Meanwhile, the ESRDF chief highly appreciated Kuwait's backing of his country. Hosting the donors' conference for Sudan, Kuwait has offered \$500 million in soft loans, in addition to other \$50 million, Duj said after the meeting. He also lauded the close follow-up by Kuwaiti officials for reconstruction in Eastern Sudan.

The Sudanese official noted that Kuwait's contribution to these projects is 'honorable,' referring to the significant role played by the Kuwaiti humanitarian organizations in the east. Pledges of the 2010 international totaled more than \$3.5 billion for the post-conflict economic and social rehabilitation of Eastern Sudan. — KUNA

SESSION OPPORTUNITY TO ENHANCE COOPERATION: AMBASSADOR TO BRUNEI

KUWAIT: The third session of the joint-economic cooperation committee between Kuwait and Brunei to be held today will be a great opportunity to enhance the economic and investment cooperation between the two countries, said Kuwaiti Ambassador to Brunei Fahad Al-Dhafeeri.

The session comes after the historic visit by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah last October 11 and the invitation of Sultan of Brunei Hassanal Bolkiah to boost economic, trade and investment ties, Dhafeeri said in a statement.

The Kuwaiti delegation participating at the committee's work includes representatives of a number of ministries and agencies including Ministry of Finance, Foreign Ministry, Trade and Industry, Oil, Higher Education, Information, Tourism and Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion, Central Agency in

addition to Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Kuwait Oil Company.

The committee aims to promote investment, trade and financial cooperation through activating the joint areas of investment and encourage partnership in the private sector as well as exchanging trade delegations and participation in exhibitions, seminars and forums and explore investment opportunities between the two countries, he added.

The participation of the Ministry of Oil comes to discuss the possibilities of cooperation in the field of exploration, production and investment inside and outside Brunei. Kuwait had recently signed with the Sultanate of Brunei six memoranda of understanding for cooperation in various fields including tourism cooperation, higher education and scientific research. — KUNA

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الجريدة Al-Jarida

A WELL DESERVED SLAP BY THE YOUTH

By Dr Hassan Jouhar

We can describe the 2016 parliamentary election results as a 'well-deserved slap' to the 2013 parliament, as the polling boxes brought a tsunami of change by bringing 34 new lawmakers as an absolute majority in this parliament. My constant criticism of the previous parliament was not personal as I repeatedly stressed that the people were furious by the parliament's performance and its silly plays which cost the legislative power its value, prestige and expression of people's concerns and aspirations. However, it would be sinful to beat the dead, writing about that 2013 parliament's failures is no more necessary.

The recent election indicates hope and optimism in our political arena. Though the new parliament formation remains the same since 1963 in terms of including Sunnis, Shiites, Hadars (urban) and Bedouins, we hope that the mentality and political speeches may have changed by now. More importantly, we hope the performance will be better, since each MP now represents the entire nation. Thanks be to Allah Almighty, the election results reflect a retreat of sectarianism after so many of its advocates lost. Those who managed to win seemed to have subsided their calls since they no longer have any appeals to make to the citizens.

The results also showed considerable losses to pro-government MPs and the return of those advocating people's rights, waved weapons of reform and were fighting corruption in the government's face. For these reasons, over 70 percent of the voters took part, and that was surely a figure that had been long forgotten since the 1992 post-liberation elections. Young men and women not only stood as voters but also as candidates in the elections. Young voters worked tirelessly on social media networks, exchanging visits and field visits to candidates in other constituencies with the same ideologies, and thus managed to knock down iconic veteran parliamentarians including those who received bribes. They knocked down sectarian MPs, ministers and government rubber-stamp MPs as they fought a fierce battle through by-elections and vote-buying.

The message is very clear but will the government perceive it and learn the lesson on forming its new cabinet and setting its new agenda? These were the seventh elections since 2003 using various electoral systems and parliament formations while the government's mentality, working methods and justifying actions by constitutional principles remained the same. While the government learns the lesson of the 2016 elections and absorbs the new overwhelming youth ideologies, we better get ready for further parliaments that will be dominated by the youth, which will be a fiercer slap than the one given to the 2013 parliament.

— Translated by Kuwait Times



النهار

Al-Anbaa

LOVE IS JUST RESPECT

By Dr Nemin Al-Houti

Opinions may differ, and it is possible to agree on what love is and what its causes are, but all can unanimously agree that love is all about respect. Love that is born between two persons without having respect as its foundation does not have anything to do with emotions and kindness. It is so beautiful for the human being to have a heart that loves him and an eye that respects him. So, best wishes to he who owns a truthful and pure heart, and who has love and an eye full of respect. We, the people of this era, lack love and respect. We often hear stories about certain relations, but when we go deep in the merits, we discover that those relations lack mutual respect between the two persons involved, which leads the relationship to fail.

Maybe the respect attribute has become a rare commodity in our society, which reflects on personal relations and made the majority fail to see what love really is. Respect is not limited to love alone, and love is not limited to a man and a woman, rather our issue today is what

the society's foundation is built on. Love is what brings a mother and father, mother and her children, student and teacher, an employee and his superior and other social and practical links in our society together. But the question is: Where is love in these relations today? The answer is that love is absent among people because the majority do not have any respect remaining for others.

We hear and see a lot of stories about girls that scream and utter unsuitable words in front of their mothers or teachers. Who among us had never heard or seen a man who beats his wife in front of his children or insults and tortures his children? Who among us has not seen fights among employees and their superiors? There are many daily exchanges and fights that we hear and read about, which prove that our society is lacking respect, which has resulted in us lacking love. If respect falls, so will the relation, as there is no love, no friendship or a relation without respect.

— Translated by Kuwait Times

There is no love, no friendship or a relation without respect

Crime

Report

Julai'a party busted

KUWAIT: Police arrested an Armenian man for arranging a party in Julai'a. The man sold tickets for KD 10 per person, and specified that only couples were allowed. Detectives learned about the plan and as soon as the guests started arriving, vice detectives moved in and arrested 43 people which included 20 women of various nationalities. Ten bottles of imported liquor were also found at the camp.

Absconders arrested

Kheitan police launched a campaign resulting in the arrest of five absconding Filipinos, who were sent to concerned authorities prior to deportation. Meanwhile, in another police crackdown, in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh resulted in the arrest of an Indian who had 80 home-brewed liquor bottles.

Cross dresser arrested

A cross dresser was referred to criminal detectives after being arrested in Salmiya. Police stopped him thinking he was a girl, while leaving the car he said, "You are driving us crazy, let us breath". The man was taken to the proper authorities to face charges.

ATM malfunction

A citizen lodged a complaint with Hawally police about an ATM machine which did not dispense the KD 400 he wanted to withdraw, later he received an SMS that the money was debited, and noticed a sports-utility-vehicle (SUV) driver taking the money and gave its license plate number to the police, authorities are investigating.

Suicide and negligence

An expat filed a complaint about a medical error that led to his wife's death. He said that his wife ingested a large quantity of pills in an attempted suicide. He rushed her to the hospital, where her case worsened due to negligence, which led to her death, according to his statements. Concerned authorities are investigating.

Hit and run

A young man died after being hit by a vehicle while driving an all-terrain vehicle (ATV) on the road. The victim was admitted in Farwaniya ICU. The accused drove off, and criminal detectives are investigating.



ZAIN PARTICIPATES IN INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

KUWAIT: Zain, the leading telecommunications company in Kuwait, participated in a special event that was organized by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor in celebration of the International Day of People with Special Needs on December 3rd. The event was held at the Ministry's Social Care Centers under the patronage of the Minister of Social Affairs and Labor

Hind Al-Subaih and the attendance of Director of the Public Authority for the Disabled Dr Shafiq Al-Awadhi.

Zain is keen on participating in this United Nations sanctioned day every year as part of the company's Corporate Sustainability and Social Responsibility strategy towards people with special needs. The event aimed at celebrating the capabilities of people with special needs and their families in a family-oriented atmosphere.

During the event, Zain organized a number of recreational activities as well as distributed gifts to people with special needs to share the joys of this day with them and their families. The event also included an arts show that featured artworks designed by people with special needs as well as a musical performance and many other activities.

Zain dedicates a great part of its Corporate Sustainability and Social Responsibility strategy towards people with special needs. The company recently inaugurated 'Zain Lab' in the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor's Career Rehabilitation Department. The fully equipped computer lab offers people with special needs the needed equipment and necessary training for them to explore job opportunities that suit their specific needs in both the public and private sectors. The initiative also aimed at empowering people with special needs to be more productive and active members of the Kuwaiti society.

The company constantly finds ways to shoulder initiatives that work towards enhancing the society's welfare. Zain's long-term cooperation with the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor as well as other public entities springs from its belief in the importance of having a positive print in the society by sponsoring and launching initiatives that cater to various interests of the community.



KUWAIT: The Saad Al-Abdullah Police Academy recently organized a lecture titled 'The Vital Role of the Interior Ministry's Service Centers' for graduate students under the supervision of Brigadier General Nasser Boursesly, the academy's acting director.

AL-YASRA PARTAKES IN HORECA 2017

KUWAIT: Following its successful participation in the Horeca exhibitions held in the past few years, Al-Yasra Food Company announced its intention to participate in Horeca Kuwait 2017 exhibition, to be organized by Leaders Group in collaboration with Hospitality Services Company at Kuwait International Fairground in Mishref in the period of January 16-18, 2017.

Ayman Mahmoud foodstuff manager at Al-Yasra Company, stressed that Horeca has been moving forward steadily towards developing the local hospitality sector with the help of a group of experts and specialized people invited to attend.

Further, Mahmoud noted that Al-Yasra has cemented its own outstanding position in the food business not only in Kuwait, but also in most regional countries. It has therefore managed to win customers' trust as it exclusively supplies regional and international brands such as Sadia, Al-Safi Danone, Kellogg's Pringles

and Lamb Weston, which all cover the local market's needs in various restaurant and major hotels.

Moreover, Mahmoud added that Al-Yasra is always keen on taking part in major exhibitions to communicate with parties working in the hospitality business in order to boost awareness about the significance of healthy food. "The company provides complete lists of delicious healthy food that suits all needs of calorie intake," he explained, noting that Al-Yasra products are also exceptional because they are carefully selected from fresh healthy foods to meet customer demands.

Finally, Mahmoud stressed that the hospitality sector has witnessed considerable growth over the past few years, during which demand on healthy food has also increased. He also noted that a few years ago, the company launched an awareness campaign under the motto of 'Your Family's Safety through Your Food's Safety'.



Cannabis sole livelihood in remote Indian village

TRUMP'S CALL INSPIRES HOPE IN TAIWAN



ALEPPO: Syrian army soldiers come back from the front line in Karam Al-Tarab. —AP

NO MORE ROOM FOR ALEPPO'S DEAD

DEAD LEFT ON THE STREETS, BURIED IN BACKYARDS, MORGUES OVERWHELMED

BEIRUT: The old Aleppo cemetery filled up a year ago. The new one filled up last week. Now the dead are left in the besieged enclave's streets, buried in backyards and overwhelming the morgues.

Medical officials secured yet another plot for the dead. But they say they have no way to dig graves with government troops now crashing into opposition-held eastern Aleppo, shelling civilians as they flee and forcing thousands to squeeze into a chaotic, devastated and shrinking pocket of neighborhoods.

"We have no more room," said Mohammed Abu Jaafar, the head of the local forensic authority. His department is so overwhelmed, the staff registering the dead pleaded with him not to take any more bodies. "Even if I were to consider mass burials, I don't have the machines to do the digging," he said in a telephone interview. Dignity in death has been lost as the rebel-held enclave that has held out for four years collapses.

For two weeks, government forces bombarded the area, killing more than 310 civilians, including 42 children, and up to 220 opposition fighters, according to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights. Then last weekend, ground troops stormed into the 17-square-mile enclave, captured half of it and advanced on the rest. UN Emergency Relief Coordinator Stephen O'Brien pleaded Wednesday for access to eastern Aleppo, home to some 275,000, "before it becomes one giant graveyard."

Horrific scenes

In some ways, it already has. Bodies have been left to rot on the streets. Ambulances and rescue vehicles can't reach them because they have been targeted or because fuel has run out. As troops close in, there are now more, multiple front lines all too dangerous to approach. Residents of a southern neighborhood close to a government advance only learned that a body was lying in the ditches when a cat started eating at the corpse.

"A woman from the neighborhood came and reported it to the morgue.

We still don't know who the corpse belongs to," Abu Jaafar said, holding his breath. "I swear to God I cried. And I am one who is used to horrific scenes." With eastern Aleppo under a tight siege since July, supplies and food are running out. Just before the ground offensive, government airstrikes knocked out all seven medical facilities in the enclave, including five equipped with trauma and intensive care units. With the government advances, the medical complex where four of the hospitals are located is now only a few hundred meters from conquering troops.

The hospitals were evacuated. The doctors scattered around the strip, setting up small underground medical points to avoid detection but able to give only the simplest basics of care. "Every wounded is a potential martyr," said Zakaria Amino, the deputy head of the eastern Aleppo Local Council. A nurse who works in one underground clinic said some wounded have died as they waited for medical attention, and because of a shortage of blood. The enclave's blood bank was hit and shut down. Even worse, some after surgery could not survive the cold weather, she said.

When government forces and their allies took the northern part of the enclave, over 30,000 people fled into government and Kurdish-controlled parts of the city. Thousands more fled into the remaining rebel-held southern districts, already overwhelmed and running short on all supplies.

On the road fleeing, at least 50 people were killed in government bombings in the last few days. Images of their bodies lying on the ground amid the debris and their packed bags were a reminder of the cruel nature of the conflict, now in its sixth year. "There are wounded people everywhere. I am afraid I will step on them as I walk," said Abu Jaafar.

And while the makeshift medical points are overwhelmed and understaffed, they also don't know where to bury the dead. Abu Jaafar said they are afraid the piled bodies would expose the clinics' secret locations. "There are informants and collaborators with the

regime everywhere," he said. In the past four years, more than 20,000 residents of Aleppo province have been killed, more than 80 percent of them in rebel-held areas, according to the Britain-based Observatory, which has kept a record of casualties.

Garden burials

The eastern districts' old cemetery was full even before rebels took over the area in 2012. But it was still used amid the heavy fighting and government bombardment as officials looked for another piece of land. They found another last year, but now that one, which was bombed this summer, and two smaller ones are full. But since the war intensified, residents of east Aleppo have had to resort to whatever is closest to honor their dead.

"We have buried our dead in our gardens for a while," said Amino, of the council. When possible, he said people take their dead to the Tababa, or the health authority run by Abu Jaafar that operates the morgue and issues deaths certificates. Documentation is nearly impossible when the whole population is in flux. Since Saturday, 20 bodies lie in his morgue unidentified after the shelling of people fleeing the ground advances. Another 70 bodies remain unidentified from the airstrikes that preceded the ground assault.

Abu Jaafar posted a picture of a 5-month year old girl found under the rubble somewhere in Aleppo two days ago. Her parents are believed dead, and the little girl lost a leg. She is now in the care of the nurses in one of the underground clinics. "With ambulances overwhelmed and many of them out of order, people are acting as rescuers," Abu Jaafar said.

All the bodies are believed to be civilians. The fighters bury their dead independently. With no respect in death, Abu Jaafar said surviving in collapsing Aleppo may be even worse.

A former regime loyalist who defected to the opposition, he said he fears the government may regain control of all of Aleppo. "It is easier for me to have my house collapse over my head and die than to hand myself over to this government." —AP

FATAH PARTY ENDS ELECTION WITH ABBAS BOOST

RAMALLAH: Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas tightened his hold on the governing Fatah party and shut out a key rival, according to results yesterday of leadership elections in the movement that has dominated West Bank politics for decades. The election comes as senior Fatah members are battling behind the scenes to succeed Abbas one day. The 81-year-old leader has given no sign that he plans to retire from the presidency or his top jobs in Fatah and the Palestine Liberation Organization.

On Saturday, more than 1,300 Fatah delegates confirmed Abbas' continued Fatah leadership role by acclamation and elected 18 members of the movement's top decision-making Central Committee. Top vote getters were Marwan Barghouti, a Palestinian uprising leader jailed by Israel, and

Jibril Rajoub, a former West Bank security chief. Both are seen as potential Abbas successors, and their strong showing could improve their eventual succession bids.

Barghouti is serving multiple life terms after being convicted in deadly attacks and has no imminent prospects of release, but remains by far the most popular Fatah leader. Party officials have mentioned the possibility of Barghouti joining forces from behind bars with another Fatah leader in filling the role of president. While Abbas cemented his control over the movement, the re-election of party stalwarts and Abbas loyalists is bound to affirm Fatah's public image as a stale, aging movement that has failed to deliver on Palestinian dreams of statehood and is out of touch with the concerns of ordinary Palestinians. —AP



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IN CANADA, SYRIAN REFUGEES COPE WITH DAY-TO-DAY LIFE

'I HAVE 25 YEARS' EXPERIENCE BUT I CAN'T WORK'

LAVAL: Welcomed with open arms — some even received coats from Prime Minister Justin Trudeau himself—the Syrian refugees who arrived in Canada a year ago are now facing their share of difficulties. Among them, 50-year-old Fahed Fattouh came with his wife and their two children after they fled the war-battered city of Aleppo via Beirut in 2012.

They made it to Canada on an airlift organized by the government in December 2015, some of the 35,000 Syrians who have resettled here over the past year. The family has been making ends meet until now thanks to financial aid from Fattouh's brother-in-law, who has lived in Quebec for 25 years. A urologist and forensic pathologist by training, Fattouh has had to start again from scratch.

"I have 25 years' experience but I can't work," he says. "I don't know what to do." As the family's sponsor, the brother-in-law made a commitment to the government to cover his relatives' needs for a year. The cost of housing, food and administrative services comes to around about Can\$30,000 (\$22,600). Fattouh, his wife Jouli and their two children — 11-year-old Sparta and 8-year-old Adeeb—live in a furnished apartment in Laval, in the suburbs north of Montreal. "Canada is the only country in the world that permits its citizens to adopt refugees," says Stephan Reichhold, director of a coalition of around 100 groups that help immigrants resettle in Quebec.

For many of them, he added, the thirteenth month—when they must start to fend for themselves—is a source of profound financial anxiety. Not for Fattouh, however, who is counting on his brother-in-law's continued generosity. "Money is important, but it is okay," he says. His biggest problem is finding work.

'Systemic problem'

To practice medicine in his new home country, he would have to retake at least five years of medical school and then pass three exams because the Quebec medical bar does not recognize his degrees. "There is a systemic problem in Quebec in terms of recognizing equivalences and achievements that is well known," Reichhold says. So Fattouh has regrettably given up on practicing medicine in Quebec—which, paradoxically, doesn't have enough family physicians to meet the population's demands.

He plans to spend a year or two training as a paramedic to receive government assistance finding a job that is not protected by a professional guild. His wife Jouli, 42, also wants to get training so she can land a job as a teacher at a daycare center. "Among the refugees, there are many professionals, people who must say farewell to the possibility of finding work at the level they had in Syria before the civil war," Reichhold says. "That is what is so difficult."

'A country of the future'

Fattouh has devoted the past seven months to learning French-Quebec's official language at a free adult education center near his home. "French is very difficult," he says, speaking the language fluently despite some imprecision in his use of words.

At the Laurier skills development center in Laval, 700 immigrants and refugees—including 120 Syrians—are learning the language along with him. "They are very motivated," director Heather Halman says.

It helps that people in Quebec are "very nice," Fattouh says. "They don't feel like strangers." His children, Sparta and Adeeb, who are integrated in regular classes at school, already express themselves easily in French. Between a quarter and a third of Syrian refugees are children, Quebec's immigration minister Kathleen Weil tells AFP. "It's the children who already master the language well," she says. "They represent our future."

Despite the difficulties of getting settled, Fattouh says he's happy to be in Canada for his children's sake. "Canada, it's a country of the future," he says. "They will do whatever they want." Sparta would like to be a lawyer when she grows up, and Adeeb, a policeman. Although he's uncertain about the future, Fattouh says, it's most important "to follow the children and life." — AFP



MOSUL: An Iraqi man distributes potatoes to civilians in the Samah district. — AP

CHAOS ERUPTS AS IRAQ DELIVERS AID TO MOSUL

MOSUL: Chaos erupted in eastern Mosul yesterday when hundreds of civilians overwhelmed aid trucks distributing food and water. The Iraqi government sent truckloads of food, heating oil and drinking water to residents in areas retaken from the Islamic State group in and around Mosul after aid groups warned of shortages in Iraq's second largest city, which has been the target of a major offensive since October. "There is no justice," said Abu Ahmed, who asked that his full name not be used out of security concerns. "Some people took so many bags of food and others got nothing."

While the trucks bore banners identifying them as distributing aid on behalf of the local government, there were no government or security officials present during the melee that ensued on the eastern edge of the city. Men, women and children fought over bags of flour and baskets of apples. "We are desperate, this is the first time I've seen aid trucks," Abu Ahmed said. He said the food and water residents had stockpiled before the start of the operation had run out.

Diaa Sallal, a senior Iraqi relief official, told The Associated Press that the supplies were being delivered to the towns of Bartella and Qayara, near Mosul, as well as two outlying Mosul neighborhoods. Sallal, reached by telephone in Iraq's northern Kurdish region, gave no further details. Iraq's government called on civilians to remain in their homes during the operation to retake Mosul, fearing a mass exodus from the city, which is still home to hundreds of thousands of people. But as the

battle has ground on, with Iraqi forces making slow progress in street by street battles, supplies of food and water have dwindled.

Fighting continues

Heavy clashes flared in eastern Mosul yesterday, with both sides exchanging heavy gunfire from rooftops in the Shaimaa neighborhood. IS militants shelled the district with a heavy barrage of mortar rounds, according to AP reporters at the scene. Scores of families braved the fighting to flee IS-held districts for the relative safety of neighborhoods retaken by government troops or camps for the displaced outside the city.

Deeper inside Mosul, another aid distribution in the Bakr neighborhood was more organized. Hundreds of men and women lined up along a residential street as Iraqi special forces handed out boxes of aid. But with the front line just over a hundred meters (yards) away, only a small number of aid trucks could reach the neighborhood. Soldiers screened the civilians as gunfire echoed nearby.

Ambulances and armored vehicles carrying wounded soldiers came screaming past after an IS suicide car bomb struck a nearby army position. Elsewhere in Iraq, security forces in the northern Kurdish region shot and killed two of four people who resisted arrest in a village near the Iranian border. Nasah Mala Hassan, the mayor of a nearby town, said the other two blew themselves up, and that an armed Kurdish civilian was killed. It was not immediately clear whether the suspects were members of an armed group. — AP



LAVAL: (From left to right) Fahed, Jouli, Sparta and Adeeb Fattouh speak while watching television in their apartment. — AFP

FIVE GAZANS KILLED IN TUNNEL INCIDENTS

GAZA CITY: Five Palestinians have been killed in incidents in tunnels in the Gaza Strip, officials said yesterday, including four found dead after the flooding of a passage linking the enclave to Egypt. Four men aged 22 to 45 "were found dead after the tunnel they were working in was flooded nine days ago by the Egyptian army," local authorities in the city of Rafah near Egypt's border said in a statement.

Egypt had not confirmed the information, though it has destroyed hundreds of tunnels in the area, alleging they are used to transport arms and militants. Gazans use such tunnels to smuggle goods into the Palestinian enclave, which is run by Islamist movement Hamas and has been under an Israeli blockade for a decade. The border between Egypt and Gaza has also remained largely closed since the 2013 overthrow of Egypt's Islamist president Mohamed Morsi.

Separately, Hamas's armed wing, the Ezzedine Al-Qassam Brigades, said Sunday that one of its fighters was killed while working in a "resistance" tunnel. It did not provide further details, including whether the tunnel had collapsed, though the term resistance tunnels is used to refer to those dug for military purposes. While the tunnels into Egypt have been dug for smuggling, Gazan tunnels into Israel have been used for attacks, particularly in the 2014 war between the two sides.

Gazans allege Egypt has carried out work to flood the area along its border to destroy tunnels into its Sinai Peninsula, where Egyptian security forces are also fighting Islamic State-linked jihadists. In recent months, at least 21 Gazans have died in both militant and smuggling tunnels and a number of tunnels have collapsed. — AFP

BUSES TAKE ALEPPO RESIDENTS BACK TO ABANDONED HOMES

ALEPPO: For much of the past four years, taking a bus between the two sides of Syria's divided second city Aleppo meant an arduous, and sometimes dangerous, 10-hour road trip. But on Saturday, the trip took just half an hour, as buses travelled directly from the government-held west to recently recaptured neighborhoods in the east.

At least 10 buses made the trip from west to east, after the army seized 60 percent of the former rebel stronghold in east Aleppo. People packed every seat and all the standing room on each vehicle for a chance to go back. "I haven't been to my house for almost six years," said Hala Hassan Fares, on one bus with her husband and son.

"Our house is totally burned, but we're going to see my father, who is 80 years old," she told AFP. "He stayed behind there, with my sisters and other relatives." Many of the buses were adorned with pictures of President Bashar Al-Assad, as well as the flags of Syria and the regime's staunch ally Russia. Passengers pressed their faces against the glass to catch glimpses of neighborhoods reduced to rubble. At times they spotted homes they recognized, the building of friends or relatives, but in other moments they exclaimed in horror at the magnitude of the destruction.

Cratered road

Once the country's economic powerhouse, Aleppo has been ravaged by the war that has killed more than 300,000 people since it began in March 2011 with anti-government protests. In the year after rebels seized east Aleppo in 2012, residents could travel intermittently through a checkpoint in the central Bustan Al-Qasr neighborhood, though government buses stopped running. But by 2014, even that route was closed because of persistent sniper fire, and the only way to go from one side of the city to the other was via a circuitous 10-hour trip on private buses. That route went through territory held by the government, Islamic State group, and rebels.

On Saturday, the green state bus company buses travelled exclusively through government-held territory, starting at the Razi bus stop in central Jamiliyeh neighborhood and arriving 30 minutes later in the newly recaptured Masaken Hanano district in eastern Aleppo. The route was still precarious, with the road dotted with craters and lined in some areas with overturned, burnt out vehicles. In Masaken Hanano, explosions could still be heard as the government pushed its offensive to recapture all of Aleppo.

Despite the bumpy journey, Fares was happy to be on one of the first buses going east. "It's true that there are lots of potholes in the road and that makes my stomach hurt, but to me

it feels like the smoothest journey ever," she said smiling.

Finding ruined homes

At the wheel of the bus was driver Abdullah Al-Ali who did his best to navigate the difficult route with his overstuffed vehicle. "It should be fine, other buses are ahead of us," he said, as he drove through a series of six checkpoints along the route. At the first and last checkpoints, both manned by government soldiers, the bus and its passengers were inspected. "I'm so happy for these people going back to check on their homes," he told AFP. "I felt their happiness... they were so eager to get on the buses whether sitting or standing, so that they could go and see their homes." The scene at the other end was not an easy one for

many families, who arrived to find massive destruction of the sort that has been wrought throughout east Aleppo during the years since the conflict began with anti-government protests in March 2011. Rubble was strewn across streets, the facades of buildings ripped away, windows gone, and interiors destroyed by flames or weather, or picked through by looters.

Um Yayha, 55, found little left at her home after arriving with her brother and husband. "There were more of us standing than sitting on the bus. We stood the whole way," she said carrying a large photo. "This is all we found, this photo of my niece. It is precious to us, and we found a copy of the Koran, so we brought that too." There were a few other things in the house, but all of them needed to be thrown away. — AFP



ALEPPO: A bus, with Syrians from various western districts on board, drives past damaged buildings in Aleppo's government-held Shihan neighborhood during a bus trip through government-held territory between the two sides of the divided city. — AFP

BAHRAIN COURT UPHOLDS BLAST DEATH SENTENCES

DUBAI: A Bahraini court yesterday upheld three death sentences and seven life terms against a group convicted of killing police including an Emirati officer in a bomb attack, a judicial source said. The same appeals court adjourned to December 12 the trial of Bahrain's Shiite opposition chief, cleric Ali Salman, after the court of cassation overturned in October a nine-year jail term for allegedly inciting hatred and calling for regime change by force. The court of cassation had ordered a

retrial in the case of the 10 defendants found guilty of planting a bomb in March 2014 in a Shiite village west of Manama that killed an Emirati officer and two Bahraini policemen. The appeals court upheld the three death sentences and life terms for the other seven defendants, who were also stripped of their citizenships.

The Emirati officer was part of a Saudi-led Gulf force which rolled into Bahrain in March 2011 to boost Bahraini security forces in quelling a

month-long protest led by the island's Shiite majority. In the case of the opposition leader, Salman had been sentenced in July 2015 to four years in jail after being convicted of inciting hatred in the Sunni-ruled kingdom. But the appeals court in May more than doubled his jail term to nine years after reversing an earlier acquittal on charges of calling for regime change by force.

The arrest in December 2014 of Salman, who heads Al-Wafaq, the main

Shiite opposition formation, sparked protests across Bahrain. The cassation court had rejected a request to release the cleric.

Salman appeared in court yesterday in a hearing that lasted just one minute, a judicial source said. In another hearing, the court upheld life sentences against four defendants and 15-year jail terms against six others in the case of a group convicted of "forming a terrorist cell," the source said. The group was accused of setting up an

armed organization called Jaish Al-Imam, or Army of the Imam, and of spying for Iran and its elite Revolutionary Guards. The court acquitted 14 others. Hundreds of Shiites have been arrested and put on trial since a crackdown on the protests that took their cue from Arab Spring uprisings and called for a constitutional monarchy with an elected prime minister.

Bahrain is a strategic ally of Washington and home to the US Navy's Fifth Fleet. — AFP

GREEN PARTY CHANGES STRATEGY IN PENNSYLVANIA RECOUNT BID

HARRISBURG: A Green Party-backed campaign changed its strategy to force a statewide recount of Pennsylvania's Nov. 8 presidential election, won by Republican Donald Trump, and said late Saturday night that it will seek help in the federal courts, rather than the state courts. The announcement that it would seek an emergency federal court order

on Monday for a recount came hours after it dropped a case in the state courts.

"Make no mistake - the Stein campaign will continue to fight for a statewide recount in Pennsylvania," recount campaign lawyer Jonathan Abady said in a statement issued around 11:30 pm. "We are committed to this

fight to protect the civil and voting rights of all Americans." In the statement, Abady said barriers to a recount in Pennsylvania are pervasive and the state court system is ill-equipped to address the problem.

Green Party presidential candidate Jill Stein has framed the campaign as an effort to explore whether voting machines and systems had been hacked and the election result manipulated. Stein's lawyers, however, had offered no evidence of hacking in Pennsylvania's election, and the state Republican Party and Trump had asked the court to dismiss the state court case.

Scattered precincts

The decision came two days before a state court hearing was scheduled in the case. Saturday's court filing to withdraw the case said the Green Party-backed voters who filed it "are regular citizens of ordinary means" and cannot afford the \$1 million bond ordered by the court by 5 pm. Monday. Green Party-backed efforts to force recounts and analyze election software in scattered precincts were continuing.

The case in Pennsylvania court has been part of an effort spearheaded by Stein to force recounts in Michigan, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin, three states

with a history of backing Democrats for president that were narrowly and unexpectedly won by Trump over Democrat Hillary Clinton. A recount began Thursday in Wisconsin, while a recount could begin next week in Michigan. Trump's victory in Pennsylvania was particularly stunning: the state's fifth-most electoral votes are a key stepping stone to the White House, and no Republican presidential candidate had captured the state since 1988.

Stein had said the purpose of Pennsylvania's recount was to ensure "our votes are safe and secure," considering hackers' probing of election targets in other states and hackers' accessing of the emails of the Democratic National Committee and several Clinton staffers. U.S. security officials have said they believe Russian hackers orchestrated the email hacks, something Russia has denied. They have sought unsuccessfully in recent days to get various counties to allow a forensic examination of their election system software.

No evidence

Lawyers for Trump and the state Republican Party argued there was no evidence, or even an allegation, that tampering with Pennsylvania's voting systems had occurred. Further,

Pennsylvania law does not allow a court-ordered recount, they argued, and a lawyer for the Green Party had acknowledged that the effort was without precedent in Pennsylvania. The case also had threatened Pennsylvania's ability to certify its presidential electors by the Dec. 13 federal deadline, Republican lawyers argued. On Saturday, a GOP lawyer, Lawrence Tabas, said the case had been meant "solely for purposes to delay the Electoral College vote in Pennsylvania for President-Elect Trump." The state's top elections official, Secretary of State Pedro Cortes, a Democrat, has said there was no evidence of any sort of cyberattacks or irregularities in the election. Any recount would change few votes, Cortes predicted.

As of Friday, Trump's margin of victory in Pennsylvania was 49,000, or less than 1 percent, out of 6 million votes cast, according to state election officials. Final counts were outstanding in some counties, including heavily populated Allegheny County, but state and county officials did not expect any outstanding uncounted votes to change the outcome of the presidential election in Pennsylvania. Pennsylvania's automatic statewide recount trigger is 0.5 percent. Stein drew less than 1 percent of the votes cast. — AP



WILKES-BARRE: In this Sept 21, 2016 file photo, Green Party presidential candidate Jill Stein delivers remarks at Wilkes University. — AP

TRUMP SHRUGS OFF TAIWAN CALL FUROR

BEIJING: President-elect Donald Trump is unapologetic about roiling diplomatic waters with his decision to speak on the phone with Taiwan's leader, a breach of long-standing tradition that risks enmity from China. The US severed diplomatic ties with the self-governing island in 1979 but has maintained close unofficial relations and a commitment to support its defense.

Trump's conversation with Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen drew an irritated, although understated, response from China, as Foreign Minister Wang Yi said Saturday that the contact was "just a small trick by Taiwan" that he believed would not change US policy toward China, according to Hong Kong's Phoenix TV. "The one-China policy is the cornerstone of the healthy development of China-US relations and we hope this political foundation will not be interfered with or damaged," Wang was quoted as saying. Chinese officials said they lodged a complaint with the US and reiterated a commitment to seeking "reunification" with the island, which they consider a renegade province.

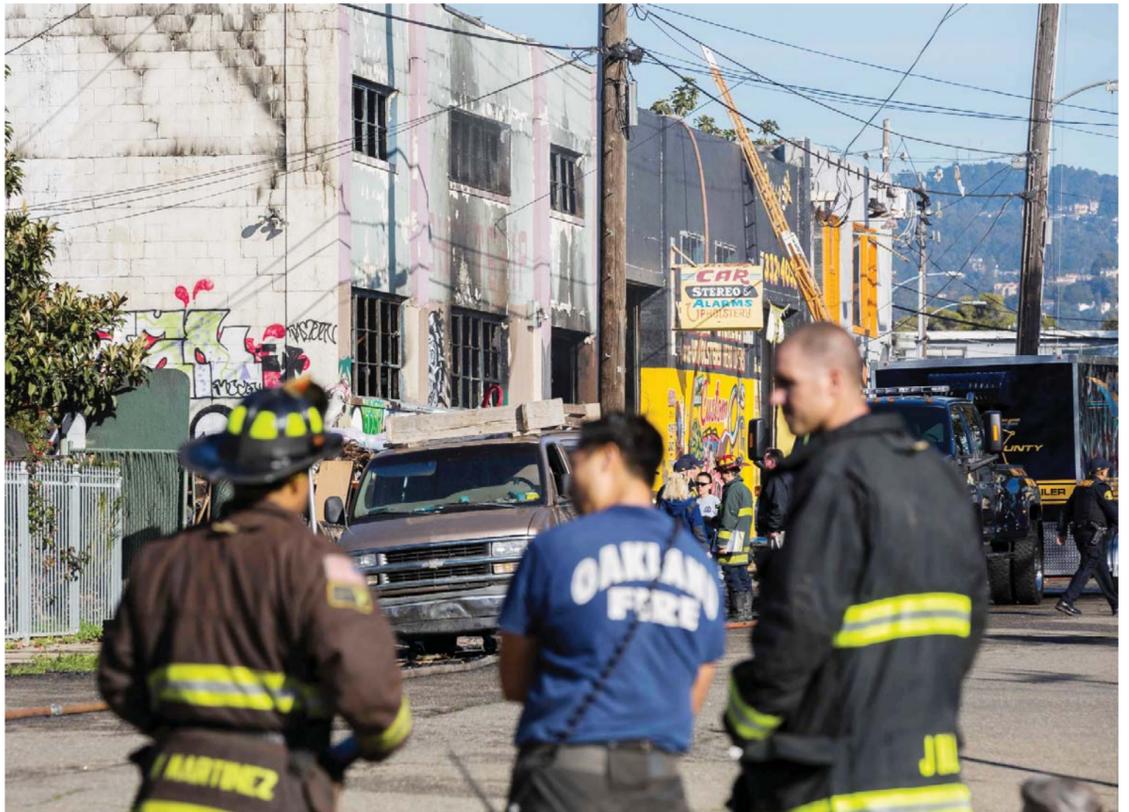
After the phone conversation Friday, Trump tweeted that Tsai "CALLED ME." He also groused about the reaction to the call: "Interesting how the US sells Taiwan billions of dollars of military equipment but I should not accept a congratulatory call." The US shifted diplomatic recognition to China from Taiwan in 1979. But the governments in Washington and Taipei have maintained close unofficial ties and deep economic and defense relations. The US is required by law to provide Taiwan

with weapons to maintain its defense.

Shooting from the hip

Since 2009, the Obama administration has approved \$14 billion in arms sales to Taiwan. The call was the starkest example yet of how Trump has flouted diplomatic conventions since he won the Nov 8 election. He has apparently undertaken calls with foreign leaders without guidance customarily given by the State Department, which oversees US diplomacy. "President-elect Trump is just shooting from the hip, trying to take phone calls of congratulatory messages from leaders around the world without consideration for the implications," said Bonnie Glaser, senior adviser for Asia at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington.

Over the decades, the status of Taiwan has been one of the most sensitive issues in U.S.-China relations. China regards Taiwan as part of its territory to be retaken by force, if necessary, if it seeks independence. It would regard any recognition of a Taiwanese leader as a head of state as unacceptable. Taiwanese newspapers ran banner headlines Sunday about the call, and two noted on their front pages Sunday that Trump referred to Tsai as "the president of Taiwan," a formulation that would be a huge shift in American policy and infuriate China. But Douglas Paal, a former director of the American Institute in Taiwan, which unofficially represents US interests in Taipei, said it was too soon to judge whether Trump was going to lead that shift, or if the incident was just a "complicated accident." — AP



OAKLAND: Firemen stand near a warehouse after it was destroyed by a fire. — AFP

DEATH TOLL UP TO 40 DEAD IN CALIFORNIA WAREHOUSE FIRE

THE CAUSE WAS NOT YET KNOWN

OAKLAND: Fire crews in California worked into the night Saturday sifting through the remains of a warehouse gutted by a blaze during a rave party, with officials saying they fear the death toll could reach 40. Relatives of dozens of people missing in the Friday night blaze in a district of Oakland near San Francisco continued their anxious wait for news. Nine people are confirmed dead so far. The rickety two-story warehouse was used by artists as a living and work space but had no license for this, officials said, nor for the electronic dance party under way when the blaze broke out. The cause was not yet known. Firefighters said the building seemed to have no sprinklers or smoke detectors.

Orange flames shot through the roof as the fire burned for hours and thick smoke billowed into the sky. The roof collapsed onto the second floor, which officials said was connected to the ground floor only by a makeshift system of wooden pallets. Firefighters had to pull out of the building to shore it up when part of the fragile structure and some of the walls began to move. Sergeant Ray Kelly of the Alameda County Sheriff's department told an evening news conference that about two dozen people who were reported missing had been located. But at least two dozen more remain missing, he said. "We don't know how far into the process we are, because we don't absolutely have a number of people that we know are deceased inside of there," he said. An official at his office, who

declined to be named, said yesterday the death toll could rise to 40 or even higher.

Most of those who perished in the blaze that started about 11:30 pm Friday (0730 GMT Saturday) were thought to have died on the upper floor of the two-story warehouse known as Oakland Ghost Ship, said Oakland Fire Chief Teresa Deloach Reed. "It must have been a very fast-moving fire," she said. The electronic dance music party was attended by an estimated 50 to 100 people.

'Expecting the worst'

The sheriff's office station in Oakland became a center for relatives of the missing. The Salvation Army dropped off 50 meals for them, the San Francisco Chronicle reported. Daniel Vega told the newspaper he is looking for his brother Alex and his girlfriend, who had said they were going to a rave in Oakland. "If he is dead, if he is in the rubble, fine, I'll get over it. But I just want to find him," Vega told the Chronicle.

Some of the missing are from overseas, making identification of the victims thought to be in their 20s and 30s more difficult. The warehouse had numerous partitions added to the original building. Some of the structural changes made it extremely difficult for people to escape, Reed said. "There wasn't a real entry or exit path," Reed said. The clutter hampered firefighters' efforts to put out the blaze. "It was filled end-to-end with furniture, whatnot, collections," Reed said. "It was

like a maze, almost." It appeared no smoke detectors were activated in the building, which also had no sprinkler system, she added. Friends and families of partygoers took to social media to search for news about their loved ones, with some posting information on the event's Facebook page. "Please tell me you are safe," one woman wrote, adding a friend's name, while others posted prayers.

'Felt my skin peeling'

"I literally felt my skin peeling and my lungs being suffocated by smoke," Bob Mule, a photographer who lives in the building, told Fox television affiliate KTVU. "I couldn't get the fire extinguisher to work." Another artist told the station that the fire broke out in the back of the building where some 18 artists shared space.

The man, who was not identified, said he tried to help a fellow artist who had broken his ankle to flee the inferno, but was obstructed by the smoke and flames as well as the mess of objects. "I hope he is OK," he told the station, his voice breaking up. The fire was described as the deadliest incident in Oakland since the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake in northern California, which killed 63 people. The deadliest nightclub fire in the United States in recent decades broke out in 2003, when pyrotechnic effects by the rock band Great White set off an inferno at The Station nightclub in Rhode Island, killing about 100 people. — AFP

TRUMP ATTENDS 'VILLAINS' PARTY DRESSED AS HIMSELF

NEW YORK: US President-elect Donald Trump attended a "Villains and Heroes" costume party at a major donor's Long Island home on Saturday night, but declined to don any garb that was in keeping with the theme. Trump entered the party hosted by the Mercer family, one of his biggest donors, at their home in the village of Head of the Harbor in St James, NY, wearing a suit and a blue and white checked tie. Security guards at the event however were dressed as biker gang members Hell's Angels.

Trump walked into the home and gave reporters, who were not allowed inside, the thumbs up and posed briefly for photos, but did not respond to questions except to mouth "me," pointing to himself when asked who he was dressed as. Trump spoke briefly at the party, thanking the Mercer family, according to a member of his press team, staying for just under two hours.

It was his only outing from his Manhattan home on Saturday. Early on Sunday, he slammed the latest "Saturday Night Live" on Twitter, calling it "unwatchable." "Totally biased, not funny and the

Baldwin impersonation just can't get any worse. Sad," Trump wrote about Alec Baldwin's recurring appearances on the late night sketch show in which the actor portrays Trump.

None of Trump's immediate family members attended the Long Island party, but his campaign manager, Kellyanne Conway, was on hand, dressed as Super Woman. Trump's designated White House strategist Steve Bannon was also on hand, but appeared not to be in costume. Music by Adele, Lady Gaga, Shakira, Sia and Céline Dion emanated from the Christmas light decorated home. A wifi network set up for the party used the password "HeroesWin!" Robert Mercer, the billionaire at whose mansion on Long Island's tony North Shore the party was held, is co-chief executive of Renaissance Technologies, a hedge fund. Daughter Rebekah Mercer sits on Trump's transition team. Trump is in the midst of choosing cabinet members. Mercer initially supported Ted Cruz for the Republican nomination before putting his support behind Trump in the November presidential election. — Reuters



NEW YORK: Kellyanne Conway, campaign manager for President-elect Donald Trump, smiles as she arrives for a party at the home of Robert Mercer, one of Trump's biggest campaign donors. — AP

RAUL VOWS TO DEFEND FIDEL'S REVOLUTION

SANTIAGO DE CUBA: Cuban President Raul Castro promised Saturday to uphold his brother Fidel's revolution at a massive, final rally in honor of the communist icon before his burial. Tens of thousands of flag-waving supporters recited the pledge with Raul Castro at the Revolution Plaza of Santiago de Cuba, the cradle of Fidel's guerrilla struggle.

"We swear to defend the fatherland and socialism," said Castro, who took over when his brother fell ill in 2006. "Fidel! Fidel! Until victory, always!" Raul Castro said at the evening rally attended

by a few foreign leaders, including Cuba's leftist Latin American allies, such as Venezuela's Nicolas Maduro, Bolivia's Evo Morales and Nicaragua's Daniel Ortega.

Capping a nine-day mourning period, Castro's ashes will be interred on Sunday during a private ceremony at Santa Ifigenia Cemetery, near the mausoleum of 19th-century independence hero Jose Marti.

Raul Castro said that before dying at the age of 90 on November 25, his brother requested that no monuments or statues be erected in his honor, and that

no streets or buildings be named after him. Legislation will be presented at the next national assembly later in December so that "his wish is fulfilled," Castro said.

While he was an omnipresent figure in the lives of Cubans since he came to power in 1959, Fidel Castro always opposed the construction of statues of his likeness and no streets or buildings are named after him in the country. Castro's death on November 25 at age 90 has fueled speculation over the direction the country may take without the omnipresent leader, who ruled for

almost half a century and left behind a divisive legacy.

Tearful supporters have cheered him for the free education and health care he developed on the island, while detractors call him a brutal dictator who imprisoned dissidents and ran the economy into the ground. After Fidel is laid to rest, all eyes will turn to Raul Castro's next move. While he pledged to defend the socialist revolution, the president has implemented modest economic reforms, vowed to step down in 2018 and restored diplomatic ties with the United States. — AFP

WHY JAMMEH LOST: A LOOK AT GAMBIAN LEADER'S DOWNFALL

BANJUL: President Yahya Jammeh scored only half his previous box office tally in last week's election, handing victory to opposition coalition leader Adama Barrow. But why did Gambians turn against Jammeh after 22 years in power?

Economic crisis

A triple blow has been dealt to the Gambian economy in the last three years, making life close to unbearable for many and sending thousands across the Mediterranean to seek a better life in Europe. A 2013 drought was followed by the region's Ebola crisis, which despite never actually touching The Gambia itself scared off tourists who account for 20 percent of the country's GDP. This year the Gambian authorities slapped a

huge increase on customs fees for trucks entering its territory from Senegal, causing a blockade and cutting the country off from vital supplies for months.

Repression and fatigue

The word heard most often on the streets in connection with Jammeh was "tired". Gambians were weary of their country's descent into isolation due to their leader's unpredictable behavior, including the declaration of an Islamic republic in a country with a history of religious tolerance, and its withdrawal from the Commonwealth and the International Criminal Court. The perception that Jammeh simply took over businesses and properties for his personal gain also angered many. Finally, police harassment and impunity by the security

services, especially the National Intelligence Agency that reported directly to Jammeh, fed growing resentment.

Split vote

The opposition coalition pulled in 45.54 of the vote, while Jammeh took 36.66 percent. But third party candidate Mama Kandeh, a former ruling party MP standing for the Gambian Democratic Congress (GDC), pulled in a significant proportion of votes (17.80 percent), largely from typical Jammeh supporters.

Kandeh's spokesman Essa Jallow told AFP: "Mr Kandeh pulled a lot of votes from the ruling party because he was part of them and has a good inside knowledge of the party." Serving as a national assembly member for the ruling Alliance for Patriotic Reorientation and

Construction (APRC) for 10 years, Kandeh was a well-known face that APRC members frustrated by Jammeh could trust.

Coalition

The coalition united a previously weak and divided opposition that joined forces after the jailing of several important figures in the United Democratic Party (UDP) in July. One of eight coalition party leaders, Isatou Touray suspended her own bid for the presidency in the belief a united front was the only way to win. "Seeing the coalition coming together, all the difficulties that they are having, it raises hope, addressing that feeling of fear the state has instilled in people," she told AFP. Several interviewees told AFP they didn't necessarily

support Barrow but wanted Jammeh out at all costs, seeing the coalition as the best way to achieve it.

Ethnic fault-lines

In June, Jammeh made a serious mistake by saying he would "wipe out" Mandinka people who protested against him-The Gambia's largest ethnic group — adding he would put them "where even a fly cannot see them". Jammeh is from the minority Jola people. The comment was condemned as "public stigmatization (and) dehumanization" by the United Nations Special Adviser on genocide, Adama Dieng, who said it was an incitement to violence. In addition, third party candidate Kandeh polled well among his own Fula ethnic group. — AFP

GHANA RASTAS PREACH PEACE AHEAD OF PRESIDENTIAL VOTE

'WE'VE PUT GHANA FIRST BEFORE EVERYTHING'



ACCRA: Rastafarian and tie-dye cloth vendor Martin Quarpong speaks about December 7, 2016 polls at the beachside of the Rising Phoenix hotel. — AFP

ACCRA: Ghana is internationally renowned for being a peaceful country on a continent scarred by ethnic clashes, dictators and crime. So what's its secret? In the days before the hotly contested presidential vote on December 7, Rastafarians in the West African country say they have the answer. "It's because we've put Ghana first before everything," said Martin Quarpong, a Rastafarian in his late 30s wearing a green and orange tie-dye shirt with his hair in a black head-wrap. "We see ourselves as one people and we think about our future."

Despite their dreadlocks and love of tie-dye, in many ways the ubiquitous Rastafarian community in Ghana embodies the country's commitment to peace. Their message of one love isn't so different from that of ordinary Ghanians on the street who pride themselves on respecting each other and the democratic process. "Rastafarians contribute a lot during and after election time. Everything we do is peace, peace, peace," Quarpong told AFP in Ghana's coastal capital of Accra. "We should accept the winner in good faith, and let them know they should put Ghana first."

Quarpong sells clothing at the beachside Rising Phoenix hotel, where a reggae rendition of White Christmas is softly playing in the background. A black and white portrait of the late Ethiopian Emperor Haile Selassie, a Rastafarian idol, is painted on the wall beside posters advertising a "Peace in Ghana" concert featuring local reggae stars Ras Kuuku and Jah Wyz. Just because Quarpong believes in peace over politics doesn't mean he won't vote. In fact, peace is why he'll be casting a ballot next Wednesday. "Yes, of course I will vote. I have to as a patriot," Quarpong said. "It's not compulsory, but it's necessary."

'Perfect harmony'

As the heated campaign enters its final stretch, there is an increasing call for peace in Ghana, where its reputation for stability has made it an attractive destination in Africa for investors. Ghana's presidential candidates including front runners Nana Akufo-Addo and incumbent John Mahama last week signed a declaration "against electoral violence, impunity and injustice."

After signing the accord, Mahama said "our democracy and progress is too precious to be gambled away on a quest to attain or hold onto power." Unlike fellow West African nation Nigeria, plagued by ethnic rivalry and suspicion, Ghana at independence emphasised unity. In his 2012 autobiography, *My First Coup d'Etat*, Mahama wrote that even the motto of his illustrious Accra boarding school, *Ut Omnes Unum Sint* (That All May Be One), reflected that principal.

"You can play a tune of sorts on the black keys only; and you can play a tune of sorts on the white keys only; but for perfect harmony, you must use both the black and the white keys," said one of the school's founders James Aggrey, who Mahama quotes in the book. Rastafarians give credit to the "Big six", Ghana's founding fathers, for entrenching peace. "If you know Nkrumah, you know everything, Ghana is a motherland," said Kwaku Akupleca, a 32-year-old wearing a silver ring shaped as a marijuana leaf.

Kwame Nkrumah led Ghana's liberation movement from British colonialists, becoming the country's first democratic head in 1957 and a hero of the Pan-African movement that championed black unity. "We've seen the light," Akupleca said, speaking at Labadi beach in Accra. "We are very humble and peaceful. We feel like protecting humanity."

'Rasta wonderland'

This inclusive attitude has allowed Rastafari to carve out a space for themselves in Ghana, home today to many different branches, including the Bobo Shanti and The Twelve Tribes of Israel. Some 30 kilometers west of Accra lies Kokrobite, a town described as a "Rasta wonderland" that is a magnet for Rastas in the region and across the Atlantic from the United States and Jamaica.

This year, local media reported that the Rastafari Council of Ghana held its first-ever national conference, with a focus on repatriating "brothers and sisters." In 2013, Bob Marley's widow Rita was named an honorary citizen of Ghana. Jamaican reggae legend Marley himself is regarded as a prophet in the Rasta community. Not everyone sees eye-to-eye with the Rastafarians, but most can agree that a peaceful Ghana is better for all. "When you have peace it's better than riches, you can be rich without peace of mind," Akupleca's friend Kwaku Francis said. "It's all about peace and love, that's our motto." — AFP



MADRID: Cuban born Spanish retired economist, Jose Manuel Presol poses with a book on Cuba. — AFP

SPANISH SEEKS TO RECOVER PROPERTIES SEIZED IN CUBA

MADRID: When Arturo Gonzalez's father fled Cuba half a century ago all he could take with him on the flight to Madrid was a suitcase with his clothes-and his glasses. Militiamen ordered him to strip at the airport before confiscating his watch, ring and all other valuables, Gonzalez said. "It was total humiliation," he said. "Everything of value went to the revolution."

It was 1964 and by then the new communist government of Fidel Castro had already confiscated all of the family's property, including a farm in the eastern province of Las Tunas and several warehouses in Havana. Gonzalez's father died in 1981. Now Gonzalez, a 58-year-old business professor who left Cuba when he was a baby, and his sister are trying to get the property back or, at least, be compensated for the loss.

They are one of 260 Spanish families who lost properties in Cuba after Castro took power in 1959 whose claims for compensation are being represented by the 1898 Company, an investment fund. The firm, set up in 2001, is in talks to represent over 400 other Spanish families as well. The claimants see no chance of success as long as Cuba remains firmly in the grips of the repressive political system installed by Castro, who died last month at the age of 90. But they believe the regime will eventually collapse and they will then be able to press their claims with a new democratic government that will be eager to settle the issue as it seeks much-needed foreign investment.

'New Scenario'

Castro in 2008 handed over the reins to his 85-year-old brother Raul, who has said he will step aside in 2018. Many analysts question if the regime will be able to survive his retirement or death. "When the regime will end we don't know but the process has started," said Jordi Cabarrocas, the founder and head of the 1898 Company. "A new system that comes after a dictatorship needs to create a new scenario to draw investment. Returning seized property will reassure anyone who invests in Cuba that their property will be respected."

The firm analyzed 40 other similar cases in other nations such as in Eastern Europe over the past century and 90 percent of the time seized assets were recovered, Cabarrocas said. Families that sign up with the 1898 Company do not pay any fees but the firm will keep 30 percent of whatever it recovers for its clients.

For now the company is helping its clients prove they owned properties in Cuba to be ready when the opportunity arises to press their claims. While four hundred years of Spanish colonial rule ended in Cuba in 1898, Spaniards continued to predominate among the island's wealthy landowners and shop owners at the time of the revolution.

"The Spanish were a prosperous community. They monopolized the retail sector," said Consuelo Naranjo Orovio, a historian with the Spanish National Research Council. No official estimate exists for the total value of assets seized from Spanish families. Cabarrocas calculates the farms, warehouses and other assets seized from his company's clients would be worth about \$2.5 billion (2.34 billion euros) now.

'The house is yours'

Madrid and Havana signed an agreement in 1986 in which Cuba agreed to pay \$40 million in compensation for some seized assets—one-third in cash and the rest in goods like tobacco. Richard Feinberg, a fellow at the Brookings Institution in Washington and a veteran of posts in the White House who has written extensively about Cuba, said "such an accord normally closes the door on any future claimants."

"It would require an extraordinary series of events for Spanish property claimants to have another bite at the apple," he told AFP. But the 1898 Company argues the 1986 agreement was not a final settlement. The Spanish Supreme Court has since ruled that even those who received some partial compensation under that agreement did not give up their rights to seek further reparation under international law, it adds.

Many claimants say their main motivation is to seek justice for their families, not financial gain since they know seized properties are in bad shape or occupied by others now. Jose Manuel Presol, who is seeking to recover the Havana apartment where he grew up, said he has no interest in kicking out the family that likely lives there now if he were to win the flat back. The 63-year-old retired economist was born in Havana but came to Spain when his parents were expelled from Cuba in 1967 when he was 15. "I would tell them: 'Look I ask you for one thing. Let me catch a breeze on the veranda once in a while so I can recall my childhood. The house is yours,'" he said as his eyes welled with tears. — AFP

LOCAL POLITICIAN, REPORTERS KILLED IN FINLAND SHOOTING

HELSINKI: A gunman killed a local town councillor and two journalists in an apparent random shooting in a nightlife district in a small town in southeastern Finland, police said yesterday. A man has been detained on suspicion of murder. The chairwoman of Imatra Town Council and two female reporters were gunned down in a pedestrian area outside a restaurant in the town just before a police patrol car arrived to the scene around midnight Saturday, police spokeswoman Heli Jansen-Turkki said. Police said two of the victims were in their early 50s and one was in her mid-30s.

Police detained a 23-year-old local man who didn't resist arrest. He fired four or five shots, hitting his victims in

the head and torso with a hunting rifle, authorities said. Saku Tielenin, who is leading the investigation, said the suspect had a criminal record, including for violent incidents and theft but declined to identify him or give more details. "There is no indication of a political motive. It seems the gunman and victims didn't know each other," Tielenin said. "All indications are that he chose his victims randomly."

Investigators will question him later Sunday. The suspect arrived outside the restaurant in his car and shot the three women as they stepped out of the restaurant. He then waited in the car until police arrived and accompanied officers silently and peacefully, police said. Imatra, which has 28,000

inhabitants, is about 230 kilometers east of the capital, Helsinki.

"We decided to open a crisis center after the shooting occurred right in the middle of the town near restaurants and nightclubs," said Saara Raudasoja, a spokeswoman for the South Karelia Social and Health Care District. "There were people there when it happened. In such a small place, it's quite a huge incident and many people were shocked."

In Finland, a country of 5.4 million people with strong hunting traditions, there are 650,000 officially recognized gun owners although homicides with guns are unusual. But after two fatal school shootings early this decade, gun laws have been tightened. — AP



IMATRA: Police guard the area where three people were killed in a shooting incident at a restaurant. — AFP

RUSSIAN SECURITY SERVICE: CAUCASUS IS 'EMIR' KILLED

MOSCOW: Russia's FSB security service said yesterday it had killed an "emir" of the Islamic State group in a raid in the volatile North Caucasus. The FSB said in a statement that "among the neutralized bandits was the head of the Caucasus region's branch of the Islamic State Rustam Aselderov, and four of his close associates."

The FSB said that 35-year-old Aselderov was involved in blasts in the southern Russian city of Volgograd which killed 34 in 2013. He was fighting for another Caucasus insurgent group at the time. It also linked him to twin car blasts in Dagestan in 2012 that killed 14 and injured at least 120. The FSB said he also organized a

foiled attack that was to take place on Moscow's Red Square on New Year's Eve 2010 involving two female suicide bombers.

The warlord pledged allegiance to IS leader Abu Bakr Al-Baghdadi in December 2014, the first major militant to do so in the Caucasus. IS named Aselderov, also known as Sheikh Abu Mohammad al-Qadiri, the governor of a new Caucasus province. IS has since claimed responsibility for a number of attacks on police in Dagestan. Aselderov previously fought with the local Caucasus Emirate insurgent group, taking over as leader of its Dagestan branch in 2012, the FSB said.

In 2015 the US Department of State imposed sanctions on Aselderov as a "foreign terrorist fighter" after the jihadist group appointed him leader of its North Caucasus franchise. Russia in October offered a 5 million ruble (\$78,000) reward for information on Aselderov's whereabouts. The FSB said a joint operation with the interior ministry had cornered Aselderov and his fighters in a private house in the city of Makhachkala, where they found "automatic weapons and a large amount of ammunition and explosives." The Russian North Caucasus is one of the major sources of foreign jihadists fighting in Syria and Iraq. — AFP



DHAKA: Bangladeshi Railway Minister Mujibul Haque shakes hands with railway lineman Billal Hossain Mazumder, 50. — AFP

BANGLADESH HONOURS HUMBLE RAIL HERO AFTER DARING RESCUE

DHAKA: A humble rail worker who shot to fame for pulling a suicidal man off train tracks was honored by Bangladesh authorities yesterday, as footage of his heroism went viral. Railway lineman Billal Hossain Mazumder, 50, put his life on the line last month by dragging 34-year-old Mohammad Mamun out of harm's way as a train approached.

"I hoisted the red flag to signal the driver to stop the train, but within an instance, I realised it would be too late," Mazumder said. "I knew I might die but I also knew if I didn't try to save him, a young stranger's face would haunt me for the rest of my life," Mazumder told AFP. CCTV Footage of the entire incident went viral on social media with hundreds of Bangladeshis, many from abroad, applauding Mazumder for his heroic act.

The father of four, who earns less than \$100 a month, said he did not

have time to consider his own welfare when he jumped on the tracks to save Mamun. "I would do it again... life is precious. No one should commit suicide even in the face of unbearable pain," said Mazumder. Bangladesh's railway minister Mujibul Haque called Mazumder a "hero" at a ceremony in Dhaka and rewarded him with a 100,000 taka in cash for his gallantry.

"He has set an example for mankind and made us truly proud," the minister said, assuring Mazumder that his son would be given a job at the railway department. Railway accidents are common in Bangladesh where some 40 percent of around 2,500 rail crossings are unmanned and exposed to fatal accidents. In the last six years 152 people were killed in railway accidents. In addition, scores of people, mostly drug addicts, chose railway tracks to take their own lives. — AFP

CANNABIS SOLE LIVELIHOOD IN REMOTE INDIAN VILLAGE

ONE OF THE WORLD'S TOP STONER DESTINATIONS

MALANA: For hundreds of years, the tiny village was just a speck lost amid the grandiose mountains of the Indian Himalayas. Nestled at 2,700 meters between the higher reaches of the lush Kullu Valley, Malana used to be a four-day hike from the nearest road. Its laws, tradition says, were laid down by the village god Jamlu. People elected their own parliament and disputes were settled in their own court. Villagers would run in terror if an outsider showed up.

But Malana is hidden no more. For centuries, the villagers have been growing the plant that has made Malana one of the world's top stoner destinations, and a battleground - at least symbolically - for India's haphazard fight against "charas," the black and sticky hashish that has made the village famous. In 1985, the Indian government gave in to international pressure and banned the production and consumption of cannabis. Possession of a kilogram of charas - a THC-rich extract derived from rubbing out the resin from freshly cut marijuana buds - is punishable by a minimum 10 years' imprisonment.

Part of tradition

In the sleepy mountainous states of North India, marijuana has grown indigenously for hundreds of years. Local lawmakers and officials say the plant is part of their tradition and empathize with people in steep, remote villages who consider cannabis the only cash crop they can grow in harsh weather and geographic conditions. Maheshwar Singh, a local lawmaker and the descendant head of the royal family of Kullu, said a look at the old tax books shows that the plant was legally cultivated and sold for decades before India's drug law.

"It was a multipurpose plant for these people," said the burly, cheerful 67-year-old, pointing out the local usage of hemp fibers in making ropes and traditional "pula" slippers that continue to be the only footwear allowed for pilgrims. The people of Malana have to haul rations and wood for kilometers (miles) to get it into the village. Though a shabby road has cut the arduous trek to only an hour and a ropeway is being used to transport heavy cargo, the villagers still spend half the year collecting essentials from nature. The other half is spent in hibernation as

the bitter winter buries the village under snow.

Every morning, Gori Massi slowly starts the trek to her field, sometimes singing to herself as she walks up a rocky trail. Walking at a pace of a 20-year-old, the wrinkles on her face and hands are the only indication of her age; she is 80. It will take her an hour to get to her plants that are hidden far away from the village near the forest line. She will sit there all day, curing high-potency marijuana buds and rubbing them between her palms to juice out the resin that smears her hands black.

After collecting about 20 grams (0.71 ounces) of goopy hashish that would fetch her anywhere between \$50 to \$150, she decides to call it a day. And prays the police spare her fields this year. "Wheat and other grains don't grow on this land," Massi said. "Nothing else grows here. We have to live like that, and whatever plants we do have are cut down by the police. What can we do?"

The aromatic "Malana Cream" - a variety of oily hash produced in the village from higher-potency plants with hybrid seeds - has earned legendary status among pot smokers around the world. Consumed mostly with tobacco, in a joint or a chillum, the pungent hash has found its way into coffee shops in Amsterdam and won the High Times Cannabis Cup at least twice.

In India, this fame has meant an influx of foreign and local tourists into Parvati Valley, a group of mountains around the Parvati River near Malana, that has grown each year in the past decade. "It's just become a destination for international cool people, stoners, hikers," said Florent Dupont, 32, as he sipped tea and rolled a joint in a guesthouse. "People know they can get the freshest, nicest product," the filmmaker from France added. The valley is teeming with young Israelis, many draped in colorful shawls and wearing their hair into ropey dreadlocks, who come for a therapeutic experience after years of military service.

Singh said it is this frenzied popularity of local hashish that has exploded the cultivation of cannabis in the valley. In 2016, the local government estimates 240 hectares of land in the region was used for cannabis cultivation, producing more than 12,000 kilograms of hashish. The real numbers are much higher as plants are

grown on steep edges of high mountains that are impossible for the police to reach.

Rising price

While the rising demand and price of charas has benefited the villagers, it has also led to a slight increase in prosecutions and prompted the government to send machete-wielding police and forest personnel on long treks to destroy a small percentage of the marijuana fields. Villagers claim they have an understanding with local officials, who tell them to push their fields away from the village and into forest land, where they cannot be prosecuted for a field that's not on their land. Police strategy has mainly focused on destroying cannabis fields on forest land. The few villagers who have been arrested and are serving time for trafficking have been picked up in cities like New Delhi, Chandigarh and Goa.

But it is impossible to destroy mountains full of weed. Singh, who has visited Malana several times during election campaigns and is revered by inhabitants because of his royal lineage, said the government needs a different approach to tackle the problem.

"I feel they have a reason to stick to that plantation because that is the only way they can earn their living," Singh said. "The government of India had made a policy that they would be provided some alternative employment. But that we have not been able to do." In Malana, Massi's middle-aged son Jabe Ram is preparing to take a statue of the village god Jamlu on a pilgrimage across the daunting mountain of Rasol to bathe it in holy water in a temple in the neighboring valley. It will take him five days to return. One man from each household in the village must accompany him, as is tradition.

It means they will be five days away from the fields and rubbing. But Ram isn't worried; the harvest season will go on for another few weeks. "They want us to completely stop growing marijuana. But we keep sowing it," Ram said. "If the government helped us in some way and protected us from hunger and cold, we would maybe consider stopping. Obviously, we are not going to go hungry. Even if we have to go to jail for it, so be it." — AP

SUU KYI MUST STOP ROHINGYA 'GENOCIDE': MALAYSIA PREMIER

KUALA LUMPUR: Aung San Suu Kyi must step in to prevent the "genocide" of Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar, Malaysia's prime minister said yesterday as he mocked the Nobel laureate for her inaction. Addressing a 5,000-strong rally in Kuala Lumpur, Najib Razak said the Myanmar government must stop the bloody crackdown in its far west that has sent thousands of Rohingyas fleeing, many with stories of rape, torture and murder.

"What's the use of Aung San Suu Kyi having a Nobel prize?" Najib asked a raucous crowd. "We want to tell Aung San Suu Kyi, enough is enough... We must and we will defend Muslims and Islam," he said as supporters chanted "Allahu Akbar" ("God is greater"). "We want the OIC (Organisation of Islamic Cooperation) to act. "Please do something. The UN do something. The world cannot sit and watch genocide taking place," said Najib.

More than 10,000 Rohingyas have fled to Bangladesh in recent weeks, the United Nations said on Wednesday, escaping a bloody army crackdown in the north of Rakhine state. Arrivals in Bangladesh have told AFP horrifying stories of gang rape, torture and murder at the hands of Myanmar's security forces. Myanmar has denied allegations of abuse, but has also banned foreign journalists and independent investigators from the area.

Muslim-majority Malaysia has recently upped its criticism of Myanmar for its

handling of the crisis. Last month it summoned the Myanmar ambassador, while around 500 Malaysians and Rohingyas marched to the embassy in the Malaysian capital carrying banners denouncing the "genocide." A senior minister has called on ASEAN, the ten-country Southeast Asia bloc, to review Myanmar's membership, while a strongly worded statement from the foreign ministry Saturday accused Myanmar of engaging in "ethnic cleansing." But analysts said yesterday the issue is a convenient smokescreen for Najib, who is fighting allegations he took part in the looting of billions of dollars of public cash through state fund 1MDB.

Both he and the fund deny any wrongdoing. James Chin, director of the Asia Institute at the University of Tasmania, told AFP that Najib "is there (at the rally) to boost his standing as an Islamic leader," with a general election looming. "Najib is looking for anything to make him look good and the Rohingya issue is simply a tool," said Bridget Welsh, a Malaysia politics expert with Turkey's Ipek University. She added that if Najib's government really cared for the Rohingyas, they would "reexamine their own treatment of the community within Malaysia."

Malaysia might be a beacon for Rohingyas fleeing Myanmar but many have said they end up in a precarious and stateless limbo and suffer a new kind of marginalization. — AFP



MALANA: In this Wednesday, Oct 5, 2016 photo, elderly villagers sunbathe at the village square. — AP

GHANI CRITICIZES PAKISTAN FOR 'UNDECLARED WAR'

NEW DELHI: Afghan President Ashraf Ghani accused Pakistan yesterday of waging an "undeclared war" and said Taliban insurgents battling his government would not last a month without sanctuary in the neighboring state. Ghani also urged Pakistan to spend around \$500 million pledged in aid for Afghanistan to tackle extremism instead.

"Despite our intense engagement with Pakistan on bilateral and multilateral basis, the undeclared war... not only has not abated but also intensified during 2016 with special intensity," Ghani said. "One of the key figures in the Taliban movement recently said if they didn't have a sanctuary in Pakistan, they wouldn't last a month," he added.

The Taliban were toppled from power by a US-led invasion in 2001 and have battled the Kabul government and its foreign allies since then. Afghan officials accuse Pakistan of supporting the Taliban and continuing to provide sanctuaries on its soil in hopes of maintaining influence in Afghanistan. The Afghan leader was speaking at the sixth ministerial conference of the Heart of Asia - Istanbul Process, a dialogue on ways to encourage security, political and economic cooperation among Afghanistan and its neighbors.

Growth and stability

Delegations from more than a dozen countries including Pakistan, China, Russia, Turkey and Iran attended the conference in the northern Indian city of Amritsar yesterday. They discussed challenges to the long-term growth and stability of the war-torn country. India, the fifth largest bilateral donor to Afghanistan, has been a key supporter of Kabul's government and has poured more than \$2 billion into the country since the Taliban were toppled.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi yesterday promised his country's support for peace while also indirectly criticising Pakistan's role in the region. "Terrorism and externally-induced instability pose the gravest threat to Afghanistan's peace, stability and prosperity," he said. "It (support for peace) must be backed by resolute action. Not just against forces of terrorism, but also against those who support, shelter, train and finance them," Modi added, hinting at Pakistan. Both the Indian and Afghan leaders in recent months have vocally blamed Pakistan for its support for groups and individuals behind

attacks in their countries. Pakistan-the historic backer of the Taliban-has long been accused of supporting the insurgents in Afghanistan, especially with attacks on Indian targets in the country. Last December Modi inaugurated Afghanistan's new parliament complex in Kabul, built by India at an estimated cost of \$90 million. A few days after his visit militants launched a 25-hour gun and bomb siege near the Indian consulate in the northern Afghan city of Mazar-i-Sharif.

And in March Taliban militants fired a barrage of rockets at the parliament complex. In an earlier bilateral meeting Modi and

Ghani discussed a range of issues including improved connectivity, trade, investment and terrorism. Ghani, in his address yesterday, said they had reached agreement on an air cargo corridor between the two countries. The strained ties between India and Pakistan have impeded any progress on land transport links between India and Afghanistan. The two countries also recently signed a three-way transit agreement with Iran to develop the southern Iranian port of Chabahar. The deal, bypassing Pakistan to connect Iran, India and Afghanistan to Central Asia, is expected to boost economic growth in the region. — AFP



AMRITSAR: Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi (R) shakes hands with Afghan President Ashraf Ghani (L) during the 6th Heart of Asia (HoA) Ministerial Conference. — AFP

US WOMAN ALLEGES RAPE IN NEW DELHI

NEW DELHI: A US woman has told police she was gang-raped at a top hotel in the Indian capital during a visit earlier this year-the latest in a series of alleged sexual assaults against tourists. Delhi police launched a formal investigation Saturday after receiving a direct complaint from the woman, who is in the United States and had initially contacted them through an email by a US-based NGO.

"The police have registered a case of rape and will now verify all aspects of the woman's complaint," Joint Commissioner of police Mukesh Meena told AFP. "We had received the email (from the US-based NGO) earlier but could register a case only after getting a direct complaint from the woman late Saturday," the officer added. Foreign Minister Sushma Swaraj urged police to "bring guilty to book" after initial media reports of the incident. "I have also asked Indian Ambassador in US to contact the victim and assure her that we will not spare the guilty," she tweeted on Saturday.

Local media reports, citing police sources, said the woman had travelled to India in April but cut her visit short after the alleged crime. The woman has complained that her local tour guide, who had access to her room, gave her a spiked bottle of water and raped her with four other acquaintances inside her hotel room. "She said that after having water from the bottle, she started feeling dizzy. Then four other men... entered the room and locked it," a report in the Sunday Times of India said.

Police are now verifying the woman's timeline and tracking the suspects, including by checking security camera footage from the hotel. Sexual attacks on tourists in India are widespread, with several western countries warning visitors about the risk. A 35-year-old Japanese tourist was raped in southern India last month. Last year a Japanese woman was drugged and raped by a tourist guide in the western city of Jaipur, less than a month after six men gang-raped a 22-year-old Japanese tourist in the eastern city of Kolkata. — AFP

AUSTRALIA MURDER CHARGE AFTER TOURIST STABBING

SYDNEY: A man has been charged with murder after a French tourist was stabbed in the neck in an unprovoked attack in the Australian outback, police said. The French national named in local media as 33-year-old Philippe Jegouzo and his wife were at a rest stop on the Stuart Highway an hour north of Alice Springs on Wednesday when the incident happened. The alleged attacker,

reportedly from the southern city of Melbourne, stabbed Jegouzo who died at the scene, before fleeing in a vehicle. He was arrested on Thursday, police said.

"Northern Territory Police have charged a 35-year-old man with murder in relation to the death of a French national at Conners Well on Wednesday evening," police said in a statement late Saturday. "The man has been remanded

in custody to appear in Alice Springs Local Court on Monday. Investigations are continuing."

Jegouzo's wife, named in Australian newspapers as 30-year-old Aurelie Chorer, tried to save her husband by hitting the accused attacker on the head with a picnic table, the NT News reported. The killing was about 180 kilometers from the shooting death of British back-

packer Peter Falconio on the Stuart Highway in 2001. Former mechanic Bradley John Murdoch was sentenced to life imprisonment for the murder.

Police said the latest attack was a "bizarre" occurrence and other travelers should not fear for their safety. "This is bizarre, obscure and could not have been predicted on any scale," Detective Superintendent Travis Wurst told

reporters Friday. "There are no safety concerns for any tourist or any traveler or any resident of Alice Springs or Central Australia whatsoever."

The Stuart Highway, a popular tourist drive, is the principal north-south route through Australia's remote central interior, spanning nearly 3,000 kilometers from Darwin via Alice Springs to Port Augusta. — AFP

TRUMP'S CALL INSPIRES HOPE IN TAIWAN, CONCERN IN BEIJING

NO US PRESIDENT HAS PUBLICLY SPOKEN TO TAIWAN

TAIPEI: With a 10-minute phone call and two tweets, Donald Trump inspired banner headlines and renewed hopes across Taiwan for a stronger partnership with the United States, while also inflaming the complex relationships between the US, mainland China, and the self-governing island China regards as a renegade province.

Whether the US president-elect meant to jump into the generational fight between China and Taiwan remains an open question. But by speaking to Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen, Trump upended four decades of American foreign policy and engaged China directly on the issue of Taiwan, which Beijing has threatened to reclaim by force if necessary. No American president or president-elect has publicly spoken to Taiwan's leader since the US ended their formal diplomatic relationship in 1979.

Unacceptable acknowledgements

Four of his words drew particular attention in Taiwanese newspapers: Trump's reference, in a follow-up tweet, to Tsai being "the President of Taiwan." The phrase is far from benign for China, which regards any reference to a Taiwanese president as an unacceptable acknowledgement of Taiwan's statehood. Official Chinese pronouncements typically refer to the Taiwanese

president as "the Taiwan regional leader." Chinese leaders have indicated they dislike Tsai, who was elected in January from a pro-Taiwan independence party and became the island's first female president. An editorial from the state-run China Daily newspaper admonished Tsai and said the call would "bring nothing substantial but illusionary pride." As for Trump, the newspaper said the incident "came as a striking move," but was not as important as "it seems to be." Taiwanese are generally considered to support independence or the status quo, in which China and Taiwan maintain robust social and economic exchanges while the island retains its democracy and de facto independence, over unification with China.

China President Xi Jinping, however, has warned that the issue of unification cannot be put off indefinitely. Yang Chih-kai, a 22-year-old university student at Taiwan's Tamkang University, said Saturday that the call raised Taiwanese hopes for a stronger relationship with the United States. "People will think that the US will keep on helping Taiwan protect itself against China's threat," Yang said. Chen Chun-hao, a 43-year-old designer, said Trump might "bring more help" to Taiwan now that both sides had opened a dialogue. "I believe that this could help Taiwan

in its international status and its global situation," Chen said.

Kao-cheng Wang, dean of Tamkang University's college of international studies, said he believes Trump might increase American military exports to Taiwan, over Beijing's vociferous opposition, and try to strengthen economic ties between the two sides. "Trump will not be restricted by the established foreign policy," Wang said. "The diplomatic policy may be flexible after he takes office."

Treatment of Taiwan

China cut off diplomatic contact with Taiwan in June, one month after Tsai took office, accusing her of refusing to endorse the concept that Taiwan is a part of China. Last month, Xi met with Taiwan's opposition leader, Nationalist Party Chairwoman Hung Hsiu-chu. The Taiwanese presidential office said Trump and Tsai discussed issues affecting Asia and the future of US relations with Taiwan. Tsai also told Trump that she hoped the US would support Taiwan in its participation in international affairs, the office said, in an apparent reference to China's efforts to isolate Taiwan from global institutions such as the United Nations. Taiwan's presidential office spokesman Alex Huang said separately that Taiwan's relations with China and "healthy" Taiwan-US relations can proceed in parallel. "There is no conflict (in that)," he told reporters in Taipei on Saturday. After Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi blamed Taiwanese leaders Saturday for playing a "small trick," China said it would issue a diplomatic complaint with Washington.

That is likely only the beginning of China's response, said Douglas Paal, a former director of the American Institute in Taiwan, which unofficially represents US interests in Taipei. Wang's comment "is intended to give time for Trump to back away from or desist from moves to elevate treatment of Taiwan," said Paal, now vice president for studies at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. "China will watch carefully to see what he does. But Taiwan will be seen as in need of some form of punishment."

One potential move for China is to apply new pressure to the 22 states that have formal diplomatic ties with Taipei, Paal said. Most of the world and the United Nations already recognize Beijing as the official government of China. What happens next will hinge on whether the call is seen as a "complicated accident" or an intentional signal of new policy, Paal said. "Beijing will watch closely to see which it is," he said. "But until someone from Trump Tower explains further, it is unknowable." — AP



MANILA: In this file photo taken on July 1, 2016 shows Philippines' President Rodrigo Duterte (R) posing for photographs with Vice-President Leni Robredo after the military parade at the military headquarters. — AFP

PHILIPPINE VICE-PRESIDENT CLAIMS PLOT TO OUST HER

MANILA: Philippine Vice-President Leni Robredo announced yesterday she would quit President Rodrigo Duterte's cabinet after being told to stay away from his meetings, and said there was a plot to oust her as his deputy. Robredo did not say who was behind the alleged plot to remove her as vice-president. But she cited "major differences in principles and values" with Duterte, such as over the rash of extrajudicial killings during his "war on drugs" and the hero's burial he granted for dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

In the Philippines the president and vice-president are elected separately. Duterte and Robredo come from rival parties. "I had been warned of a plot to steal the Vice-Presidency. I have chosen to ignore this and focus on the job at hand. But the events of recent days indicate that this plot is now being set in motion," Robredo said in a statement on her Facebook page. "I will not allow the Vice-Presidency to be stolen. I will not allow the will of the people to be thwarted," despite leaving the cabinet, she said. "We received a text (SMS) message last Saturday from Cabinet Secretary (Leoncio) Evasco, relating the President's instruction... for me to desist from attending all Cabinet meetings starting this Monday, December 5." "This is the last straw, because it makes it impossible for me to perform my duties," Robredo said. She had been appointed to the cabinet as a housing official.

Foreign criticism

Duterte's war on drugs has claimed thousands of lives and sparked international criticism, including from key ally the United States and the UN. He has struck back by calling US President Barack Obama a "son of a whore" and UN chief Ban Ki-moon a "fool." Duterte's spokesman Martin Andanan, interviewed on ABS-CBN television yesterday, confirmed Robredo's departure from the cabinet and cited "irreconcilable differences."

Regarding the alleged plot to unseat her from the vice-presidency, Andanan said: "If there is a plot, that plot did not come from the camp of the president." "Tomorrow, let us see if the president actually accepts her resignation (from the cabinet)," he added. Evasco confirmed separately that he had sent Robredo a message, telling her not to attend further cabinet meetings on the instructions of Duterte. He said there was no order to strip Robredo of her housing position. Duterte won presidential elections in May after pledging to kill tens of thousands of drug suspects, warning that otherwise the Philippines would turn into a narco-state. Since he assumed office, some 4,800 people have been killed by police or unidentified attackers. Other differences cited by Robredo were the government's moves to bring back the death penalty, to lower the age of criminal liability to nine and "sexual attacks against women." — AFP



SHANGHAI: This file photo taken on November 14, 2016 shows a copy of the local Chinese magazine Global People with a cover story that translates to "Why did Trump win" at a news stand. — AFP

KOREA POLITICAL CRISIS PROVES PERILS OF CHEATING AT SCHOOL

SEOUL: When South Korea's Park Geun-Hye looks back on the scandal-fueled implosion of her presidency, she may reflect ruefully on what lit the first fuse—a parent pulling strings over a child's education. Park's downfall was the result of her friendship with Choi Soon-Sil—a secretive, long-time confidante who stands accused of meddling in state affairs, squeezing tens of millions of dollars from local companies and amassing a fortune by leveraging her ties to the president.

It's a damning list of charges, but one that may never have come to light but for a fatal misstep by Choi two years ago in using her influence to secure her daughter's admission to an elite university. This was the first loose thread pulled at by investigators probing Choi, and one that swiftly unraveled the entire scandal that now looks set to cost Park her presidency. According to a formal audit, Choi's daughter, Chung Yoo-Ra, was given preferential treatment when applying to Ewha Womans' University in 2014 and was admitted at the expense of other candidates with better qualifications. As a student, she was given a perfect attendance record despite cutting some classes, and her high grades did not reflect her actual academic performance. In the light of the far more dramatic revelations that followed, Choi's string-pulling on her daughter's behalf might seem like a relatively minor infraction.

Sacred education

But while South Koreans have become resigned to a certain degree of corruption and influence-peddling, there are a few sacred cows that even the most powerful mess with at their peril—and education tops the list. A rigorously meritocratic education system lies at the heart of South Korea's stellar rise from the ashes of the 1950-53 Korean War to Asia's fourth-largest economy.

The system is highly competitive and can take a distressing toll on young students who devote their teenage years to studying for the national college entrance exam. Admission to one of a handful of elite universities—such as Ewha—is seen as vital to a student's future prosperity, social standing and even marriage prospects. But however cut-throat it might be, there is steadfast public faith and trust in the exam's fairness, with every applicant sitting the same paper on the same day, and a formalized marking

system. That faith is summed up in a term popular for decades, "a dragon from a ditch"—a person of modest means who rose to success through education and hard work.

Model 'dragons'

Model "dragons" include former president Lee Myung-Bak, who worked as a garbageman to earn college tuition, and his predecessor Roh Moo-Hyun—a poor farmer's son who self-studied to pass a bar exam. "The long-held belief that even those who are poor and from a humble background can rise up the social ladder through education has been a major strength of our society," the daily Dong-A Ilbo said in a recent editorial. "But Chung and Choi shattered this faith and hope spectacularly," it said.

Park's presidency has coincided with growing disquiet over a widening disparity in incomes and opportunities—an inequality now embodied in the public mind by Choi and her daughter. In a now-infamous Facebook posting in 2014, Chung flaunted her privilege, saying: "Money is part of your talent. If you don't have talent, blame your parents." The depth of anger over Chung's admission to Ewha has been illustrated by the large number of high-school students who have taken part in weekly mass demonstrations that have seen millions march through the streets of Seoul and other cities.

"I was so angry about Chung and couldn't even sleep when I first heard about her scandal," said Jenny Park, a 16-year-old high school student. "What's the point of studying night and day when the rich and powerful can rig the whole system so easily?" she said, waving a banner reading "We didn't study hard for this." Prosecutors have accused Park Geun-Hye of colluding with Choi, and the president's approval rating among students—and pretty much the entire under-40 demographic—is currently close to zero.

Challenged youth

In many ways, young South Koreans face bigger challenges than their parents' generation who enjoyed ample and relatively equal opportunities during the rapid growth that peaked in the 1970s and 80s. As the economy slowed and firms hit by a global downturn stopped hiring, the jobless rate has increased, reaching a record high in February of 12.5 percent for those under 30. — AFP

INDONESIANS RALLY FOR TOLERANCE AFTER MASS BLASPHEMY PROTESTS

JAKARTA: Tens of thousands of Indonesians rallied in the center of the capital Jakarta yesterday, calling for tolerance and unity after massive protests by conservative Muslims against the city's minority Christian governor. The crowds filled a major traffic circle in the heart of the city and sprawled into its main thoroughfares. The demonstrators waved "We Are Indonesia" signs and a giant red-and-white national flag was held aloft by hundreds of people.

The capital of Indonesia, the world's most populous Muslim nation, has been rocked in the past month by two major protests against Gov Basuki "Ahok" Tjahaja Purnama, who is being prosecuted for alleged blasphemy. The movement against Ahok, who is the first ethnic Chinese to be governor of Jakarta and the first Christian in half a century, has raised communal

tensions and challenged Indonesia's reputation for practicing a moderate brand of Islam.

A demonstration against Ahok on Friday drew at least 200,000 people. An anti-Ahok protest on Nov 4 attracted at least 100,000 people and turned violent, with one dead and dozens of protesters and police injured. Hardline Muslim groups are demanding Ahok's immediate arrest. Police say his detention is not necessary and have called for the legal process to be respected.

Yesterday's rally coincided with a weekly car-free morning in Jakarta when a central artery of the city is handed over to pedestrians for a few hours. Police estimated 30,000 people turned up, said Jakarta police spokesman Argo Yuwono. Organizers called it the "Parade of Indonesian Culture" and it featured traditional dances from

Sabang in westernmost Aceh to Merauke in easternmost Papua.

National leaders of political parties under the pro-government coalition behind President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo, an ally of Ahok, delivered short speeches on the importance of keeping the ethnically diverse nation united. "We have to fight to materialize the aims of our independence. That will not happen if we are scattered, blaspheming, humiliating each other and no longer trust each other," Surya Paloh, chairman of the National Democratic Party, said from the main stage. "Our main enemies are stupidity and poverty. Therefore we ask the current government to work harder and always consistently with the people's aspirations," Paloh said. Blasphemy is a criminal offense in Indonesia and punishable by up to five years in prison. — AP



JAKARTA: Balinese dancers perform during a rally. — AP



Seagulls fly over a parking lot at Liberty State Park on Saturday in Jersey City, New Jersey. — AP

QATAR SITE CUTS OUTPUT

DUBAI: Qatar's most popular English-language news website said yesterday it will scale back operations after authorities blocked it in what managers have described as a "clear act of censorship". Doha News, which published several sensitive articles earlier this year, has been blocked since Wednesday in a move condemned by Amnesty International as "alarming". Qatari authorities are already facing international scrutiny after controversially winning the right to host the 2022 football World Cup.

The website said in a statement that blocking access to it in Qatar was "an intentional act, in part due to issues with our licensing". "In the interest of protecting our team, we will be reducing the number of articles we publish until we can resolve the problem and get dohanews.co unblocked," said the website, adding that its managers are still in contact with officials in the Gulf country.

"At the same time, we reject the idea that our news website should be blocked over licensing concerns - this is a clear act of censorship, and a fairly unprecedented one in

Qatar," Doha News added. The website, which says it has an audience of around one million unique users per month, was seemingly blocked by the country's Internet service providers, Ooredoo and Vodafone.

"Deliberately blocking people in Qatar from accessing a legitimate news website would be an outright attack on media freedom," said the deputy director of London-based Amnesty International, James Lynch. As the home of the Al-Jazeera news network and a center dedicated to promoting global media freedom, "Qatar should be at the forefront of those championing freedom of the press," he added.

Two months ago, Doha News carried an editorial which charged that Qatar's cybercrime law was being used to "silence" people. Earlier this year, it published an anonymous article by a gay Qatari man. Homosexuality is illegal in the emirate. The website - still available outside Qatar - offered readers inside the emirate alternatives ways to access it, including by subscribing to its newsletter. — AFP

FAKE US EMBASSY SHUT DOWN, ISSUED VISAS...

Continued from Page 1

unhindered. "The criminals running the operation were able to pay off corrupt officials to look the other way, as well as obtain legitimate blank documents to be doctored," the statement said. There was no immediate comment from Ghana's Criminal Investigations Division.

Visas for Western countries are in high demand in Africa and embassies say the visa market is a big target for organized crime. The real US embassy in Ghana is a prominent and heavily fortified complex in Cantonments, one of the capital's most expensive

neighborhoods. Lines of people queue outside each day for visa appointments and other consular business.

The fake embassy was open three mornings a week and did not accept walk-in appointments. Instead, the criminals advertised on billboards in Ghana, Togo and Ivory Coast and brought clients from across West Africa to Accra where they rented them hotel rooms in nearby hotels. US authorities conducting a broader security operation were tipped off about it and assembled a team including the Ghana Detectives Bureau and police as well as other international partners to shut down the ring. — Reuters

CLEAR DIVISIONS APPEAR IN NEWLY-ELECTED...

Continued from Page 1

MP Faisal Al-Kandari said the meeting aimed at establishing cooperation between MPs and the government, adding that the meeting did not discuss the election of the speaker. Harshani said he has discussed with the Assembly's secretary general preparations for chairing the opening session, being the oldest member of the house. He said the election of speaker and other posts will be carried out through the electronic system and not by ballot papers as demanded by some opposition MPs. MP Ahmad Al-Fadhil called on the government not to retain ministers with suspicions of corruption, adding that he wants the next speaker to be firm in running the sessions.

Meanwhile, opposition MP Mubarak Al-Hajraf called on the prime minister to drop the ministers of interior,

information, social affairs and health, because they failed in their jobs in the past few years. He said Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Sabah mishandled the issues of citizenship and security, while Information Minister Sheikh Salman Al-Humoud Al-Sabah devoted much of his time settling personal scores.

Harbush also called on the prime minister not to retain the ministers of interior, health and education who failed in their ministries, adding their return will trigger a political crisis. He called on the prime minister to cooperate in introducing amendments to the nationality law to prevent the revoking of citizenships for political reasons. He also called for amending the so-called political exclusion law which prevents certain convicts from running in elections. Harbush said the government should also cooperate to amend the voting system.

AUSTRIA FAR-RIGHT PRESIDENT HOPEFUL...

Continued from Page 1

When Hofer narrowly lost the original run-off in May with 49.65 percent of the vote, European governments breathed a sigh of relief. Far-right parties like France's National Front cheered the record performance. Opinion polls had suggested the re-run was too close to call. A Hofer win would have raised the prospect of two near-simultaneous blows to Europe's political establishment. Italy was holding a referendum yesterday on constitutional reform that could decide the political future of Prime Minister Matteo Renzi, who has promised to resign if he loses.

While the president's role is traditionally largely ceremonial, Hofer had made clear he wanted to be an interventionist head of state, threatening to dismiss a government if it raises taxes and calling for referendums on a

range of issues, even though referendums are beyond the job's remit. The president also plays an important part in forming coalitions. Van der Bellen has said he would try to prevent an FPO-led government even if it won an election. The FPO is running first in polls with support of roughly a third of voters, with parliamentary elections due in 2018.

Van der Bellen, 72, put Brexit at the heart of his campaign, arguing that Hofer wants Austria to hold its own "Oexit" referendum, putting jobs at risk in the small, trade-dependent country. The result of the May 22 run-off was overturned mostly due to election officials cutting corners as they raced to complete the count. The re-run was then postponed because the glue on the envelopes for some postal ballots did not stick. — Reuters

POPULAR HEAD OF SOUTH INDIA STATE SUFFERS...

Continued from Page 1

The hugely popular chief minister of Tamil Nadu, a former movie star, was admitted to hospital on Sept 22 suffering from fever and dehydration and is on respiratory support. Authorities have said little about the state of the 68-year-old's health after several of her supporters resorted to self-harm when she was briefly jailed in 2014 on charges of corruption. Charismatic Jayalithaa enjoys huge popularity in Tamil Nadu, where fans know her simply as "Ammamma" (Mother) thanks to a series of highly populist schemes and election-time freebies including electric blenders, goats and small amounts of gold.

Over the last few weeks, her fans and ardent sup-

porters have resorted to extreme steps while praying for her good health and speedy recovery. Some have performed sacrifices to try to change her fate. Recent images in the local media at the time showed scores of children with metal arrows piercing their cheeks holding her pictures as they prayed for her recovery. Soon after reports of her cardiac arrest, local news channels showed images of her supporters, particularly women, crying publicly and gathering in their hundreds outside the hospital for an update on her health.

The minister's latest medical setback comes only days after her team of doctors and senior leaders from her regional party talked about her recovery and return to active political duties in the next few days. — AFP

FIDEL CASTRO LAID TO REST IN CUBA

Continued from Page 1

and officials," French Environment Minister Segolene Royal, who was criticized in her country for defending Castro's human rights record, told AFP after the hour-long funeral.

Castro, who died on Nov 25 at age 90, was revered by supporters for the free healthcare and education he spread across the island, but vilified by dissidents who saw him as a brutal dictator. The burial marked the end of nine days of national mourning during which Cubans, often encouraged by the government, flooded the streets to pay tribute to Castro, chanting "I am Fidel!" as his ashes were driven across the Caribbean country. As a military jeep took the urn toward the ceremony thousands who lined the streets of Santiago shouted "viva Fidel!"

On Saturday night, Raul Castro led a final rally in his brother's honor at Santiago's Revolution Plaza, leading the crowd in a pledge to uphold socialist ideals. "In front of Fidel's remains... we swear to defend the fatherland and socialism," Raul Castro said. Fidel Castro remained a towering figure in Cuba a decade after intestinal surgery forced him to hand power to his younger brother Raul. Although he was an omnipresent figure in the lives of Cubans, Raul Castro said the national assembly will fulfill his brother's dying wish to forbid that any statues be erected in his memory or streets be named after him. "The leader of the revolution rejected any manifestation of a cult of personality," Raul Castro said.

Many held an all-night vigil at Santiago's Revolution Plaza, reading poems and holding pictures of the late

leader before his morning funeral. Marina Brito Carmenati, a 66-year-old retiree who lives near the cemetery, woke up before dawn to bid farewell to Fidel. "I feel a lot of pain, a lot of sadness. He's the father to all of us," she said. The government nurtured the religious-like fervor, with state media calling Castro the "eternal comandante".

In the past week, Cubans were urged to go to schools and other public buildings to sign an oath of loyalty to his revolution. Fidel Castro launched his botched raid on the Moncada military barracks on July 26, 1953, planting the seed of the revolution that triumphed in 1959. After taking power, Castro became an ally of the Soviet Union and was a thorn in the side of successive US presidents until illness forced him to relinquish power to his brother Raul in 2006.

Raul Castro has implemented modest economic reforms in recent years, restored diplomatic relations with the United States and vowed to step down in 2018. "No longer under the shadow of his older brother, Raul may now feel freer to pursue the modest economic reforms he initiated in the last decade," said Jorge Duany, director of the Cuban Research Institute at Florida International University.

While US President Barack Obama has chipped away at the US embargo's trade and travel restrictions, foreign companies still face obstacles to invest in Cuba. Food supplies are tight and public services are being cut back while socialist ally Venezuela, which has been providing cheap oil to Cuba, is enduring a political and economic crisis, said Ted Piccone, a senior fellow at the Washington-based Brookings Institution think tank. — AFP

JOINT OILFIELDS EXPECTED TO RESTART SOON

Continued from Page 1

"The Saudis are telling Kuwait they can restart the Neutral Zone, so potentially another 300,000 bpd of crude come on in late Q1 of 2017, or early Q2 2017. Al-Khafji Joint Operations has been told to prepare a start-up readiness report," said another industry source. The Khafji field had been producing 280,000 to 300,000 barrels per day (bpd) until its closure. It is operated by Al-Khafji Joint Operations Co, a joint venture between Kuwait Gulf Oil Company and AGOC, a subsidiary of state oil firm Saudi Aramco.

The Wafra field has an output capacity of about 220,000 bpd of Arabian Heavy crude. US oil major Chevron operates the field on behalf of the Saudi gov-

ernment. Saudi Arabia's Energy Minister Khalid Al-Falih was in Kuwait in early November for talks over the issue with his Kuwaiti counterpart, sources familiar with the matter said. King Salman will visit Kuwait later this week, and the Neutral Zone issue is likely to be discussed during the visit, the sources said.

Kuwait has limited spare production capacity and has therefore been hit harder than Saudi Arabia by the closures. Kuwait's production capacity is estimated at 3.2 million bpd, compared to Saudi Arabia's 12 million bpd. The Neutral Zone is the only place in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait where foreign oil firms have equity in fields, which are otherwise owned and operated by state oil companies. Crude output is divided equally between the two countries. — Reuters



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P.O. Box 1301 Safat, 13014 Kuwait.
 E MAIL : info@kuwaittimes.net
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Focus

KILLING CASTRO: POISONED CIGARS, EXPLOSIVE SHELLS

Mobsters, poisoned cigars, exploding seashells, a contaminated diving suit: The CIA's imagination ran wild in its plots to assassinate Fidel Castro. As the late Cuban leader's ashes were laid to rest in the eastern city of Santiago de Cuba yesterday, his cause of death remains a closely-guarded state secret. Castro claimed he was the target of some 600 assassination plots, but it appears likely that it was simply old age that finally felled the death-defying communist leader. He was 90 and no longer president when he died on Nov 25. CIA documents and a report by the US Senate's Church Committee in 1975 reveal plots that were cooked up by spooks, including some that never left "the laboratory phase".

Depilate 'The Beard'

Some early schemes didn't even involve murdering Castro and seemed more like elaborate high school pranks. The Church Committee said that from March to Aug 1960, "the CIA considered plans to undermine Castro's charismatic appeal by sabotaging his speeches". One idea involved spraying Castro's broadcasting studio with an LSD-like chemical, but it was rejected because the drug was "unreliable".

The agency's Technical Services Division (TSD) treated a box of cigars with a chemical that produced temporary disorientation, hoping Castro would light up a stogie before a speech and make a fool of himself. The committee also found a scheme "to destroy Castro's image as 'The Beard' by dusting his shoes with thallium salts" - a strong depilatory that would cause his famous facial hair to fall out. The plan was to put the substance in Castro's shoe in case he put them outside his hotel room's door to be shined while in another country, but the Cuban leader cancelled the trip.

Lethal Cigar

The Church Committee's report found "concrete evidence of at least eight plots involving the CIA to assassinate Fidel Castro from 1960 to 1965". A box of Castro's favorite cigars was treated with "a lethal botulinum toxin so potent that a person would die after putting one in his mouth," the Church Committee said. The cigars were delivered to an unidentified person in Feb 1961, but "the record does not disclose whether an attempt was made to pass the cigars to Castro."

Mobsters

In 1960, the CIA recruited mafia figures to kill Castro and offered \$150,000 if they succeeded. The agency considered gunning down Castro in a "gangland-style killing", but the mobsters suggested a more discreet method: Slipping a poison pill in Castro's food or drink. The TSD made a pill containing botulinum toxin, which was given to a Cuban official, Juan Orta. But after several weeks of attempts, Orta apparently got "cold feet" and abandoned "the assignment", according to a CIA memo. The poison pill plot was revived after the Bay of Pigs fiasco, but it was abandoned again in 1963.

Explosive Mollusk

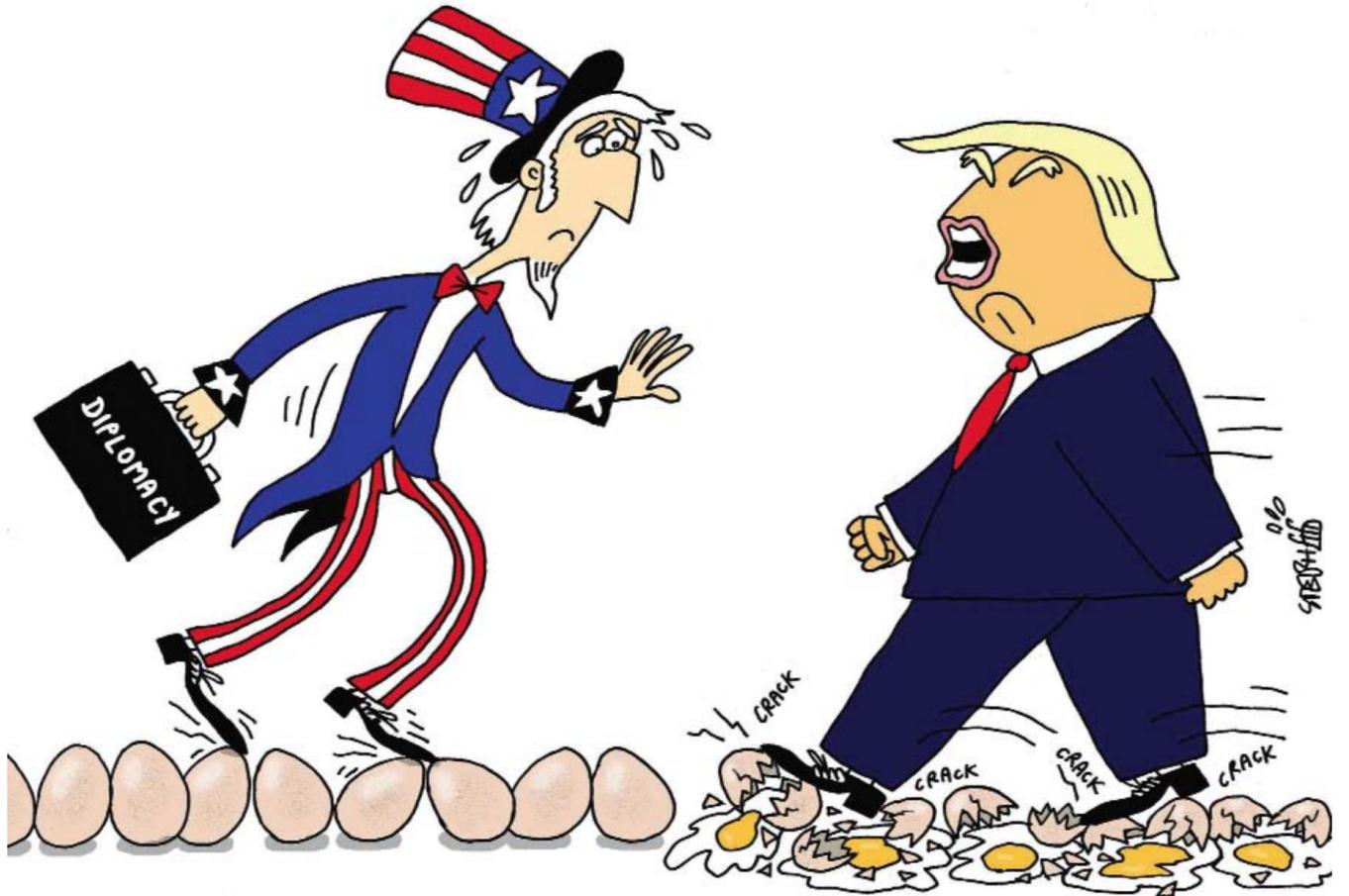
In 1963, the chief of Task Force W, the CIA section handling covert Cuban operations, asked his assistant to see if "an exotic seashell, rigged to explode" could be placed in a location where Castro went skin diving, according to the committee. The TSD explored the idea but determined it was "impractical".

Contaminated Diving Gear

The CIA considered having James Donovan, a US lawyer who was negotiating with Castro the release of Bay of Pigs prisoners, deliver a "contaminated" diving suit to Castro. The TSD dusted the inside of a suit with a fungus that would cause a chronic skin disease known as Madura foot. The lab also contaminated the breathing apparatus with tubercle bacillus. But the poisoned gear never left the lab.

Poison Pen

A CIA official gave a high-ranking Cuban official codenamed AM/LASH, who wanted to "eliminate" Castro, a poisonous ballpoint pen rigged with a hypodermic needle "so fine that the victim would not notice its insertion," the committee said. AM/LASH, later identified as Major Rolando Cubela, was unimpressed, saying the CIA could have "come up with something more sophisticated than that". A CIA official said he could not remember whether the Cuban threw away the pen or kept it, but AM/LASH stated that he would not take it to Cuba. In a historical coincidence, the pen was delivered on Nov 22, 1963 - the day US President John F Kennedy was shot in Dallas. — AFP



TRUMP TAIWAN CONTACT POLICY SHIFT OR MISSTEP?

Was President-elect Donald Trump signaling a shift in US-China relations when he referred to Taiwan's leader as "president" following a phone call this past week or was it an unintentional misstep? His phone conversation with Tsai Ing-wen was a breach of long-standing tradition that risks enmity from China, but a longtime China watcher says he can't yet be sure of the meaning. Douglas Paal, a former director of the American Institute in Taiwan, which unofficially represents US interests in Taipei, said it was too soon to judge whether Trump was going to lead that shift, or if the incident was just a "complicated accident."

"Beijing will watch closely to see which it is," said Paal, now vice president for studies at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. "But until someone from Trump Tower explains further, it is unknowable." The US shifted diplomatic recognition to China from Taiwan in 1979. But the governments in Washington and Taipei have maintained close unofficial ties and deep economic and defense relations. The US is required by law to provide Taiwan with weapons to maintain its defense, and since 2009, the Obama administration has approved \$14 billion in arms sales to Taiwan.

Trump's conversation with Tsai drew an irritated, although understated, response from China, as Foreign Minister Wang Yi said Saturday that the contact was "just a small trick by Taiwan" that he believed would not change US policy toward China, according to Hong Kong's Phoenix TV. "The one-China policy is the cornerstone of the healthy development of China-US relations and we hope this political foundation will not be interfered with or damaged," Wang was quoted as saying. Chinese officials said they lodged a complaint with the US and reiterated a commitment to seeking "reunification" with the island, which they consider a

renegade province. The call was the starkest example yet of how Trump has flouted diplomatic conventions since he won the Nov 8 election. He has apparently undertaken calls with foreign leaders without guidance customarily given by the State Department, which oversees US diplomacy. "President-elect Trump is just shooting from the hip, trying to take phone calls of congratulatory messages from leaders around the world without consideration for the

acceptable. Taiwan split from the Chinese mainland in 1949. The US policy acknowledges the Chinese view over sovereignty, but considers Taiwan's status as unsettled.

Mixed Reactions

Ned Price, a spokesman for the White House National Security Council, said Trump's conversation does not signal any change to long-standing US policy on cross-strait issues. Yet the phone conversa-

two noted on their front pages that Trump referred to Tsai as "the president of Taiwan", a formulation that would be a huge shift in American policy and infuriate China. The Taiwanese presidential office said Trump and Tsai discussed issues affecting Asia and the future of US relations with Taiwan. "The (Taiwanese) president is looking forward to strengthening bilateral interactions and contacts as well as setting up closer cooperative relations," the statement said.

Tsai also told Trump that she hoped the US would support Taiwan in its participation in international affairs, the office said, in an apparent reference to China's efforts to isolate Taiwan from global institutions such as the United Nations. Taiwan's presidential office spokesman, Alex Huang, said separately that Taiwan's relations with China and "healthy" Taiwan-US relations can proceed in parallel. "There is no conflict" in that, he said.

China's foreign ministry said Beijing lodged "solemn representations" with the US over the call. "It must be pointed out that there is only one China in the world and Taiwan is an inseparable part of Chinese territory," Geng Shuang, a ministry spokesman, said in a statement. "The government of the People's Republic of China is the sole legitimate government representing China." China is likely to be trying to identify whether this signals any intent on the part of Trump to alter long-standing US policy toward Taiwan, Glaser said.

"They will hope that this is a misstep, but I think privately, they will definitely seek to educate this incoming president and ensure that he understands the sensitivity of Taiwan," she said. After the phone conversation Friday, Trump tweeted that Tsai "CALLED ME". He also groused about the reaction to the call: "Interesting how the US sells Taiwan billions of dollars of military equipment but I should not accept a congratulatory call." — AP



Donald Trump



Tsai Ing-wen

implications," said Bonnie Glaser, senior adviser for Asia at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington.

Over the decades, the status of Taiwan has been one of the most sensitive issues in US-China relations. China regards Taiwan as part of its territory to be retaken by force, if necessary, if it seeks independence. It would regard any recognition of a Taiwanese leader as a head of state as unac-

tion prompted mixed reactions. Yang Chih-kai, a 22-year-old university student in New Taipei City, said the call raised Taiwanese hopes for a stronger relationship with the United States. "People will think that the US will keep on helping Taiwan protect itself against China's threat," Yang said.

Taiwanese newspapers ran banner headlines yesterday about the call, and

REBELS WEAKENED IN ALEPPO BY OWN DIVISIONS

As the Syrian government and its allies prepared to ramp up their attack on Aleppo in November, one of the rebel groups defending the opposition-held part of the city took up arms against another, seizing its stores of ammunition, fuel and food. The incident near an Aleppo frontline underlined the rebel rivalries that only worsened in the face of an unprecedented onslaught by Russian-backed government forces, supported by Shiite militias from across the region.

Rebel infighting has plagued the Syrian opposition since the start of the uprising against President Bashar Al-Assad in 2011, helping to put him on the verge of the biggest victory yet. The unexpectedly rapid retreat in Aleppo is provoking recriminations among an opposition divided by local rivalries as well as ideological differences between jihadists and more nationalist groups. With Aleppo long seen as a stronghold of mainstream groups fighting under the Free Syrian Army (FSA) banner, jihadist influence will only grow if Assad and his allies win there, leaving the West with even fewer partners on the ground.

In the November incident, an FSA group, Fastaqim, came under attack from the Nour al-Din Al-Zinki movement, a faction that also counts itself part of the FSA but has recently moved closer to jihadist groups. This damaged morale. "Unfortunately it had a very negative impact on the factions and on the internal situation," said an official in another Aleppo rebel group, the Jabha Shamiya, speaking from Turkey. "It affected the psychological condition of the fighters, and the internal situation for the civilians."

The struggle amounted to a turf war, as so often among the myriad rebel groups. Zinki sources said the background to the incident was a Fastaqim plot against one of its allies. Fastaqim said Zinki was trying to crush mainstream groups in Aleppo in collaboration with the jihadists of the Fateh al-Sham group. "In some ways, the relations among the Aleppo factions deteriorated even as the pro-regime offensive was ramping up," said Noah Bonsey, senior analyst with International Crisis Group. "That may have played a role in the opposition's limited ability to defend against the opening stages of the offensives."

Russian air force intervened on Assad's behalf in Sept 2015. Rebels say their internal divisions are a marginal factor in their setbacks when compared with the firepower unleashed by the Russian bombers, Shiite militias, and the army. But splits have nevertheless played a part. Conflict among rebels this year helped Assad and his allies to make significant gains near his seat of power in Damascus.

The newly-appointed leader of one of the biggest rebel groups, the Islamist Ahrar al-Sham, blamed "destructive divisions" this week for the opposition's setbacks, and urged a new effort towards unity. But Ahrar al-Sham also faces divisions in its own ranks between one camp that is close to the FSA groups, and another that wants closer ties with Al-Qaeda-inspired insurgents.

The rebels are making what may be a final attempt to organize themselves into a more effective "Aleppo Army".

But after losing large parts of their territory in the city, it may be too late. The loss of Aleppo would still leave the rebels in control of large areas to the west and southwest of the city, including all of Idlib province and large parts of Hama province. But these are areas where jihadist factions dominate, including Fateh al-Sham, formerly known as the Al-Qaeda-linked Nusra Front, which has crushed numerous Western-backed rebel factions during the conflict.

Jihadist influence discouraged the United States from supplying rebels with the more powerful weaponry they sought. US President-elect Donald Trump has indicated he may stop supporting the opposition altogether. A rebel commander in a town north of Aleppo said that instead of protesting against Assad, people in his area had put up posters criticizing rebel commanders. "They are all demanding unity," he said. — Reuters



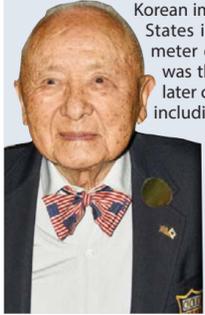
Syrian army soldiers flash the victory sign as they patrol the eastern Aleppo neighborhood of Tariq Al-Bab on Saturday. — AP

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Jihadist Influence to Expand
 The rebels have been on the back foot since the

GROUND-BREAKING US DIVER LEE DIES AT 96

LOS ANGELES: Legendary diver Sammy Lee, the first Asian American to win Olympic gold for the United States, has died of complications from pneumonia at the age of 96. Lee's son, Sammy Lee II, said Saturday that his father died peacefully in a Southern California hospital. Born in Fresno to Korean immigrant parents, Lee won Olympic gold for the United States in London in 1948 and successfully defended his 10-meter diving Olympic championship in Helsinki in 1952. He was the first male diver to repeat as Olympic champion. He later coached some of the United States' best Olympic divers, including Greg Louganis, Bob Webster and Pat McCormick. In addition to his involvement in the sport, Lee served in the US Army for 13 years, retiring with the rank of major. He earned his medical degree from the University of Southern California in Los Angeles and served for a time on the President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports. He was appointed US Presidential Representative to the 1956 Melbourne Olympics, 1972 Munich Olympics and 1988 Seoul Olympics.— AFP



MOURINHO, RONALDO DENY TAX EVASION CLAIMS

LONDON: Manchester United manager Jose Mourinho and Real Madrid superstar Cristiano Ronaldo on Saturday denied hiding millions of euros in offshore accounts in an effort to avoid the tax man. An international consortium of media organisations claimed that a huge data leak involving 18 million documents showed Portuguese skipper Ronaldo hid 150 million euros from image rights in a British Virgin Islands tax haven. According to the European Investigative Collaborations (EIC) consortium, Mourinho is said to have concealed 12 million euros in a Swiss account owned by a British Virgin Islands company. But Gestifute, a firm representing the two men, has rejected allegations of facilitating tax evasion. In a statement, the company, founded by agent Jorge Mendes, said: "One newspaper makes the unfounded allegation that Gestifute, its clients and its advisers of having, directly or indirectly, created, organised or designed tax structures to facilitate tax evasion using tax havens. "The most serious and malicious allegations in the inquiries relate to Jose Mourinho and Cristiano Ronaldo."—AFP

FRENCH DAREDEVIL WINS AT VAL D'ISERE

VAL-D'ISERE: French journeymen Mathieu Faivre swept to a daredevil victory at the World Cup giant slalom at Val D'Isere yesterday, sweeping past Austrian icon Marcel Hirscher to do so. It was a first ever World Cup win for the 24-year-old from Nice whose swashbuckling descent was cheered wildly. Hirscher, winner of six world cup giant slaloms last season, was fastest on the first leg with Faivre second before producing a killer second run. "It was a wonderful day, training with the French team has really built up my confidence," he said after the race. Making a slight early error Hirscher dug deep but could only assure second, which keeps him ahead of Kjetil Jansrud in the overall World Cup standings after the Norwegian crashed out on the first leg. Frenchman Alexis Pinturault, who came third in a race contested on the slopes where the 1992 Albertville Winter Olympics giant slalom was held.— AFP



CHEIKA PREDICTS GAIN FROM WALLABY PAIN

TWICKENHAM: Australia coach Michael Cheika is confident there will be a long-term benefit to the Wallabies from a difficult 2016 that ended with a 37-21 defeat by England. Australia were overpowered in the second half on Saturday as England recorded their fourth win over the Wallabies this year and a 14th in a row against all opponents. The result meant Australia had lost nine of their 15 Tests in 2016, leaving Cheika with a win percentage for the year almost as bad as the one that saw England coach Eddie Jones dismissed as Wallaby boss over a decade ago. The 40 percent win rate was Australia's worst since the Wallabies managed just 38.5 percent in 2005 — a return that got Jones the sack. But after taking Australia to last year's World Cup final, there is no suggestion that Cheika is in imminent danger of suffering a similar fate. And having introduced 13 debutants this year, Cheika was confident his investment in new talent would yield a dividend at the 2019 World Cup in Japan. "This year has been about teaching ourselves a few things," said Cheika after Australia, 10-0 up early on, were eventually outscored four tries to two by England at Twickenham. "We've played the top two teams (New Zealand and England) seven times this year with a whole bunch of new players and that's going to be good even if the outcomes haven't been good."

try-scorer on Saturday, as well as Dane Haylett-Petty, Reece Hodge, Samu Kerevi and powerful No 8 Lopeti Timani. "We've made decisions around this season as opposed to starting next season when the calendar isn't perhaps as packed," said Cheika. "I still believe it's the right decision and you have to take the pain when it comes. "But I still think we've gained a lot on what we've done this year around the new players." The build-up to Saturday's match had featured plenty of verbal sparring between Cheika and Jones, once team-mates at Sydney club Randwick. Cheika said Jones risked tarnishing his legacy in Australia and had a chip on his shoulder. But Jones, speaking after the match, said the Wallabies had been invited into England's dressing room for a drink he hoped would suit Australian tastes. "We've got cold beers actually not warm beers," said Jones. Cheika confirmed the offer had been taken up, saying: "They invited us into the dressing room and the lads are in there now having a beer. "Everyone is playing hard off the field and on the field. "But at the end of the day one team wins and you respect that and everyone goes on with their business." Despite the verbal jousting, Cheika insisted he still had a huge regard for Jones's coaching ability. "We go hard at each other sometimes and sometimes we don't. But there is respect there always. "When you win you stay humble and when you lose you pay respect and that's the way she rolls." As for the so called 'war of words' between the coaches, Cheika said: "We were at the referee's conference and there were no dramas. "It's all been pumped up and has no relevance at the end of the day because it's about the 23 best players and in this instance it was England."— AFP

'DEVELOP TALENT' He added: "I know we'll be criticised for losing but you have to wear that sometimes. "When you don't take those decisions, it's like I have to keep my job at all costs. "But I don't think like that. I feel I have a responsibility to develop talent and give them opportunities." Among those who've made their Wallaby bow this year are Sefa Naivalu, a



ALBERTA: Slovenia's Ilka Stuhec, center, celebrates her win with second place finisher Switzerland's Lara Gut, left, and third place finisher Hungary's Edit Miklos following the women's World Cup downhill ski race at Lake Louise, Alberta, Saturday.— AP

STUHEC WINS AGAIN IN LAKE LOUISE

LAKE LOUISE: Ilka Stuhec won the women's World Cup downhill at Lake Louise on Saturday, holding off World Cup overall champion Lara Gut for her second victory in as many days. Slovenia's Stuhec, who notched the first World Cup win of her career in the first downhill of the season on Friday, topped the podium again in 1min 24.95sec. Switzerland's Gut, who failed to earn a point last weekend at Killington after a heavy crash and was shut out of the podium in fourth place on Friday, finished second in 1:25.06 to seize second place in the overall World Cup standings. Hungary's Edit Miklos was third in 1:25.38. "I think (running early) was really an advantage because right now the snowfall is getting worse and worse," said Stuhec, who was the fourth runner on a course that was shortened because of the unfavorable weather. "I had to

calm myself down after yesterday and prepare myself for the race today which, apparently, I did pretty well," added Stuhec, who nevertheless admitted that she was on pins and needles waiting to see if anyone would get past her-tension she didn't face after winning Friday as the 29th starter. Gut was delighted to pick up her first downhill podium finish of the season. "I'm happy and since this year I finally have the feeling that I know what I'm doing on this slope," said Gut. "It's a good improvement, and I'm looking forward to tomorrow for the super-G. I'm going to try to ski even faster and cleaner." American slalom star Mikaela Shiffrin, who is making her first foray into downhill this weekend, maintained her spot atop the overall standings. Her 13th-place finish, 1.46sec behind Stuhec, put her on 358 points to Gut's 230 overall. Sofia

Goggia of Italy is in third on 207, followed by Stuhec on 200. Shiffrin improved on her 18th place from Friday. While she was pleased with her progress, she indicated she doesn't have her sights set on supplanting compatriot Lindsey Vonn as the sport's queen of speed. Vonn, owner of 18 wins at Lake Louise, missed the stop in the Canadian Rockies this year with a broken arm suffered in a November crash, but expects to be back early in 2017. "I don't know how many more downhills I'll do this year, but just doing it at all and feeling that speed is an amazing experience," Shiffrin said. "I'll just try to lock that feeling away in my journal and then see what happens next time I do a downhill. "I'll be back on the downhill circuit, but I have to keep sight of my real goals this season."—AFP



ABK SPONSORS INTERNATIONAL BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT FOR EMBASSIES IN KUWAIT

KUWAIT: As the gold sponsor, Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) has celebrated the success of the International Basketball Tournament, which was organized by the British Academy of Sport (BAS) and the Embassy of Romania on Friday, 25th November at the British School of Kuwait in Salwa. This annual sporting tournament has taken place between embassies in Kuwait since 2014 and is now a regular fixture in Kuwait's diplomatic sporting calendar. This year the event was more popular than ever before, attracting a record of 12 embassy teams from Czech Republic, Egypt, France, Great Britain, Greece, Indonesia, Jordan, Lebanon, Philippines, Romania, Serbia and USA. Ali Al Baghli, Senior Manager - Corporate Communications represented

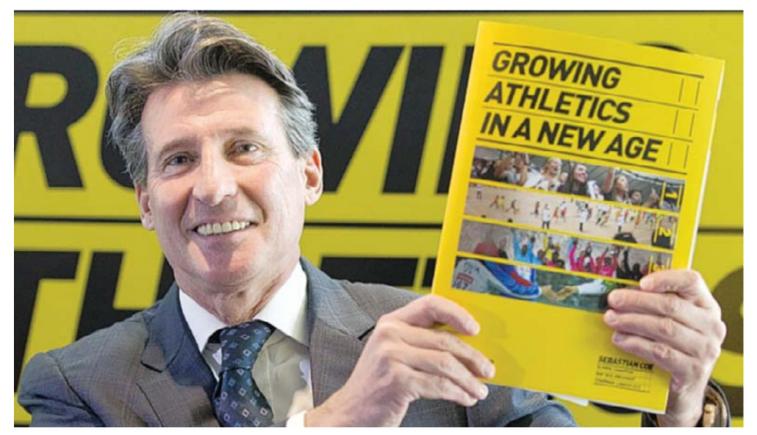
ABK at the event, presenting medals, gift bags and the 'Challenge Cup' trophy to the winning team from Egypt and accepting a trophy on behalf of ABK to mark the Bank's sponsorship and support of the community. The event, which is a social occasion for participants and their families and friends, was attended by a crowd of 400, including a number of ambassadors and other senior embassy officials, who all enthusiastically supported their teams. ABK is a long-time major supporter of a wide range of events and activities which help to reinforce and support communal wellbeing in Kuwait. For more information about ABK please visit eahli.com or contact an ABK customer service agent via 'Ahlan Ahli' at 1899899.

COE USHERS IN BRAVE NEW WORLD FOR IAAF

MONACO: Sebastian Coe has taken the first successful step to dragging an IAAF riddled with corruption into a brave new world of transparency. Since taking charge of the International Association of Athletics Federations in August 2015, Coe has often found himself in the limelight for all the wrong reasons. He inherited a world governing body sick to its core, his predecessor Lamine Diack-under whom he served as vice-president for eight years-just one of several senior former IAAF officials under police investigation for corruption involving bribes to keep quiet about positive Russian doping tests. But Coe has not shirked from the challenge, drafting a revolutionary set of reforms that were adopted at Saturday's Special Congress on Saturday. While some federation members bristled at the open nature of the vote, with results published for all to see, Coe was defiant. "We've moved into the world of transparency," was the Briton's blunt reply when quizzed on why he had not opted to make the ballot a secret one. "Transparency sits at the heart of everything we've been talking about. That is a key word and everyone knows what it means." The vote saw 182 member federations plump for the reforms, with 10 against and five invalid votes. Sixteen federations were not present. Coe's reforms, with a nod to Diack's abuse of the presidency, include stripping himself of some powers, with the president and IAAF Council not allowed to serve more than 12 years and with more checks put in place. The reforms also push for gender balance, handing athletes a greater voice and crucially establishing an independent integrity unit that would manage all anti-doping matters and be responsible for greater intelligence gathering. All in all, it is a massive step forward for the crisis-riddled body behind the Olympics' number one sport.

'GOOD, HISTORIC DAY' "This is a good and historic day for our sport," Coe admitted. "I'm incredibly proud of the decision that was taken. "We now have structures, frameworks and foundations that will create a safety net. That safety net also has to be responsive to cultural shifts and cultural changes. "There is now a whole heap more work to do to make sure that we drive on to a much better future." Coe hailed the "painstaking" work of his team that has spent six months criss-crossing the globe to debate the package with member federations and establish what he dubbed the "exemplar of best practice". "I hope the public perception of our sport actually is helped by what they've seen, but that wasn't primarily why we did it," the former British parliamentarian and

two-time Olympic 1500m gold medallist said. "We did it because we were in need of change, we did it because we had to do it in haste and I make no apology for that. "There's a lot in there that will make us safer and make us safer a lot more quickly than it would have done had we not put those things in place." Coe conceded that his ambitious push for gender equity had had to be scaled back. "It's an important ambition to encourage more women into our sport at every level," he said. But Coe admitted that, rather than "lose the debate", it had been better to tinker with the target percentage intake of females, saying some countries had found the initial timetable "onerous". The target now was to reach a 40 percent equity in 2023 instead of 50 percent, Coe said.— AFP



Sebastian Coe



KDSC CELEBRATES ANNUAL DISABLED DAY

KUWAIT: Kuwait Disabled Sports Club (KDSC) celebrated the annual disabled day by launching a festival carrying the name "you are our pride", Saturday evening at the club premises, in appreciation of Kuwaiti athletes who carried Kuwait flag high in world arenas be them disabled or healthy.

The festival is under the patronage

of Information Minister, State Minister for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah and continues until December 6.

The festival includes the local sports tournament in various games of the disabled, and will continue for three days.

Vice President of Kuwait Olympic

Committee, President of Kuwait and Arab Shooting Federations Eng. Duaij Khalaf Al-Otaibi who represented Sheikh Salman lauded the KDSC achievements, the latest of which Ahmad Niqa's gold medal in the Brazil Olympics last September.

Al-Otaibi said KOC had distinguished relations with KDSC which

supervises Paralympics games to advance Kuwait sports and make more achievements.

He said he was honored to represent Sheikh Salman Al-Humoud in this activity which coincides with Kuwait's celebration of the International Disabled Day.

Meanwhile President of KDSC Shafi Al-Hajiri said what Kuwait disabled and healthy champions in all sports fields is a call for pride, adding that this festival is dedicated for them in appreciation of their efforts that had Kuwait's name and flag high in International arenas.

Al-Hajiri said the club won 50 various Olympic medals and more than 2,200 medals in various championships, and printed to Ahmad Niqa's achievement in the disabled sports, as well as shooting champions Fuhaid Al-Daihani and Abdallah Al-Rashida in Rio. He said Kuwait Champions achievements were not to happen without the support and continued care from HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.



NASSAU: Tiger Woods of the United States hits his tee shot on the 12th hole during round three of the Hero World Challenge at Albany, The Bahamas on Saturday in Nassau, Bahamas. — AFP

TIGER 'NOT QUITE THERE' BUT STILL EYES MAJOR RECORD

NASSAU: Tiger Woods sees daily progress in his return from a 16-month back injury layoff and hinted Saturday he is still chasing the record 18 majors won by Jack Nicklaus. Woods, a 14-time major champion, sizzled early for the third consecutive round but fizzled late in firing a two-under-par 70 at his comeback event, the Hero World Challenge hosted by his charity foundation. "I'm just not quite there, but it's coming. The great thing is I'm building and each day I've gotten a little bit stronger," said Woods, who admits tiring on late holes.

"I'm definitely not as fresh as I would like to be. No matter how much you work out it's very different than being in playing shape. There are all these different things you can't simulate at home."

Woods, who has not won a major since the 2008 US Open, was asked after his round about trying to catch Nicklaus even though no player has won four majors after turning 41, which Woods will do later this month. "I wouldn't be here doing this if I didn't feel like I could play at the highest level," Woods said. "I have too much pride." Only four players have won multiple majors after turning 41 — Old Tom Morris with three 1860s British Opens and Harry Vardon, Julius Boros and Woods pal Mark O'Meara with two each.

Woods stood on eight-under 208, 11 strokes behind leader Hideki Matsuyama of Japan after 54 holes at the 18-man invitational. "For three straight days, I've gotten off to great starts. For two of those days, I haven't been able to keep it going," Woods said. "I would like to get another solid round." Woods birdied four of the first five holes but it was no day at the beach for the former world number one, who spent considerable time in Bahamas sand waste areas after missing the last five fairways at Albany Golf Club, a 7,302-yard Ernie Els-designed layout.

"Probably couldn't get off to a better start than I did," Woods said. "Generally when I come back from layoffs, that's the most concerning part of the game, but I've been able

to build a significant amount of positive shots and go under par early."

Woods took a bogey at the par-5 sixth but answered with birdies at seven and the par-5 11th but stumbled with bogeys at 13 and 14. A 30-foot birdie putt at the fairway-less par-3 17th provided a boost but he found sand and water at 18 for a closing double bogey.

"I didn't hit the ball that poorly today but hit bad putts in the middle part of the round," Woods said.

Woods said he no expectations for the week because, "I didn't know what I was going to feel like after each round," but added, "I've finally been able to switch into a competitive mode again."

TRUMP CHEERS ON TIGER

Woods again flashed moments of his finest shotmaking to excite those seeking signs he can recapture the form that made him a dominating superstar. "Great to have you back Tiger - Special!" US President-elect Donald Trump tweeted before the round began. Until this week, Woods had not played competitively since August 2015, when he shared 10th at the Wyndham Championship. Woods closed with double bogeys on two of the last three holes Thursday to shoot 73 in ending his career-longest 466-day layoff but recovered Friday with a bogey-free 65.

It was his lowest round relative to par since the 2013 World Golf Championships Bridgestone Invitational, the most recent of his 79 career victories.

Woods, three shy of Sam Snead's all-time PGA Tour win mark, plays the final round alongside South African Louis Oosthuizen. Strong tee shots and irons set up short birdie putts on the first three holes for Woods, who sank a tense six-foot par putt at four after missing the green with his approach, then blasted out of a bunker at the par-3 fifth and watched the ball roll into the cup for birdie. —AFP

VARNER WINS AUSTRALIAN PGA TROPHY, SCOTT FINISHES THIRD

GOLD COAST: Harold Varner III didn't really know the protocol, so he filled the Australian PGA Championship trophy with champagne, took a sip and then shared it around.

The 26-year-old American won a title for the first time outside the US mini tours when he fired nine birdies in a closing 65 on Sunday to finish at 19 under, two clear of Australian journeyman Andrew Dodt and four ahead of 2013 Masters champion Adam Scott.

He finished runner-up after a playoff here last year, then had four top-10 finishes in his rookie season on the PGA Tour. "After last year, it feels good to come back and finish it off," he said. "This is my first win since the mini tours, so this is my first win, I guess, as part of an organization such as the PGA Tour, the European Tour. It's just a step in the right direction and I'm just super excited." Varner had a hectic week at the event that is co-sanctioned by the Australasian and European tours. After lightning and rain stopped his first round after 14 holes, he had to set the alarm for 2:45 am Friday to get up in time for an early courtesy car ride to his 5:30 a.m. tee off.

He finished his first round in a share of the lead at 7 under, then went out and finished his second round before lunch on day two. His spare time has included black jack at the Casino.

This being his first win abroad, Varner admitted he wasn't fully across the routine for a champion that included extra interviews, news conferences and photos opportunities.

"I'm ready to get to the casino but no one told me about the other stuff that goes along with winning - which I'm totally cool with - I just didn't know there was so much stuff. There might have been 1,000 pictures out there," he told the news conference where he filled the trophy with champagne and shared it around. "Winning is cool."

Varner started the last round two shots behind Dodt. He surged into the lead with a run of four birdies at the start of an entertaining span of nine holes that contained seven birdies and two bogeys.

He took a two-shot lead into the last hole and tapped in for par. Dodt held a two-shot lead before the final round but couldn't match it with Varner's nine birdies and closed with a 69. Scott closed with a 67, his best round of the tournament to finish in outright third at 15 under.

Ashley Hall dropped from second to fourth at 14 under after a final round of 70. His fellow Australian Brett Rumford finished at 10 under, two shots ahead of a group of three that included Dutch golfer Darius van Driel, amateur Brett Coletta and John Senden. New Zealander Ryan Fox was ninth at 7 under.

Scott started the last day four shots off the pace but again was wayward off the tee. He kept in touch with three birdies in four holes from the eighth and added an eagle at the par-5 15th.

"It was my best round of the week and it wasn't good enough unfortunately," he said. The former No. 1-ranked Scott said he planned to put the clubs away for a while and catch up on family time, surfing, and watching some cricket and tennis. The clubs "will be away for a couple of weeks and if they're not too rusty by Christmas I might bring them back out and shake some of the rust off," he said. "I'll just play around for fun and then I'll get serious once the new year starts." Varner, who is the only player other than



Harold Varner III

Tiger Woods with black heritage on the PGA Tour, is hoping this win is the launching pad for a better 2017. He was the first American to win the Australian PGA title since Hale Irwin in 1978 at

Royal Melbourne, and the first non-Australian to claim the title since 1999.

"Winning is just ... different," he said. "Three years, I haven't won, so this is special." —AP

INDIA'S KUMAR CLINCHES PANASONIC OPEN TITLE

NEW DELHI: India's Mukesh Kumar fired a crucial birdie on the 15th hole to set up his first Asian Tour victory at the Panasonic Open India golf tournament in New Delhi yesterday. Kumar, 51, who became the oldest player to win an Asian Tour title, carded 67, 69 and 70 for a total of 10-under 206 in the fog-hit tournament, which was reduced to three rounds and 54 holes.

Kumar, who started the day with an overnight lead of two shots at eight-under, shot three birdies against a lone bogey on the final day to outshine compatriots Jyoti Randhawa and Rashid Khan, who finished tied second. "I am very proud of myself. I have waited 32 years (since turning professional) for this. It is different from the 123 wins that I have had on the domestic Tour earlier," said Kumar, who secured an Asian Tour card for the next two years.

Kumar, who led each of the three rounds, was tied with Randhawa twice in the day before taking the lead at the 15th hole and scoring pars in the final three to pocket a winning purse of \$72,000.

"The 20-footer that I made for birdie on 15 was the decisive putt for me. I knew I had a

good chance after sinking that putt. I told myself I just need to par the last three holes," Kumar told reporters.

"Even though I know Jyoti was just one shot back and he has a good chance on 18 being a long-hitter, I didn't think too much about that. I just focused on what I need to do," he added.

Sri Lanka's Mithun Perera, at 8-under 208, finished fourth. The other top 10 places on the final leaderboard belonged to Indian players. The 2015 champion Chirag Kumar of India finished tied 15th in the 73-player field in the final round.

Leading scores after the final round of the Panasonic Open India on Sunday at the Delhi Golf course (par 72):

- 206 - Mukesh Kumar (IND) 67-69-70
- 207 - Jyoti Randhawa (IND) 67-72-68
- 207 - Rashid Khan (IND) 67-72-68
- 208 - Mithun Perera (SRI) 70-68-70
- 209 - Honey Baisoya (IND) 73-69-67
- 210 - Shankar Das (IND) 71-67-72
- 211 - Shamim Khan (IND) 67-74-70
- 211 - Sanjeev Kumar (IND) 71-69-71
- 211 - Kapil Kumar (IND) 68-72-71
- 211 - Khalin Joshi (IND) 67-71-73. — AFP

RANIERI KEEPS FAITH WITH MISFIRING JAMIE VARDY

SUNDERLAND: Leicester manager Claudio Ranieri insists he still has faith in Jamie Vardy despite the England forward's Premier League goal drought stretching to three months.

Vardy drew a blank for the 16th consecutive game as the champions' disastrous title defence suffered its latest blow with a 2-1 defeat at lowly Sunderland on Saturday to leave the Foxes just two points above the relegation zone.

Vardy scored for England in the 2-2 friendly draw with Spain at Wembley in November. But the 29-year-old, whose prolific run in front of goal helped to propel Leicester to their stunning success in May, has failed to find the net for his club since scoring at Liverpool on

September 10, and boasts only four goals so far this term.

Japan forward Shinji Okazaki claimed a late consolation as Leicester were condemned to a fifth defeat in nine games with a struggling Vardy again looking a shadow of the player of last season, when he claimed 28 goals.

Asked if the time had come to take Vardy out of the firing line, Ranieri insisted: "For me, Jamie works hard for the team, and although of course the goals are important, I believe in him. Sooner or later, he'll start scoring goals again."

Ranieri refuted claims Leicester's Premier League worries could be put down to them overly focusing their efforts on their maiden Champions League campaign.

They have already clinched their place in the knockout stages as they bring the curtain down on their group stage games with the midweek trip to Portuguese side Porto, and City's Italian boss said: "I think our levels have been the same in the Premier League as in the Champions League."

BAD MOMENTS

"It just seems that in the Premier League our first mistake results in a goal for the opposition, but that doesn't seem to happen in the Champions League. We're paying for every little mistake," he said.

Conceding his side are now in the thick of a relegation battle, Ranieri added: "There are a lot of teams

involved, and we're one of those teams, but with a couple of wins, you soon move up the table.

"We must continue to work hard and believe in ourselves and retain the right balance. In football, there are good moments and there are bad moments, and in the bad moments we must stay together and react strongly."

Former England international Jermain Defoe found the net for the eighth time in the league this season to add to Robert Huth's second-half own goal, as renowned escapologists Sunderland begin to show signs of being able to pull off a fifth consecutive successful relegation battle.

They climbed off the bottom of the table to within two points of Leicester

with a third victory in four games, winning back-to-back league games at home for only the second time in the last three years.

"I think I've broken a lot of records here already," manager David Moyes joked, reflecting on his side taking just two points from the opening 30 available this season.

The Scot added: "It's nice to start setting some more positive records. If we can win another three games out of the next four we'll be in a better position, but we all know we've got a long way to go. "We're getting better and playing better and we're looking like a much more attacking side now. "We've got options going forward and we're going to have to keep that up." —AFP

JACKETS GET FRANCHISE-RECORD 60 SHOTS, BEAT COYOTES IN SO

PHOENIX: Columbus pummeled Mike Smith with a franchise-record 60 shots, Alexander Wennberg scored with 2:16 left in the third period and the Blue Jackets beat the Arizona Coyotes 3-2 in a shootout Saturday night. Smith set a franchise record with 58 saves, but the Coyotes still lost their third straight. Columbus is the first NHL team with 60 shots in a game since Toronto against the New York Islanders on Nov. 23, 2009, according to the Elias Sports Bureau. The Jackets' previous high was 54 shots on April 3, 2012 - a 2-0 loss to Smith and the Coyotes. Cam Atkinson and Sam Gagner scored on Smith in the shootout while Curtis McElhinney stopped both Arizona shooters. Boone Jenner also scored for Columbus, which has won three straight. Shane Doan got his 399th career goal and Radim Vrbata also scored for Arizona, which was playing its eighth overtime game in 23 contests.

DEVILS 5, PREDATORS 4

Michael Cammalleri's second goal of the game with 18 seconds remaining in overtime capped New Jersey's comeback from three goals down in the third period and gave the Devils a 5-4 win over the Nashville Predators on Saturday. Taylor Hall took a pass from Cammalleri and brought the puck up the right side into the offensive zone on a 2-on-1 break, passed it back to Cammalleri cutting up the middle and he fired it past Predators goalie Pekka Rinne. Cammalleri started the Devils' comeback from a 4-1 deficit after two periods as he fired a rebound into an open net 25 seconds into the third. Andy Greene and Adam Henrique also scored in the third, while Hall had a goal and two assists for the Devils, who were 0-4-2 in their previous six road games. Keith Kincaid stopped 38 shots. Kevin Fiala had two goals and P.K. Subban and Roman Josi also scored for the Predators.

OILERS 3, DUCKS 2, OT

Leon Draisaitl scored 3:16 into overtime and Edmonton came away with a victory over Anaheim. Drake Caggiula and Ryan Nugent-Hopkins also scored for the Oilers, who have won two in a row. Jordan Eberle assisted on all three goals. Ryan Kesler and Rickard Rakell scored for the Ducks, who had a three-game winning streak come to an end. Anaheim's John Gibson turned away 29 shots, and Cam Talbot stopped 31 for the Oilers.

STARS 3, AVALANCHE 0

Kari Lehtonen had 23 saves for his first shutout of the season as Dallas beat Colorado. Patrick Eaves and Tyler Seguin each had a goal and an assist, and Curtis McKenzie also scored. Semyon Varlamov made 30 saves for the Avalanche, who were shut out for the fifth time this season. Colorado played most of the game with five defencemen after Erik Johnson got hurt blocking a shot in the second period.

SENATORS 2, PANTHERS 0

Erik Karlsson and Derick Brassard scored 19 seconds apart in the first period and Mike Condon stopped 24 shots for his second shutout of the season to lead Ottawa. The Senators snapped a two-game skid and handed Florida its third loss in four games (1-21). Roberto Luongo made 19 saves for the Panthers. The Senators had two break-aways in the final 5 minutes but didn't register a shot on goal. On the first goal, Karlsson had a pass from behind the net bounce off his stick right to his left foot. He then kicked the puck back to his stick and beat Luongo from the top of the crease at 6:46. Brassard then took a pass at the side of the net and

kicked the puck to his stick before cutting around a fallen Luongo to score at 7:05.

BRUINS 2, SABRES 1

Tuuka Rask made 35 saves to help Boston hold on to beat Buffalo. David Krejci and Patrice Bergeron scored to give Boston a 2-0 lead and the Bruins improved to 3-0-1 in their last four. Evander Kane scored his first goal of the season for Buffalo. Robin Lehner returned after missing one game with a hip injury and made 32 saves. The Sabres combined for nine goals in their previous two wins but the NHL's lowest-scoring team reverted to form from the first 21 games, when star center Jack Eichel was out of the lineup with an ankle sprain. Krejci got the Bruins on the scoreboard with 5:50 left in the first when he deflected Brandon Carlo's slap shot from the point off the right post and into the net. Bergeron made it 2-0 at 7:44 of the third when he knocked on the rebound of his own missed shot.

JETS 3, BLUES 2, OT

Patrik Laine set up Bryan Little for an overtime goal and also got his 16th score of the season, helping Winnipeg beat St. Louis. Laine pushed a backhanded pass across the slot to Little 17 seconds into OT, helping Winnipeg end a six-game road losing streak. Laine tied Pittsburgh's Sidney Crosby for the NHL goals lead with a score assisted by Little midway through the second period. Michael Hutchinson stopped 20 of 22 shots to get his first win since Oct 28, snapping a string of four straight losses. Chris Thorburn also scored for Winnipeg. Alexander Steen and Dmitrij Jaskin scored for St. Louis, which snapped a six-game home winning streak and fell to 11-1-3 at Scottrade Center. Carter Hutton stopped 20 of 23 shots and has lost his last four games.

LIGHTNING 2, CAPITALS 1, SO

Brian Boyle scored in the fourth round of the shootout and Tampa Bay snapped a four-game losing streak. Tampa Bay won the shootout 2-1 when Boyle put a shot between Braden Holtby's pads. Brayden Point also scored in the tiebreaker for the Lightning and Evgeny Kuznetsov scored for the Capitals. Tampa Bay got a regulation goal from Nikita Kucherov. Ben Bishop stopped 34 shots. Nicklas Backstrom scored for the Capitals, who have lost three in a row (0-2-1). Holtby made 32 saves.

CANUCKS 3, MAPLE LEAFS 2, SO

Markus Granlund and Bo Horvat scored in the shootout and Ryan Miller was solid at the end of a busy night in goal as Vancouver beat Toronto. Miller had 38 saves and stopped 2 of 3 attempts in the shootout, backing regulation goals from Daniel Sedin and Sven Baertschi. James van Riemsdyk and Auston Matthews scored for Toronto. Frederik Andersen turned away 22 shots. Mitch Marner scored in the shootout for Toronto, but Miller stopped Matthews and Tyler Bozak to clinch it.

FLYERS 3, BLACKHAWKS 1

Rookie defenseman Ivan Provorov scored two quick goals and prevented another to help Philadelphia beat Chicago. Provorov, 19, scored 31 seconds apart early in the second period to give the Flyers their fourth straight win. Brayden Schenn also scored and Steve Mason stopped 26 shots. Artemi Panarin scored his ninth of the season for the Blackhawks, who lost in regulation for the first time in five games, snapping a 3-0-1 streak. The Flyers' biggest save of the night might have come from Provorov, who swatted a bouncing puck out of the goal crease with 3:22 remaining in the second period to preserve a two-goal lead. — AP



SYDNEY: New Zealand's batsman Colin Munro (R) throws his broken bat as he runs between the wickets during the first game of the One Day International Cricket series between Australia and New Zealand in Sydney yesterday. — AFP

SMITH RECORD CENTURY LEADS AUSSIES TO ODI WIN

SYDNEY: Steve Smith hit a record-breaking century and took two superb catches as Australia beat New Zealand by 68 runs in the Chappell-Hadlee Trophy one-day series opener in Sydney yesterday. The Australia skipper smashed 164 off 157 balls, the highest one-day international score at the Sydney Cricket Ground, to lead Australia to 324 for eight. Man of the match Smith struck 14 fours and four sixes in his seventh ODI century after winning the toss to give the Black Caps a tough target to chase down.

Smith then took two great catches and pace-man Josh Hazlewood claimed three wickets to dismiss the Kiwis for 256 in 44.2 overs.

Smith's knock, the seventh highest by an Australian, surpassed South Africa's AB de Villiers' 162 at the same ground in last year's World Cup.

It was also the joint-highest by an Australia captain. Ricky Ponting also made 164 against South Africa in Johannesburg in 2006. He then underlined his man-of-the-match qualities with two decisive catches in the Black Caps' innings.

It was his throat-high catch at slip that got a big breakthrough to dismiss skipper Kane Williamson for just nine. Smith later latched onto a flying one-handed screamer to dismiss BJ Watling for six off Mitchell Marsh, hurling himself to his left in the gully for a stunning catch.

"I got a bit of luck. I was probably out lbw at one point," Smith said. "It's nice to get my highest score at my home ground and post a huge total. "We were able to get over the line, which was the most pleasing thing. I am sure New Zealand will hit back hard." Opener Martin Guptill raised his 11th ODI century with a mighty six off Marsh over long-on off 93 balls and was his side's major hope of reeling in Australia's huge target.

But leg-spinner Adam Zampa coaxed Guptill into a false shot to find fielding substitute Glenn Maxwell at mid-wicket and he was on his way for 114 off 102 balls in the 33rd over. "Guptill's was fantastic hundred-one of his better hundreds and gave us a chance," Williamson said.

"If we reflect back, we bowled poorly in the middle stage. I think we were good in patches, and not so good in some, which left us a tall total to chase." Jimmy Neesham put on 92 runs for the third stand with Guptill before he holed out to Hazlewood off Mitchell Starc in the 22nd over. Smith's top-ranked team suffered a 5-0 ODI series drubbing in South Africa in October and earlier looked shaky again when reduced to 92 for four in the 21st over.

But Smith, who could have been out three times, flailed the Black Caps' bowlers and put his side in the ascendancy. Smith was finally out three overs from the end when he skied Trent Boult to Colin Munro at midwicket.

Smith was supported by 52 from newcomer Travis Head, who was dropped by Matt Henry on nine, while wicketkeeper Matt Wade clobbered three sixes off a Jimmy Neesham over on his way to 38 off 22 balls. Smith gave New Zealand two chances in Boult's third over. BJ Watling missed a leg-side catch on 13 and one run later Boult's leg

SCOREBOARD

SYDNEY: Complete scoreboard in the first Chappell-Hadlee Trophy one-day international between Australia and New Zealand at the Sydney Cricket Ground yesterday.

Australia innings		New Zealand innings	
D. Warner b Ferguson	24	T. Latham b Hazlewood	2
A. Finch b Henry	0	K. Williamson c Smith b Hazlewood	9
S. Smith c Munro b Boult	164	J. Neesham c Hazlewood b Starc	34
G. Bailey c Watling b Neesham	17	B.J. Watling c Smith b Marsh	6
M. Marsh run out (Neesham)	1	C. Munro c Bailey b Cummins	49
T. Head c and b Boult	52	M. Santner c Warner b Zampa	0
M. Wade b Henry	38	C. de Grandhomme lbw b Hazlewood	6
P. Cummins not out	0	M. Henry c Bailey b Cummins	27
M. Starc c Watling b Neesham	11	L. Ferguson b Marsh	0
A. Zampa not out	2	T. Boult not out	1
Extras (lb1, w9, nb5)	15	Extras (lb4, w4)	8
Total (8 wickets, 50 overs)	324	Total (all out; 44.2 overs)	256
Fall of wickets: 1-1 (Finch), 2-47 (Warner), 3-89 (Bailey), 4-92 (Marsh), 5-219 (Head), 6-302 (Smith), 7-311 (Wade), 8-322 (Starc)		Fall of wickets: 1-3 (Latham), 2-34 (Williamson), 3-126 (Neesham), 4-140 (Watling), 5-185 (Guptill), 6-187 (Santner), 7-203 (de Grandhomme), 8-253 (Henry), 9-255 (Munro), 10-256 (Ferguson)	
Did not bat: J. Hazlewood		Bowling: Starc 7-1-37-1, Hazlewood 10-0-49-3 (2w), Marsh 8.2-1-38-2 (1w), Cummins 9-0-62-2 (1w), Zampa 10-0-66-2.	
Bowling: Henry 10-0-74-2 (1nb, 1w), Boult 10-1-51-2 (2w), Ferguson 9-0-73-1 (4nb, 2w), De Grandhomme 6-0-27-0, Santner 9-0-40-0, Neesham 6-0-58-2 (4w)		Result: Australia won by 68 runs	
New Zealand innings		Man of the match: Steve Smith (AUS)	
M. Guptill c Maxwell (sub) b Zampa	114		

before wicket appeal was turned down by the umpire. New Zealand inexplicably did not call for a review, which showed the Australian captain would have been out.

Smith had a third "life" on 152 when Munro dropped him at square leg. David Warner attacked debutant paceman Lockie Ferguson,

smashing two boundaries off the youngster's first over before he inside-edged on to his stumps for 24 off 29 balls. Head put on 127 for the fifth wicket with Smith, before he was caught and bowled low down by Boult.

The second match in the series takes place at Canberra's Manuka Oval on Tuesday. — AFP

SEX ABUSE CLAIMS AT 55 ENGLISH CLUBS: REPORT

LONDON: Fifty-five league and non league clubs have been referred to police in the child sex abuse scandal that has shattered English football's image a source told The Observer newspaper yesterday. In other developments English football's embattled governing body the Football Association (FA) have been accused in The Sunday Mirror by Russell Davy, a former Charlton Athletic youth goalkeeper, of not replying to his letter in 1986 warning them of abuse by scout Eddie Heath. Heath had moved onto Charlton after being dismissed by Chelsea-not for child abuse but for 'spending a lot of his time in his office, decorating and cooking meals for the schoolboy players'-who made a controversial payment in 2015 to Gary Johnson, a player abused by him in the 1970s, but under condition of a gagging order.

Johnson has since gone public and the club-whose payment according to the Sunday Telegraph was authorised by owner Roman Abramovich's senior adviser Marina Granovskaia

and two other board members-issued a profuse apology to him on Saturday.

The size and scale of the fast-developing scandal, though, has been laid bare in The Observer with already a third of British police forces holding their own investigations which has so far seen only former Crewe Alexandra youth scout Barry Bennell, already jailed three times for child abuse, charged last Tuesday.

Heath and another former scout Frank Roper-who has been accused by former England international Paul Stewart of abusing him and in the Sunday Mirror by ex-Leeds United striker Jamie Forrester of introducing him to another paedophile-are beyond the reach of the law as they are both dead. "We can confirm that 55 clubs in total have been referenced," a source at the National Police Chiefs Council-which is in charge of organising the Hydrant Operation which looks into cases of long ago sex abuse-told The Observer.—AFP



GLENDAL: Columbus Blue Jackets left wing Scott Hartnell (43) tries to pass the puck as he gets hit by Arizona Coyotes left wing Jordan Martinook (48) during the first period of an NHL hockey game Saturday, in Glendale, Ariz. — AP

KUWAIT TIMES NBA POWER RANKINGS

By Ahmad Jabr

KUWAIT: In addition to its usual coverage of NBA news, Kuwait Times introduces a new feature this year: the NBA Power Rankings. It is a weekly list ranking each team based on its performance during the week. The actual record for each team (put between brackets, for games played as of Sunday) does play a role in the assessment process but is not the main factor for deciding each team's ranking, thus making it different from league standings. This week's rankings feature a new Eastern Conference contender souring to the number three spot, while another suffering a free fall.



1- Golden State Warriors (17 - 3) Last week: 1- News of Steve Kerr admitting of marijuana use for medicinal purposes casted some shadow on the snapping of the Warriors' 12-game winning streak with their 2OT loss to the Rockets on Thursday. Kerr should probably be more worried about his team's shooting that went cold in the extra period against Houston, when Stephen Curry fouled out.



2- San Antonio Spurs (16 - 4) Last week: 3- Last Tuesday's loss to the Magic definitely hurts, but most importantly it came at home, which means that the Spurs' league-leading 11-0 road record remains intact. That loss also prevented the Spurs from entering the week on a 12-game winning streak.



3- Toronto Raptors (14 - 6) Last week: 5- The Raptors enters Monday night's key game against the Cavs on a league-leading six-game winning streak, and fresh off pummeling the Hawks by a franchise record 44 points. And while DeMar DeRozan has dropped from the top five in points per game in the league, his assists has improved, averaging 5 assists in his last 5 games.



4- Cleveland Cavaliers (13 - 5) Last week: 2- LeBron James has declared that the 'honeymoon stage' is over after the Cavs lost to Dwyane Wade's Bulls on Friday; its third loss in a row. Their next match against the red-hot Raptors tonight is the perfect opportunity to prove his words.



5- Los Angeles Clippers (16 - 5) Last week: 4- The Clippers needed that win Thursday against the Cavs following a three-game losing streak; capped by a loss to the Nets in which coach Doc Rivers had to be held back while going furious at the officials. Those losses must have felt like as a wakeup call, however, in case the Clippers have taken their early season success for granted.



6- Houston Rockets (13 - 7) Last week: 10- The significance of Houston's win against the Warriors on Thursday goes beyond beating the team with the best record; it also shows that James Harden and his crew have what it takes to compete with anybody in the league. They ended their 5-game road trip with a 4-1 record behind their hot shooting.



7- Oklahoma City Thunder (12 - 8) Last week: 9- Yes, you guessed it right: more Russell Westbrook facts. Can you blame us when he's become the first to average a triple-double into December since Oscar Robertson? He posted his fourth consecutive triple-double and 35th overall in his team's defeat of the Wizards on Wednesday, moving a step closer to becoming the second player ever to average a triple-double in a season since 'The Big O'.



8- Memphis Grizzlies (13 - 8) Last week: 6- A heavily depleted Grizzlies squad managed to muster wins against the Lakers and Magic this past week, but losing Mike Conley to injury indefinitely is going to dent a heavy blow to their bid of making it into the postseason this year.



9- Chicago Bulls (11 - 8) Last week: 7- The Bulls have to be frustrated after losing all momentum gained from beating the Cavs on Friday following their loss to the Mavs the following night. One bright spot is that Jimmy Butler continues to play solidly; he is tied with Michael Jordan for the longest streak of 20-point games by a Bulls player in the last 20 seasons (per ESPN Stats and Info).



10- Boston Celtics (12 - 8) Last week: 11- Al Horford entered Monday averaging 23 blocks per game, which would've made him the league's leader in that category if he had played enough games to qualify to the official list. He was key in helping his team beat DeMarcus Cousins' Kings on Friday, before Isaiah Thomas' heroics lifted the Celtics over the 76ers the following night.



11- Utah Jazz (12 - 9) Last week: 13- The Jazz, who entered Monday in third place in defensive rating, suffered a defensive lapse in their loss to the Heat on Thursday. They rebounded by defeating the Nuggets on Saturday while playing without George Hill; who also missed Thursday's game. Hill's health remains a main factor to Utah's success.



12- Charlotte Hornets (11 - 9) Last week: 12- Saturday's loss against the Wolves showed how the Hornets really miss injured starter Marvin Williams. They hope he would be healthy before the team embarks on a five-game road trip starting from Saturday.



13- Milwaukee Bucks (10 - 8) Last week: 19- Giannis Antetokounmpo averaged 23 points, 8 rebounds, 8 assists, 2 blocks and 4 steals per game in December. He's also the only player along with LeBron James to record a 30-10-5-5 stat line during a game before the age of 22, following the Bucks' win over the Cavs on Tuesday. You can't ask more from your 6'11" point guard. I mean, shooting guard. Or is it small for... never mind.



14- Detroit Pistons (11 - 10) Last week: 17- The Pistons entered last night's game against the Magic with news that starting point guard Reggie Jackson could make his season debut, adding extra momentum to that which was garnered by their three-game winning streak entering that game.



15- Portland Trail Blazers (11 - 10) Last week: 16- The latest from the Rumor Central indicates that the Blazers could be frontrun-



ners to acquire Nerlens Noel should the 76ers make their injured center available before the Feb 23 trade deadline. Portland could definitely use some help on defense, which remains the worst in the league as of Monday morning.



16- Indiana Pacers (9 - 10) Last week: 15- Paul George was set to return to the Pacers' lineup last night against the Clippers after missing six of his team's past seven games. The Pacers were 3-3 on those games; and also play the Warriors tonight on the second night of a back-to-back on the road.



17- Los Angeles Lakers (10 - 12) Last week: 14- The Lakers' offense is missing injured starters Nick Young and D'Angelo Russell. In their 113-80 loss to the Raptors on Friday, it was only the second time since 1970-71 that the Lakers made less than 35 percent of their field-goal attempts (per the Elias Sports Bureau).



18- New York Knicks (10 - 9) Last week: 18- New York's free-agent-to-be point guard Derrick Rose expressed desire to not only extend his deal with the Knicks, but also to spend the rest of his career with the team. This is shaping to be a good first season for him as a Knick, provided that he stays healthy.



19- Atlanta Hawks (10 - 11) Last week: 8- Is it too harsh to drop the Hawks by a whopping 11 spots within a week? Not only did Atlanta enter Monday on a six-game losing streak, but it also averaged only 89.7 points and allowed 111.5 points in those matches. Meanwhile, it lost its stronghold over the number one position in defensive rating, and dropped to 27th in offensive rating.



20- Orlando Magic (8 - 12) Last week: 22- How many lineup reshuffles is it going to take before Frank Vogel realizes that Aaron Gordon is best suited playing at his natural power forward position? Gordon, playing at small forward, still scored a season-high 20 points to help his team edge the 76ers on Friday.



21- Sacramento Kings (7 - 12) Last week: 20- DeMarcus Cousins expressing desire to play alongside former University of Kentucky teammate John Wall one day was probably not the main story in Sacramento last week - nor was it last Wednesday's postponed game against the 76ers. It must have been ugly watching Cousins getting outdueled by an undersized opponent (Horford) in the Kings' loss to the Celtics Friday.



22- Miami Heat (7 - 13) Last week: 25- Bench scoring helped the Heat beat the Nuggets and Jazz on Thursday and Friday respectively, but injuries prevented a similar contribution and a third-straight win against the Blazers on Saturday.



23- New Orleans Pelicans (7 - 13) Last week: 21- Anthony Davis entered Monday leading the league in points per game (31.5) and blocks per game (2.7), which signifies its importance to the Pelicans on both ends of the floor.



24- Denver Nuggets (7 - 13) Last week: 23- Jamal Murray, shaking off a slow start of the season, was named the Western Conference Rookie of the Month for October/November after averaging 10.4 points per game and closing the month scoring 18 or more points in four of his last six games.



25- Minnesota Timberwolves (6 - 14) Last week: 24- Karl-Anthony Towns scored a career-high 47 points in the Timberwolves' loss to the Knicks on Wednesday, and is averaging 23.1 points and 11.4 rebounds in his past 10 games. He scored 27 and received help from Andrew Wiggins (29 points) to propel their team to victory against the Hornets on Saturday.



26- Washington Wizards (6 - 12) Last week: 26- The Wizards lost its last two games against the Thunder in overtime, then the Spurs who won through Kawhi Leonard's game-winner. Their defense has picked up a little, ranking tenth in the league in the past six games.



27- Phoenix Suns (6 - 14) Last week: 27- The frontcourt logjam in Phoenix could be seen as something that is hindering rookie forward Dragan Bender's progress, as it is yet too early to judge his fourth overall draft selection based on the modest numbers he's shown so far.



28- Brooklyn Nets (5 - 14) Last week: 29- Not only was the win against the Clippers monumental in terms of beating one of the best teams this season, but it also helped the Nets avoid a 10-game losing streak. Meanwhile, the Rockets have until tonight to match the \$37 million, four-year offer sheet Brooklyn signed with forward Donatas Motiejunas on Friday.



29- Dallas Mavericks (4 - 15) Last week: 30- The Mavs' win against the Bulls Saturday means that they no longer have the league's worst record. More importantly, Deron Williams had one of his best showings this season during that game, dishing a season-high 15 assists with only one turnover.



OAKLAND: Golden State Warriors' Stephen Curry, center, drives between Phoenix Suns' Dragan Bender, left, and Alex Len during the second half of an NBA basketball game Saturday, in Oakland, Calif. — AP

CURRY LEADS WARRIORS OVER SUNS

OAKLAND: Stephen Curry scored 20 of his 31 points in the third quarter and the Golden State Warriors ran their NBA-record streak of regular season games without consecutive losses to 106 by beating the Phoenix Suns 138-109 on Saturday night. "It's an incredible mark of consistency," said coach Steve Kerr, who spoke in depth before the game about his admission to using marijuana for chronic back pain. Curry hit five 3-pointers and Klay Thompson added 26 points and a season-high six 3s. Kevin Durant had 20 points and eight assists, and Draymond Green a season-best 13 assists to go with nine points. Golden State hasn't lost back-to-back games during the regular season since April 2015 to San Antonio and New Orleans during its championship season. Eric Bledsoe scored 13 of his 27 points in the second quarter for the Suns.

GRIZZLIES 103, LAKERS 100

Troy Daniels scored a career-high 31 points as the Memphis Grizzlies hung on for a victory over the Los Angeles Lakers on Saturday night after Julius Randle missed three free throws with 5.9 seconds left. Lou Williams converted a three-point play with 51 seconds remaining to pull the Lakers within one possession, and they had a chance to tie when Gasol fouled Randle on a 3-point attempt. Daniels shot 12 of 23 from the field, including 6 of 12 from 3-point range. Marc Gasol had 19 points, and JaMychal Green added 16 points and 13 rebounds. Williams scored a season-best 40 points for the Lakers. Luol Deng added 18.

TIMBERWOLVES 125, HORNETS 120, OT

Andrew Wiggins scored 29 points, while Karl-Anthony Towns added 27 points and 15 rebounds as Minnesota erased a 10-point, fourth-quarter deficit to beat Charlotte in overtime.

Zack LaVine added 17 points and Ricky Rubio had nine points and 12 assists for the Timberwolves. They snapped a four-game losing streak and avoided being swept by the Hornets for the third straight season. Towns, a dominant force on the glass all night, had six points in overtime, including a backbreaking follow off a missed shot with 21 seconds left to put the Timberwolves up by six. Towns sealed the victory with two free throws with 3.9 seconds remaining. Minnesota tied the game in regulation behind 3-pointers from LaVine, Rubio and Wiggins in the final two minutes. Wiggins' pull-up 3 in transition with 8.9 seconds tied the game at 106. Walker led Charlotte with 22 points and eight assists. Frank Kaminsky had 21 points, and Nic Batusi had 15 points and 12 assists.

RAPTORS 128, HAWKS 84

DeMar DeRozan had 21 points and Kyle Lowry and Patrick Patterson each added 17 in Toronto's victory over Atlanta. Lowry also had eight assists and eight rebounds to help Toronto win its sixth straight and tie Cleveland for the Eastern Conference lead. The NBA champion Cavaliers will be in Toronto on Monday night in an Eastern Conference Finals rematch. Dennis Schroder had 15 points and six assists for the Hawks, Dwight Howard had 10 points and 17 rebounds, and Tim Hardaway Jr. added 15 points. They have lost six in a row.

MAVERICKS 107, BULLS 82

Wesley Matthews scored 20 of his 26 points in the second half in Dallas' victory over Chicago. Harrison Barnes scored 17 of his 22 points in the first half to help Dallas win its second straight game after losing 13 of its first 15. Chicago was coming off a 111-105 victory over defending champion Cleveland on Friday night, the Bulls' only win in their last four. Jimmy

Butler led Chicago with 26 points.

CELTICS 107, 76ERS 106

Isaiah Thomas scored 12 straight Boston points late in the fourth quarter and tied his season high with 37 points to lead the Celtics past Philadelphia. Avery Bradley added 20 points for Boston. The Celtics have won nine in a row against the 76ers. Rookie Dario Saric tied his career high with 21 points and had 12 rebounds for Philadelphia. The 76ers have lost sixth straight.

TRAIL BLAZERS 99, HEAT 92

Damian Lillard scored 19 points and CJ McCollum added 17, including a pair of key late baskets, to rally Portland past Miami. Hassan Whiteside had 28 points and 18 rebounds for the Heat. McCollum's layup tied it at 92 with 1:44 to go. Maurice Harkless banked in a jumper to give Portland a 94-92 lead. McCollum added a jumper with just under a minute left to make it 96-92.

JAZZ 105, NUGGETS 98

Gordon Hayward matched his season high with 32 points as Utah beat Denver. The Jazz used a 31-8 stretch in the third quarter to blow open the game. Hayward took over, scoring both inside and on the perimeter, with 21 points in the quarter. He has third 30-point games in a row. Wilson Chandler and Will Barton each had 20 for Denver.

BUCKS 112, NETS 103

Matthew Dellavedova scored 12 of his 18 points in the fourth quarter, helping Milwaukee hold off Brooklyn for its fourth straight victory. John Henson led Milwaukee with 20 points and added seven rebounds, and Giannis Antetokounmpo had 16 points and 10 rebounds. Bojan Bogdanovic led Brooklyn with 24 points. — AP

NBA results/standings

Golden State 138, Phoenix 109; Portland 99, Miami 92; Utah 105, Denver 98; Dallas 107, Chicago 82; Memphis 103, LA Lakers 100; Toronto 128, Atlanta 84; Boston 107, Philadelphia 106; Minnesota 125, Charlotte 120 (OT); Milwaukee 112, Brooklyn 103.

Eastern Conference				Western Conference									
Atlantic Division		Central Division		Northwest Division		Pacific Division							
W	L	PCT	GB	W	L	PCT	GB						
Toronto	14	6	.700	Cleveland	13	5	.722	Golden State	17	3	.850	-	
Boston	12	8	.600	Chicago	11	8	.579	LA Clippers	16	5	.762	1.5	
NY Knicks	10	9	.526	Milwaukee	10	8	.556	LA Lakers	10	12	.455	8	
Brooklyn	5	14	.263	Detroit	11	10	.524	Sacramento	7	12	.368	9.5	
Philadelphia	4	16	.200	Indiana	9	10	.474	Phoenix	6	14	.300	11	
				Southeast Division				Southwest Division					
				Charlotte	11	9	.550	-	San Antonio	16	4	.800	-
				Atlanta	10	11	.476	1.5	Houston	13	7	.650	3
				Orlando	8	12	.400	3	Memphis	13	8	.619	3.5
				Miami	7	13	.350	4	New Orleans	7	13	.350	9
				Washington	6	12	.333	4	Dallas	4	15	.211	11.5

KERR'S MARIJUANA ADMISSION COULD SPARK SERIOUS DIALOGUE

OAKLAND: David West has undergone four surgeries in his long NBA career: left knee, right elbow and right foot twice to fix a couple of toes. "I don't even like saying all that," he said. So, yes, West knows real pain. Draymond Green has never needed an operation - he knocks on a table not once but twice as to not jinx himself - yet he considers that the option of using medicinal marijuana "makes a lot of sense." Steve Kerr's players believe his voice can go far in starting a serious, thoughtful dialogue in professional sports regarding pot use for pain relief. "You look at something that comes from the Earth. Any vegetable that comes from the Earth, they encourage you to eat it," Green said at shootaround Saturday. "It does make a little sense as opposed to giving someone a manufactured pill. If something takes your pain away like some of these pills do, it can't be all good for you. ... He talked about

Vicodin. Toradal, you can be completely hurting and then take a Toradal shot and go through a game and feel nothing. Is that really good for you over the course of time? I doubt it." The reigning NBA Coach of the Year acknowledged he tried marijuana twice in the past 18 months while dealing with debilitating back pain that still affects him this season. Sure, it caught the team by surprise, West said, because "it came out of nowhere." Kerr told Comcast SportsNet Bay Area's Warriors Insider Podcast with Monte Poole on Friday that he used medicinal marijuana but it didn't help - and painkillers have often been worse. "I have no idea if I would, maybe I would have failed a drug test, I don't even know if I'm subject to a drug test or any laws from the NBA," Kerr said. "I tried it and it didn't help at all." He was expected to further address the marijuana use before Saturday night's game against Phoenix at Oracle

Arena. Green said he hasn't needed painkillers nor has he tried marijuana, never having a serious injury or requiring surgery. Guard Klay Thompson would support drugs for medicinal use only. "Steve's open-minded, and obviously with the way the world's going, if there's anything you can do that's medicinal, people are all for it, especially when there's stuff like Crohn's disease out there, glaucoma, a bunch of stuff, cancer. But not recreationally, that should not be of its use ever. There's a medicinal side to it that people are finding out have benefits, especially people with really high pain." California was the first state to embrace legal, medicinal marijuana two decades ago. Twenty-eight states and Washington, D.C., now allow marijuana for medical or recreational purposes. The 51-year-old Kerr missed the first 43 games last season and the team's record 24-0 start while on a leave of absence following complications from two back surgeries.—AP

HAMBURG CLIMB OFF BOTTOM WITH FIRST LEAGUE WIN

BERLIN: Hamburg moved off the bottom of the Bundesliga table yesterday after securing their first league win of the season with a 2-0 victory at fellow-strugglers Darmstadt.

RB Leipzig finish the weekend top of the table after their 2-1 win at home to Schalke on Saturday night extended their unbeaten run to 13 games—a league

record for a side in their first Bundesliga season. The victory saw them replace Bayern Munich, who won 3-1 at Freiburg on Friday thanks to two goals from Robert Lewandowski, to go three points clear of Carlo Ancelotti's Bavarian giants. At the other end of the table, Ingolstadt, who lost 2-1 at Bremen on Saturday, are now bottom after Hamburg's Michael

Gregoritsch scored his third goal in two games to give his side a first-half lead at Darmstadt. When Serbia winger Filip Kostic whipped in a cross with half an hour gone, striker Gregoritsch produced a superb diving header.

In the dying stages, Japan international Gotoku Sakai sprinted clear, then slipped the ball to Matthias Ostrzolek,

who blasted home on his left foot from the edge of the area on 90 minutes for his first Bundesliga goal. The result leaves Hamburg 17th, one place below Darmstadt, with both teams in the relegation places. This was only Hamburg's third win of the season in all competitions after winning both of their German Cup ties against low-league opposition.

The result takes some pressure off coach Markus Gisdol. Hamburg are the only team currently in Germany's top flight to have never been previously relegated since the Bundesliga started in 1963. They have stayed up in two of the last three years by winning a relegation play off, in 2013/14 and 2014/15. Last season, they finished tenth. —AFP

SOCCER TABLE

English Premier League table

(Played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, goals against, points):

Chelsea	14	11	1	2	32	11	34
Arsenal	14	9	4	1	33	14	31
Liverpool	14	9	3	2	35	18	30
Man City	14	9	3	2	30	15	30
Tottenham	14	7	6	1	24	10	27
West Brom	14	5	5	4	20	17	20
Man Utd	13	5	5	3	18	15	20
Everton	13	5	4	4	16	15	19
Stoke	14	5	4	5	16	19	19
Bournemouth	14	5	3	6	19	22	18
Watford	14	5	3	6	18	24	18
Southampton	14	4	5	5	13	15	17
Crystal Palace	14	4	2	8	24	26	14
Burnley	14	4	2	8	12	23	14
Leicester	14	3	4	7	17	24	13
Middlesbrough	13	2	6	5	12	15	12
West Ham	14	3	3	8	15	29	12
Sunderland	14	3	2	9	14	24	11
Hull	13	3	2	8	11	28	11
Swansea	14	2	3	9	16	31	9

Italian Serie A table

Juventus	15	12	0	3	32	13	36
Roma	15	10	2	3	35	16	32
AC Milan	15	10	2	3	27	19	32
Napoli	15	8	4	3	27	15	28
Lazio	15	8	4	3	27	16	28
Atalanta	15	9	1	5	24	17	28
Torino	15	7	4	4	31	19	25
Sampdoria	15	6	4	5	19	20	22
Inter Milan	15	6	3	6	22	21	21
Fiorentina	13	5	5	3	20	15	20
Cagliari	15	6	2	7	23	32	20
Genoa	13	5	4	4	17	15	19
Chievo	14	5	3	6	14	16	18
Sassuolo	15	5	2	8	20	26	17
Bologna	14	4	4	6	14	21	16
Udinese	14	4	3	7	18	23	15
Empoli	15	2	4	9	7	24	10
Pescara	15	1	5	9	12	27	8
Palermo	14	1	3	10	10	27	6
Crotone	15	1	3	11	12	29	6

Spanish La Liga table

Real Madrid	14	10	4	0	37	12	34
Barcelona	14	8	4	2	34	15	28
Sevilla	14	8	3	3	25	20	27
Atletico Madrid	14	7	4	3	28	11	25
Villarreal	14	6	5	3	19	10	23
Real Sociedad	13	7	2	4	22	14	23
Eibar	13	6	3	4	20	21	21
Celta Vigo	14	6	3	5	24	26	21
Athletic Bilbao	13	6	2	5	17	16	20
Las Palmas	13	5	4	4	24	21	19
Malaga	13	5	4	4	21	19	19
Espanyol	14	4	7	3	17	17	19
Alaves	13	4	4	5	13	16	16
Real Betis	14	4	3	7	17	28	15
Leganes	14	4	2	8	11	25	14
Valencia	13	3	2	8	17	24	11
La Coruna	13	2	4	7	13	23	10
Sporting Gijon	13	2	3	8	12	27	9
Granada	14	1	5	8	13	30	8
Osasuna	13	1	4	8	12	26	7

French Ligue 1 table

Monaco	16	11	3	2	49	16	36
Nice	15	11	3	1	27	10	36
Paris SG	16	11	2	3	30	11	35
Rennes	16	8	3	5	18	19	27
Guingamp	16	7	5	4	21	15	26
Lyon	15	8	1	6	28	18	25
Bordeaux	16	6	6	4	20	18	24
Toulouse	15	6	4	5	18	13	22
Saint-Etienne	16	5	7	4	16	14	22
Angers	16	5	4	7	15	18	19
Montpellier	16	4	7	5	23	28	19
Marseille	15	4	6	5	13	17	18
Metz	15	5	3	7	16	29	18
Lille	16	5	2	9	15	21	17
Dijon	16	3	7	6	22	25	16
Nancy	15	4	4	7	12	19	16
Caen	16	4	3	9	16	30	15
Bastia	16	3	5	8	12	20	14
Nantes	16	3	4	9	9	26	13
Lorient	16	3	3	10	16	29	12



TURIN: Juventus' defender Alex Sandro from Brazil (L) fights for the ball with Atalanta's midfielder Marco D'Alessandro during the Italian Serie A football match Juventus Vs Atalanta on Saturday at the 'Juventus Stadium' in Turin. — AFP

ROMA RETAIN DERBY BRAGGING RIGHTS WITH LAZIO WIN

MILAN: Second-half goals from Kevin Strootman and Radja Nainggolan kept the local bragging rights with Roma for the fourth year in succession thanks to a 2-0 derby win at Lazio yesterday. With only one point separating the sides, the biggest 'Derby della Capitale' in years was played out in a half-empty stadium as Roma's hardline ultras continued to protest strict security measures introduced by the club last year.

But after a contentious first half produced little of note from either side, Roma made light of their relative lack of support with an improved second-half performance that saw Strootman then Nainggolan strike within 13 minutes of each other.

Roma are now unbeaten in eight editions of the derby stretching back to 2012 and their 10th win of the season moved Luciano Spalletti's men up to second at four points behind leaders Juventus.

AC Milan sit third, also at four points adrift, after Gianluca Lapadula struck late to give the Rossoneri a last-gasp 2-1 win against Crotone at the San Siro.

After Napoli's 3-0 romp over Inter Milan on Friday kept the Azzurri's early season hopes alive, Milan's win earlier Sunday heaped the pressure on Roma to follow suit. Yet the absence of lively Egyptian winger Mohamed Salah, ruled out with injury for the rest of the year, was perhaps most felt in a lacklustre first half that saw Lazio threaten through Italy forward Ciro Immobile. But Immobile fired two efforts off target and Senad Lulic's effort was the only one on target in a half more noted for a confusing penalty kick episode. Referee Luca Banti awarded a free kick to Roma on the outside edge of the box for a Lucas Biglia trip on Bruno Peres, but caused confusion when he pointed to the penalty spot, only to change his mind when players protested. Looking to take the sole lead of the Serie A scoring charts ahead of Inter Milan striker Mauro Icardi, Edin Dzeko twice spurned chances after the restart, Marchetti notably diving to parry his far-post header from Nainggolan's cross on the hour. Roma found the breakthrough moments later, though it came thanks to a Wallace blunder for Lazio on the edge of the area. He lost control of a bouncing ball,

and after stealing in to nick possession Strootman ran through to send a delightful chip past the onrushing Marchetti.

A touchline altercation between Roma players and Lazio coaching staff ensued after Strootman, in his celebrations, squirted water into the face of Lazio substitute Danilo Cataldi.

He grabbed the Dutchman from behind, got sent off for his efforts and Strootman was cautioned.

Some lacklustre Lazio defending handed Roma the chance to double their lead 13 minutes later, Nainggolan holding off his marker on the counter to scuff a bouncing shot inside Marchetti's near post on 77 minutes. Elsewhere, England 'keeper Joe Hart conceded twice as Torino's purple patch was halted in a 2-0 defeat at Sampdoria.

Sassuolo won another mid-table battle in a 3-0 home romp over Empoli thanks to two first-half penalties from Lorenzo Pellegrini and Federico Ricci, and Antonio Ragusa's second-half strike.

Pescara grabbed a last-gasp share of the spoils when Gianluca Caprari's 92nd minute strike cancelled out Marco Borriello's 24th minute opener for Cagliari. In Sunday's late game Fiorentina can move two points ahead of Inter and into ninth place with a win at home to Palermo. — AFP

Live Matches on TV (Local Timings)

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE
Middlesbrough v Hull City 23:00
beIN SPORTS 2 HD

SPANISH LEAGUE PRIMERA DIV
Deportivo v Real Sociedad 22:45
beIN SPORTS 3 HD

ITALIAN CALCIO LEAGUE SERIE A
Chievo Verona v Genoa 21:00
beIN SPORTS 4 HD
Udinese Calcio v Bologna 23:00
beIN SPORTS 4 HD



ROME: Roma's Kevin Strootman, right, scores his side's first goal during a Serie A soccer match between Roma and Lazio at the Olympic Stadium, in Rome, yesterday. Roma won 2-0. — AP

JUVENTUS ENDS ATALANTA'S DREAM RUN IN SERIE A WITH A 3-1 WIN

ROME: Since the end of September, no one had been better in Serie A than Atalanta. Relying on a long list of promising young players, many of them developed in the club's youth academy, Atalanta had put together six consecutive wins and a nine-match unbeaten streak.

The Bergamo club's streak ended Saturday with a 3-1 loss at Juventus, the five-time defending Italian champion. Alex Sandro, Daniele Rugani and Mario Mandzukic scored for the hosts while all Atalanta could produce was a late goal from Swiss midfielder Remo Freuler.

"They should be a reference point for us. We can learn a lot from them," Atalanta coach Gian Piero Gasperini said. "There was clearly a gap on the pitch tonight. We weren't able to impose ourselves."

All three of Juve's losses this season had come after midweek Champions League losses. While the Turin club has already advanced to the knockout phase, Juventus will still be looking to win its group when it hosts Dynamo Zagreb on Wednesday.

Up next for Juventus in Serie A is the derby against Torino, followed by a possible 1-2 showdown with Roma. Atalanta is sixth, eight points behind Juventus and level on points with fourth-placed Lazio and fifth-placed Napoli.

At the Juventus Stadium, the hosts dominated from the start. Sandro dribbled by a defender before bending in an accurate shot after a quarter hour to conclude an impressive solo action. The Brazilian then ran over to the touchline and grabbed a T-shirt with a dedication to Chapecoense, the Brazilian club that lost most of its team's players and staff in a plane crash in Colombia on Monday.

Rugani doubled the lead with a header from a corner four minutes later and Mandzukic added another midway through the second half, also meeting a corner from Miralem Pjanic with a header.

Mandzukic, who has scored three goals and helped create another in his last four Serie A appearances, later exited with an apparent bruise. Freuler's goal came eight minutes from the end, on a volley from the center of the area.

Franck Kessie, Atalanta's prized 19-year-old Ivory Coast midfielder who has been linked with a possible move to Juventus, hardly made an impact. Still, there were some glimpses of promise from Atalanta, like when 22-year-old defender Mattia Caldara raced back to deflect a shot from Gonzalo Higuain over the bar. However, Rugani scored on the ensuing corner.

Also, homegrown goalkeeper Marco Sportiello leaped to push away a dangerous free kick from Pjanic shortly before the half-hour mark. And Caldara negated Higuain again in the final minutes. In the end, though, it was too little against a club designed to compete with the best in Europe. — AP

LAPADULA SAVES MILAN BLUSHES WITH LATE GOAL

MILAN: Gianluca Lapadula struck a late winner as AC Milan maintained their early season challenge to champions Juventus with a 2-1 defeat of defiant Crotone yesterday.

Milan looked to be heading for a share of the spoils against the Serie A newcomers, who had garnered just one win and three draws from their previous 14 games, after Mario Pasalic's 41st minute strike levelled Diego Falcinelli's 26th minute opener for the visitors.

But with the chance to move up to second ahead of the Lazio v Roma derby later, Vincenzo Montella's men dug in during the final, frantic minutes and were rewarded at a

corner. A poor clearance saw the ball fall to Lapadula, who turned to beat Alex Cordaz down low to secure the points four minutes from the end.

Milan's 10th win moved the Rossoneri up to provisional second place three points ahead of Roma and four behind Juventus, who tightened their grip with a 3-1 win over Atalanta in Turin on Saturday.

Later, Sampdoria host Torino while new Palermo coach Eugenio Corini takes the struggling Sicilians to Fiorentina looking to end their new club record of seven consecutive league defeats. — AFP



MILAN: Crotone's Marcus Rohden, left, challenges for the ball with AC Milan forward Gianluca Lapadula during their Serie A soccer match at the San Siro stadium in Milan, Italy, yesterday. — AP

Sports

Varner wins PGA trophy, Scott finishes third



Juventus ends Atalanta's dream run with 3-1 win



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SMITH RECORD CENTURY LEADS AUSSIES TO ODI WIN

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BOURNEMOUTH: Bournemouth's English defender Steve Cook (C) jumps high to win a header during the English Premier League football match between Bournemouth and Liverpool at the Vitality Stadium in Bournemouth, southern England yesterday. — AFP

REDS ROCKED AS BOURNEMOUTH WIN THRILLER



Bournemouth 4



Liverpool 3

BOURNEMOUTH: Liverpool's title challenge suffered an unexpected setback as they squandered a 3-1 lead to lose 4-3 at Bournemouth on an astonishing day the south coast club will never forget.

Jürgen Klopp's side missed out on a chance to go second in the Premier League and instead remain four points behind leaders Chelsea after their incredible meltdown in the last 14 minutes at Dean Court.

It was also a day when the romance and passion of English football was at its very best. Bournemouth, who were playing in the fourth tier of English football as recently as six years ago, had never beaten Liverpool in nine previous meetings in all competitions dating back to 1927; in fact you have to rewind to 1968 to even find a draw.

But after excellent goals from Sadio Mané, Divock Origi and Emre Can appeared to put Klopp's team in control, Bournemouth produced a stunning, high octane comeback culminating in a stoppage-time winner for Nathan Ake.

It was all inspired by a match-winning performance from 22-year-old substitute Ryan Fraser, who only came on because of an injury to teammate Junior Stanislas in the second half with his team trailing 2-0.

The Scottish winger won a penalty with his first touch, scored Bournemouth's second at 3-1 and set up the equaliser for Steve Cook as the game was turned on its head.

Liverpool fans might have feared their club's challenge to win a first league title in 27 years could be derailed by news that star man Philippe Coutinho will be missing for up to six weeks with an ankle injury suffered against Sunderland eight days ago.

But instead it was their defence, with Lucas Leiva used as an emergency centre-back because of an injury to Joel Matip, that proved the problem and highlighted weaknesses in Klopp's squad.

Klopp has spoken recently about the need to add players in January, particularly since Coutinho's injury, and it may be at the back where he needs most help.

SUMPTUOUS

At first it looked as though Liverpool would cruise this game, however.

Bournemouth's problems began after 20 minutes when a sumptuous long pass from Can sent Mané racing towards goal.

He easily held off defender Ake before coolly and cleverly drinking a shot past goalkeeper Artur Boruc.

If there was nothing Boruc could do about that one, he was certainly at fault for the next—which arrived only two minutes later.

Again, a long ball up the line—this time on the right flank from Jordan Henderson—found Origi racing into the channel, but strangely Boruc hared out of his goal, heading across the field, far too early.

The Belgian was able to side step him and curl a perfect long-range shot into the far corner of the net from a very difficult angle.

Bournemouth's best hope in the first half came with a strong penalty shout when Roberto Firmino appeared to trip Ake in the area—and if the Bournemouth man had not flung himself so dramatically to the floor he may well have got it. But the home side did score from the spot after 56 minutes when James Milner, playing at left-back, clearly brought down Fraser who had only arrived on the pitch seconds earlier.

Striker Callum Wilson scored confidently to add spice to the game.

Liverpool responded well, going 3-1 ahead after 64 minutes when Mané cut the ball back for Can to score with a fierce and swerving shot from the edge of the area. Fraser had one effort well saved before finishing an excellent breakaway move with a drilled finish from inside the area after 75 minutes.

Suddenly the visitors were rocking—and when Fraser crossed again from the right, Wilson set the ball back for defender Cook to lash home an unlikely equaliser.

Bournemouth completed their incredible comeback when Loris Karius fumbled Cook's long-range shot and Ake pounced from close range. — AFP

MAN UNITED CONCEDES LATE PENALTY, DRAWS AT EVERTON



Everton 1



Man Utd 1

LIVERPOOL: Leighton Baines converted an 88th-minute penalty to earn Everton a 1-1 draw against Manchester United yesterday in the latest setback for Jose Mourinho's team in the English Premier League.

Substitute Marouane Fellaini had only been on the field for a few minutes when he brought down Idrissa Gueye, and Baines found the corner with the resulting spot kick. That canceled out an exquisite lobbed finish from Zlatan Ibrahimovic that gave United a fortunate lead in the 42nd minute.

United has made its worst start to a Premier League campaign and is already 13 points behind first-placed Chelsea after 14 games.

Aside from the late goal, a big talking point from a low-quality game was a crude tackle from United defender Marcos Rojo in the 16th that might have justified a red card but only earned him a yellow.

A day after Manchester City striker Sergio Aguero was sent off for a knee-high lunge on Chelsea defender David Luiz, Rojo left the ground and dived two-footed -

with his studs showing - into the leg of Gueye. Everton's players sprinted to referee Michael Oliver to urge him to show a red card, but the official surprisingly chose yellow instead.

That was the only notable incident of a disappointing first half until the goal from Ibrahimovic, which owed as much to the rashness of goalkeeper Maarten Stekelenburg as the Swedish striker's skill.

Ibrahimovic ran onto Anthony Martial's long ball forward but the situation looked relatively harmless for Everton until Stekelenburg chose to race out of his area in a bid to clear the ball.

Ibrahimovic reached it first, deftly flicked the ball over the keeper and watched it bounce up against the bar, down onto the post, land on the goal-line and spin back over the line before Ramiro Funes Mori could clear.

Ibrahimovic stayed in the spotlight early in the second half when he landed heavily on Seamus Coleman as they battled for the ball before appearing to drop his foot on the head of the defender.

Ander Herrera struck the angle of post and bar with a close-range half-volley in the 60th before United faced a strong finish from Everton.

De Gea saved from Kevin Mirallas and Enner Valencia but was finally beaten by Baines after Fellaini's clumsy challenge.

United is sixth with 21 points, two places and a point above Everton. — AP



LIVERPOOL: Everton's English-born Welsh defender Ashley Williams (L) clears the ball as Manchester United's French midfielder Paul Pogba tries to block during the English Premier League football match between Everton and Manchester United at Goodison Park in Liverpool, north west England yesterday. — AFP

Kuwait Times **BUSINESS**

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on Greek debt relief**

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**Al-Thani
participates in Open
ROADS Summit**

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KUWAIT RANKS AMONG TOP 10 MIDDLE EAST CITIES TO LIVE IN

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LAHORE: Pakistani traders sell oranges on their trucks at a fruit market in Lahore yesterday. —AFP

TRUMP THREATS MAY NOT STOP OFFSHORING OF JOBS

PRESIDENT-ELECT PROMISES TO MAKE US A BETTER PLACE FOR BUSINESS

NEW YORK: US President-elect Donald Trump's threats to retaliate against US companies planning to shift operations overseas constitute a new risk for multinationals, but may not sway those already planning to offshore jobs. Trump laid down the gauntlet on Thursday at a campaign-style rally after striking a deal with Carrier to keep about 1,100 jobs in Indiana in exchange for \$7 million in state tax incentives over 10 years.

"Companies are not going to leave the United States any more without consequences. Not going to happen," Trump told the cheering crowd. "They can leave from state to state, and negotiate deals with different states, but leaving the country will be very, very difficult."

The president-elect did not offer details on how he planned to pressure companies to keep jobs in the United States, but one obvious lever includes the

removal of government contracts. That could make companies that work in defense, public works and public services especially vulnerable to retribution. "Boeing, for example, would have to play ball if it wants its government contracts renewed," said one expert who requested anonymity. Trump coupled the threat with a promise to make the US a better place for business by cutting taxes and streamlining regulations.

"There are a lot of plans already in place," said Hal Sirkin, a manufacturing expert at the Boston Consulting Group. "CEOs are following the news closely and trying to figure out what all of this could mean for their businesses."

Will threats work?

Some companies said Trump's broadside was not sufficient to compel a change in plans. Caterpillar announced in

March 2015 it plans to shutter a plant in Joliet, Illinois that makes oil pumps and valves, and move 230 jobs to Mexico.

"We are continuing to execute on the previously announced plan on the stated timeline," said Matt Lavoie, a spokesman at Caterpillar. Food giant Mondelez International also signaled it would proceed with plans to relocate hundreds of jobs from an Oreo cookie plant in Chicago to Mexico.

"We have not had any contact with the new administration," said Mondelez spokeswoman Laurie Guzzinati, adding that the Chicago baker remains an "important part of our manufacturing network" and that it continues to make Oreos at three US factories.

Not far from Trump's victory celebration at Carrier in Indiana, the industrial companies Rexnord, CTS Corp. and Manitowoc Foodservice all plan to shift

activities overseas from the Indianapolis area. Manitowoc opted to close a plant in Sellersburg, Indiana due to a decline in demand for soda-drink dispensers, which had been made there, a spokesman said. Most of the 87 jobs are being moved to Tijuana, Mexico.

"The wind down of the plant is proceeding according to our original schedule," Manitowoc spokesman Rich Sheffer said. "Yesterday's speech did not include anything specific enough for us to reconsider our plans."

Trump's plans drew mixed reviews, with United Auto Workers Union President Dennis Williams offering accolades. "We should use this opportunity to start running a commercial: If it's not built in America, don't buy it," Williams said.

But the Alliance for American Manufacturing, an industry-labor alliance, offered tempered praise. It noted that

Friday's jobs report showed a decline of 4,000 manufacturing jobs in November and called for a crackdown on "unsavory" policies of trade partners.

"While on balance, I believe this week's Carrier deal was worth doing, it isn't a practical job creation policy moving forward," alliance president Scott Paul said.

Senator Bernie Sanders said Trump's plans were a losing proposal, in part because Carrier will still transfer 1,000 jobs to Mexico. Trump failed to save all 2,100 jobs, as he promised, Sanders said. Carrier "took Trump hostage and won," Sanders said in an op-ed he wrote for The Washington Post.

Trump endangered other US jobs, Sanders said, "because he has signaled to every corporation in America that they can threaten to offshore jobs in exchange for business-friendly tax benefits and incentives." —AFP

OIL PRICES TO REACH \$60PB BY YEAR-END: KUWAITI ANALYST

KUWAIT: Oil prices have been on the rise by 15 percent since the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) decided on Wednesday to cut production as of January 1, an analyst has said. In an interview yesterday, head of Al-Ofuq Consultancy Center Dr Khaled Bodai, expected oil prices to hit \$60 per barrel by the end of the year, thanks to last week's landmark decision concluded by OPEC.

On Wednesday, the OPEC members concluded a historical deal in Vienna to cut production by 1.2 million barrel daily as of 1 January. Also, the organization received vows from non-OPEC producers to cut production by 600,000 barrels per day. Russia alone will cut 300,000 barrels daily.

In order to secure success for the deal, there is a dire need for the OPEC members to commit themselves to the deal. Non-OPEC producers will also have to honor their voluntary steps to reduce production, Bodai said.

In addition to the impact of the OPEC decision on prices, it also sends a strong message that the organization is ready to intervene in time to discipline prices, he said. This positively affects the entire scene, giving confidence to markets, and

investors. Moreover, the rise in prices will give a push to the shale industry, which will in time constitute more pressure on prices. Unluckily, this will be limited owing to the environment risks that restrict any potential expansion in the industry, Al-Ofuq chief said.

He also referred to the flagging economies in some oil consuming countries, which could curb rise of prices to the old record levels. According to Bodai, OPEC's intervention proved fruitful and effective in the past, and had a positive outcome; However, the organization's inaction, as has been the case since the start of this decade till last November, led prices to deteriorate.

He referred to the huge budget deficits in the world's major oil producers, especially in the Gulf, which mainly, or even solely, depend on oil revenues for income, due to the severe unprecedented falls in prices over the past months. Bodai pointed to expectations by specialists that demand on oil is growing, saying that an acceptable price for producers at present could be \$65-70 pb.

OPEC needs to develop stable policies on controlling production and protecting prices, which it will have to adjust with the changing conditions on the market, he concluded. —KUNA

SAUDI SHARES UP, DUBAI OUTPERFORMS

MIDEAST STOCK MARKETS

DUBAI: Most stock markets in the Gulf rose yesterday as investors cheered a rally in crude oil prices, while foreign buyers continued to support Egypt's index. Brent crude futures ended their best week in at least five years on Friday, settling at \$54.46 a barrel following OPEC's agreement to cut output to prop up prices.

Saudi Arabia's general market index added 0.5 percent in heavy trade, taking its gains for the year to 3.2 percent. The index was down as much as 21.6 percent only nine weeks ago as the economy struggled with low oil prices. But a string of positive events over the last several weeks principally the government's \$17.5 billion international bond sale, its promise to settle delayed payments to the private sector, and the OPEC decision - has unleashed a wave of buying by institutional funds.

The latest report by the Saudi exchange showed institutional funds were net buyers of Saudi shares by a large margin last month, while retail investors, who often account for roughly 90 percent of activity, were net sellers. Yesterday's session was volatile in some sectors. Most petrochemical shares lost steam as investors booked profits, turning their focus to year-end earnings after factoring in the oil price rally. "Now that there has been price discovery in

crude markets following the OPEC deal, investors will be focusing on the quality names and those producers that can still offer attractive value at current prices," said a Jeddah-based portfolio manager.

After a strong rally in recent weeks, many petrochemical producers are now in line with what analysts estimate to be fair value. Yanbu National Petrochemical, for example, closed down 1.0 percent on Sunday at 51.00 riyals; analysts' average fair value estimate, according to Thomson Reuters data, is 49.73 riyals. Second- and third-tier stocks favored by local day traders outperformed. Saudi United Cooperative Insurance soared its 10 percent daily limit and Herfy Food Services jumped 5.0 percent.

UAE, EGYPT

The stock index in Dubai, which was closed for a public holiday on Thursday, gained 1.7 percent in heavy trade. Blue chips Emaar Properties and Dubai Islamic Bank each climbed 3.1 percent. In Abu Dhabi, Abu Dhabi National Energy surged 10 percent on the back of strong oil prices and Union National Bank added 1.3 percent.

But Abu Dhabi's index was dragged 1.1 percent lower by telecommunications heavy-

weight Etisalat, which pulled back 3.5 percent. Funds may be exiting the stock, which is seen as a defensive investment, to enter oil-related shares and the bullish Saudi Arabian market. Doha's main index closed up 1.0 percent as petrochemical producer Industries Qatar rose by that margin.

In Egypt, the index of the 30 most liquid shares added 0.7 percent as foreign buyers remained net purchasers of stocks by a small margin of \$1 million, bourse data showed. Foreign funds, which have been underweight in the Egyptian stock market compared to other emerging markets, have been net buyers since authorities floated the local currency on Nov 3. Industrial companies seen as most likely to benefit from improved access to hard currency after the float were among top gainers yesterday, with GB Auto jumping 11.3 percent and Ezz Steel adding 5.2 percent.

Orascom Telecom Media, the most heavily traded stock, sank 5.3 percent after saying it was closing its Orabank affiliate in North Korea because of the complexity of complying with U.S. sanctions on that country. Orascom said its associate Koryolink would continue telecommunications operations in North Korea while complying with the sanctions. —Reuters



TEHRAN: Iran's President Hassan Rouhani (left) hands out documents to Parliament Speaker Ali Larijani after presenting his budget for 2017-2018 yesterday in Tehran. —AFP

ROUHANI PRESENTS BUDGET, OPEC DEAL BOOSTS REVENUES

TRUMP ELECTION COULD THREATEN IRAN GROWTH

TEHRAN: Iran's President Hassan Rouhani presented his budget yesterday, with OPEC's decision to cut production helping to boost its expected oil revenues. Rouhani's 2017-2018 budget is based on oil prices of \$50 per barrel, up from \$40 last year, with a focus on unemployment, water resources, railways and the environment. Rouhani proposed a state budget of about \$100 billion for next year, loosening the purse strings to support economic growth as Donald Trump's election threatens to put renewed pressure on Tehran.

The sums look realistic after last week's historic agreement by the 14-member Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) to cut production by 1.2 million barrels per day (bpd), which has already boosted oil prices to over \$50. Iran was exempted from the cuts as it seeks to regain the market share it lost during years of international sanctions.

Rouhani announced a draft budget for the Iranian year that will start on March 21 of 3,200 trillion rials (\$99.7 billion at the official exchange rate), excluding state enterprises. That is up 9 percent from the plan for the current year. "Maintaining the growth rate that was launched in the (current) year is the main economic issue for the country and all economic policies should be designed around this axis," Rouhani told parliament in a speech carried live by state television. Since sanctions were lifted in January under a nuclear deal with world powers, its oil production has risen from 2.7 million bpd to 3.8 million, Rouhani said, and it aims to hit almost 4 million bpd by mid-2017.

However, Rouhani said Iran still needed to meet its target of eight percent growth over the next five years as it seeks to rebuild an economy

ravaged by international sanctions and domestic mismanagement.

Adding to the challenges, the rial has taken a pounding in the past fortnight, losing more than eight percent of its value and falling to around 39,500 to the dollar on the open market. The rial's collapse has been closely tied to events in Washington, where the US Congress voted last week to renew sanctions against Iran that were not covered under the nuclear deal.

The election of Donald Trump, and his appointment of several people with strongly anti-Iranian views, have also added to the uncertainty around Iran's economy. Rouhani called the potential renewal of sanctions a "clear violation of the nuclear accord" and called on President Barack Obama to veto the bill when it lands on his desk this week.

"If the American president renews this law, it will be contrary to America's commitments and we will react," Rouhani told parliament.

Conservatives in Iran have criticized Rouhani over the nuclear deal, saying it has brought few economic benefits. Although many countries have dropped their sanctions and are eager to do business with Iran, trade deals have been blocked by the refusal of global banks to return to the country, fearing they may fall foul of the remaining US sanctions.

Rouhani faces a tough bid for a second term at elections in May, although a clear rival has yet to emerge from the conservative camp.

After struggling for years under sanctions, Iran's economy has picked up after most restrictions were removed in January under a deal with world powers on Tehran's nuclear program.

The International Monetary Fund estimates growth of 4.5 percent this year, up from just 0.4

percent last year. But Rouhani is under pressure to sustain economic growth as his hardline opponents, who were against the nuclear agreement, say he has failed to improve living standards as much as hoped after the lifting of sanctions. The next presidential elections are due in mid-2017.

Trump's pledge to scrap the nuclear deal may mean his administration will reimpose sanctions or at least interpret remaining ones more stringently. Even if Trump takes no concrete action, uncertainty over Washington's intentions in the next few years could make companies around the world more cautious about trading with or investing in Iran, limiting the economic boost which Rouhani hoped to gain from the nuclear deal. So the draft budget partially loosens the conservative fiscal policy which Rouhani adopted after taking power in 2013. Taking into account inflation running at about 9 percent, next year's draft budget envisages roughly zero spending growth in real terms.

The current year's budget, compiled when inflation was considerably higher, represents a rise of slightly over 7 percent from the previous year's plan. "We hope to end the (current) year with single-digit inflation, a 5 percent growth rate and the creation of 700,000 new jobs," Rouhani said in his speech. As in past years, the draft budget shows spending and revenues in balance, although the actual result will depend on fluctuations in oil prices. Next year's budget assumes oil prices of \$45-\$55 per barrel, Iranian news agencies reported, up from \$40 for the current year's budget.

The draft budget has to be passed by parliament and approved by a clerical body that vets legislation before it becomes law. — Agencies

DISPARATE EFFECT OF CRUDE PRICES ON OIL, GAS STOCKS

KUWAIT: Kuwaiti economists have shared the view that the impact of changing crude prices, up or down, vary on the listed oil and gas stocks. They said that most of the listed oil and gas companies listed on the Bourse Kuwait, the Kuwait stock market, are not directly involved in dealing in the crude, but they offer logistics services, such as exploration or the complementary industries.

The listed stocks respond positively to any rise of prices of the crude on the international market, and of course the increase of the Kuwaiti oil, which will be reflected on the state's income, and consequently more spending for development projects, all for the benefit of the companies, they agreed in different interviews with KUNA.

Former CEO of Al-Arabi Financial Brokerage Co Maitham Al-Shakhs said yesterday that the listed companies would not be directly impacted since they are not in the crude trade. Their benefit from any increase or decrease in prices depends on the different between stocks, Al-Shakhs said.

No doubt all the companies at Bourse Kuwait will interact positively with the jump in oil prices to about USD 5 over the

past few days, Chairman of the National Industries Company Mohammed Al-Naqi told KUNA. Generally, the rise will affect their businesses, especially operational activities, he added, noting that it is natural that the effect would be the biggest on the oil and gas stocks.

This will be obvious in the budgets and the quarterly results of these companies, as well as the balance sheet by the end of the year, he noted. The rise or fall of crude prices affects sentiments of most investors and traders in markets of oil producer countries, like the Gulf region, especially small ones, Head of the Traders Society Mohammad Al-Tarrah told KUNA.

The oil industry is highly affected by demand or economic shrinkage, he said. Al-Tarrah explained that economic growth entails more consumption, which means rise in sales for these companies. The oil and gas companies listed at the Bourse Kuwait include Contracting and Marine Services Company, IKarus Petroleum Industries Company, Senergy Holding, Independent Petroleum Group, National Petroleum Services Company, the Energy House, Gulf Petroleum Investment, and Abar Burgan Co. for Well Drilling. — KUNA

KUWAIT OIL PRICE UP \$1.33 TO \$49.01 PB

KUWAIT: The price of Kuwaiti oil went up by \$1.33 to \$49.01 per barrel Friday after being at \$47.68 pb the day before, said Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) yesterday. At the global level, the oil price went up to its highest number in five years due to the OPEC announcement to reduce the organization's production by the beginning of next year.

The price of the Brent crude was up yesterday by 52 cents to \$54.46 per barrel, the same case with the American crude which jumped by 62 cents to reach \$51.68 pb.

An informed source in the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) said a recently-formed ministerial committee will meet with representatives of non-OPEC producers in Vienna on Saturday, December 10.

The planned meeting was initially scheduled to take place in Moscow but consultations with Russia and other non-OPEC producers led to changing its venue, the source told KUNA on Saturday under the condition of anonymity. The meeting will follow the

historic 171st Meeting of the Conference of OPEC, held in Vienna on Wednesday, November 30, where the conferees decided to bring down the OPEC oil output by 1.2 million bpd.

The decision, to take effect on January 1, 2017, is the first of its kind by the global organization since 2008; it will bring down the output ceiling to 32.5 bpd, the source noted. The conferees also formed a ministerial committee, chaired by Kuwait and including Algeria and Venezuela, to oversee commitment of OPEC member states to the decision on production cut and to their respective production quotas.

Saturday meeting is expected to focus on involving the non-OPEC producers in the effort to end the glut on the market, the source said. Such producers stated their desire to cut their production by 600,000 bpd with Russia pledging to cut its production by 300,000 bpd, the source noted, adding that such pledges will reduce the oil supply on the global market by a total of 1.8 million bpd. —KUNA



AHMEDABAD: An Indian staffer oversees an assembly line of Amul Strawberry Milk bottles at a factory on the outskirts of Ahmedabad yesterday. —AFP

EGYPT HIKES TARIFFS ON IMPORTED GOODS

CAIRO: Egypt is raising tariffs on some imported goods to up to 60 percent following a decree by President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, the finance ministry said yesterday.

The ministry said the measure was introduced to "reduce imports", which have seen Egypt's trade deficit soar to more than \$49 billion (46 billion euros). Sisi's list of hundreds of imported goods set for a tariff rise includes electronic devices, fridges, soaps, cosmetics, various types of shoes, chocolate, and fruit, it said in a statement. Most tariffs were raised by half, the ministry said, with many products having their

tariffs increase to up to 60 percent. The move comes as Egyptians are struggling to cope with a wave of higher prices-including on imported goods-following six years of political and economic turmoil in the aftermath of the 2011 uprising which toppled longtime president Hosni Mubarak.

The International Monetary Fund last month approved a \$12-billion loan for Egypt, which has seen its foreign currency reserves plunge in recent years. The IMF approval came after Cairo took crucial steps to meet its loan requirements, including slashing fuel subsidies, announcing a

value added tax, and floating the Egyptian pound. But even before these steps, a dollar crunch over the past year had already driven up prices for imports including medicine and other basic goods, causing shortages.

Local manufacturers' production was also affected, with them needing to import parts or raw materials to make their finished goods locally. The authorities are already implementing the new tariff system, which is expected to increase annual tariff revenues by 6 billion Egyptian pounds (\$337 million, 316 million euros), the ministry said. — AFP

EXCHANGE RATES

AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

ASIAN COUNTRIES	
Japanese Yen	2.713
Indian Rupees	4.468
Pakistani Rupees	2.916
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.059
Nepali Rupees	2.791
Singapore Dollar	215.350
Hongkong Dollar	39.433
Bangladesh Taka	3.860
Philippine Peso	6.152
Thai Baht	8.608

GCC COUNTRIES	
Saudi Riyal	81.601
Qatari Riyal	84.046
ani Riyal	794.699
Bahraini Dinar	81.540
UAE Dirham	83.302

ARAB COUNTRIES	
Egyptian Pound - Cash	23.900
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	17.190
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.228
Tunisian Dinar	133.830
Jordanian Dinar	430.920
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	2.039
Syrian Lira	2.180
Morocco Dirham	30.889

EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES	
US Dollar Transfer	305.800
Euro	326.900
Sterling Pound	383.170
Canadian dollar	228.460
Turkish lira	900.700

Swiss Franc	303.370
Australian Dollar	230.110
US Dollar Buying	304.600

GOLD	
20 Gram	244.13
10 Gram	124.98
5 Gram	63.34

DOLLARCO EXCHANGE CO. LTD

Rate for Transfer	Selling Rate
US Dollar	305.450
Canadian Dolla	228.145
Sterling Pound	380.415
Euro	325.355
Swiss Frank	302.840
Bahrain Dinar	809.725
UAE Dirhams	83.555
Qatari Riyals	84.775
Saudi Riyals	82.380
Jordanian Dinar	431.985
Egyptian Pound	17.561
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.058
Indian Rupees	4.452
Pakistani Rupees	2.913
Bangladesh Taka	3.878
Philippines Pessso	6.136
Cyprus pound	167.747
Japanese Yen	3.725
Syrian Pound	2.430
Nepalese Rupees	3.780
Malaysian Ringgit	69.400

Chinese Yuan Renminbi	44.775
Thai Bhat	9.575
Turkish Lira	89.700

BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY WLL

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
British Pound	0.383715	0.393715
Czech Korune	0.004072	0.016072
Danish Krone	0.039875	0.044875
Euro	0.321824	0.330824
Norwegian Krone	0.032390	0.037590
Romanian Leu	0.084806	0.084806
Slovakia	0.009174	0.019174
Slovenian Krona	0.029264	0.034264
Swiss Franc	0.296577	0.307577
Turkish Lira	0.085334	0.095634

Australasia	BUY	SELL
Australian Dollar	0.220517	0.232517
New Zealand Dollar	0.213053	0.222553

America	BUY	SELL
Canadian Dollar	0.225068	0.234068
Georgina Lari	0.138207	0.138207
US Dollars	0.301900	0.306600
US Dollars Mint	0.302400	0.306600

Asia	BUY	SELL
Bangladesh Taka	0.003377	0.003961
Chinese Yuan	0.042940	0.046440
Hong Kong Dollar	0.037368	0.040118
Indian Rupee	0.000096	0.004607

Indonesian Rupiah	0.000018	0.000024
Japanese Yen	0.002615	0.002795
Kenyan Shilling	0.003147	0.003147
Korean Won	0.000252	0.000267
Malaysian Ringgit	0.06461	0.070761
Nepalese Rupee	0.002840	0.003010
Pakistan Rupee	0.002670	0.002960
Philippine Peso	0.006059	0.006359
Sierra Leone	0.000068	0.000074
Singapore Dollar	0.210318	0.220318
South African Rand	0.016289	0.024789
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001642	0.002222
Taiwan	0.009486	0.009666
Thai Baht	0.008255	0.008805

Arab	BUY	SELL
Bahraini Dinar	0.805100	0.813600
Egyptian Pound	0.015640	0.024893
Iranian Riyal	0.000085	0.000086
Iraqi Dinar	0.000181	0.000241
Jordanian Dinar	0.426542	0.435542
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000148	0.000248
Moroccan Dirhams	0.020137	0.044137
Nigerian Naira	0.001268	0.001903
Omani Riyal	0.788384	0.794064
Qatar Riyal	0.083239	0.084689
Saudi Riyal	0.808513	0.818113
Syrian Pound	0.001298	0.001518
Tunisian Dinar	0.129939	0.137939
Turkish Lira	0.085334	0.095634
UAE Dirhams	0.081888	0.083588
Yemeni Riyal	0.001013	0.001093

BIGGEST UNION REACHES DEAL WITH CALIFORNIA GOVT

SACRAMENTO, Calif: California's largest public-employee union announced Saturday that it had reached a contract agreement with Gov. Jerry Brown's administration.

If workers ratify the deal, it would bring to a close contentious negotiations that led to a strike threat and allegations of bad-faith bargaining. Service Employees International Union Local 1000 didn't immediately release the terms of the deal, but union President Yvonne Walker said in a statement that it achieves improvements in compensation, professional development, working conditions, and health and safety.

"This is a victory we achieved by thousands of members standing together across the state, taking action in our work-sites, and having an unrelenting willingness to strike if it became necessary," she said. "Together we showed the state the power of our commitment to each other, to our families and to our communities." The union 1000 represents 95,000 workers in nine of California's 21 bargaining units. They include office and administrative workers, librarians, engineering and scientific technicians, and registered nurses, among others.

Union members voted last month to support a one-day strike after leaders said the state had refused to budge from its opening offer on compensation - 12 percent wage increases over four years that the union said would be offset by a 3.5 percent employee contribution to retirees' health care. The union had argued the state is flush with cash from a booming economy and can afford a larger raise.

The strike that had been planned for Monday threatened to disrupt operations

around the state on the same day newly elected lawmakers were to take the oath of office in Sacramento.

Brown's administration maintained that the strike was an illegal violation of the union's contract and sought a court order to block it. A Sacramento County judge declined to issue an injunction on Friday. Hours later, union leaders called off the strike, saying negotiators from both sides felt they had found a pathway forward.

As a centerpiece of his negotiations with state workers, Brown has sought to require that workers contribute a portion of their pay to cover health care benefits for retirees. The state has promised an estimated \$72 billion in health care benefits for its current and future retirees, an amount that will increase to more than \$300 billion over the next three decades, according to the governor's Department of Finance.

The bill for retiree health care has historically been paid year-by-year. Brown proposes prefunding benefits similar to the way the state pays for pensions - by paying into a trust fund that accrues investment returns over time, reducing the amount of money that taxpayers must contribute in the future. Sen. Richard Pan, a Sacramento Democrat who chairs the committee overseeing employee compensation, said the state needs to maintain competitive wages and benefits to continue to attract quality workers. "As we've gone through the recession and now we're pulling out of it, the state workers have taken a lot of hits over time," Pan said last week before the deal was reached. Conservative groups have criticized public-employee compensation as extravaganzas. —AP



ATHENS: A car mechanic walks past a mural on the side of an office block depicting a flying saucer hovering over the Greek Parliament, in Athens, Monday, Nov. 7, 2016. Greece's left-wing government has promised to swiftly impose a new series of sweeping cost cutting reforms by early next month as part of its international bailout, hoping to secure an agreement for debt relief from Eurozone lenders. —AP

EU, IMF 'GOING IN CIRCLES' ON GREEK DEBT RELIEF

FINANCE MINISTERS TO MEET TODAY ON BAILOUT

BRUSSELS: Eurozone finance ministers meet today as far apart as ever on the debt relief measures demanded by the International Monetary Fund for it to back their bailout program for Greece.

The IMF played a key role in two massive rescues for Greece but balked at a third in 2015, worth 86 billion euros (\$92 billion), warning that Athens would never get back on its feet unless its debt mountain was cut outright.

The fund is obliged to only lend to countries that can repay and its head, former French finance minister Christine Lagarde, has faced accusations that she bent the rules in the two previous bailouts to help save the eurozone. Europe's largest economy Germany insists meanwhile that Greece must meet all its commitments on spending cuts and tax hikes before measures to reduce a debt mountain equal to some 180 percent of annual economic output can be considered.

"We are going around in circles," one EU official said, as an end-of-year deadline to resolve the impasse looms large. The situation is further complicated by differences within the 19-nation single currency bloc. France for example where public finances are far from healthy-believes Athens should be cut some slack. Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras and

French President Francois Hollande agreed Saturday that "a deal on a technical level is needed by (Monday) and measures for debt relief by the end of the year are imperative."

More austerity 'impossible'

During a May review, the European Union and IMF agreed to start discussions on debt relief by end-2016 if Athens met its reform pledges. The issue turns on a key figure — 3.5 percent, the primary balance, or the surplus on the public finances before debt repayments, that Greece is supposed to reach.

The target is very high and most countries do not even come close-but Germany and other eurozone hardliners believe it is the only way to solve the issue once and for all, even if Greece has to take additional austerity measures to get there.

For the IMF, that option is totally unrealistic — an economy with an already unsustainable debt burden cannot be expected to tighten the screws further.

A source close to the negotiations suggested the Washington-based lender might appear to go along, "just to show how impossible it is". Eurogroup chief Jeroen Dijsselbloem told European lawmakers that debt relief measures would be discussed today in the hopes of persuading the IMF to sign on to the bailout.

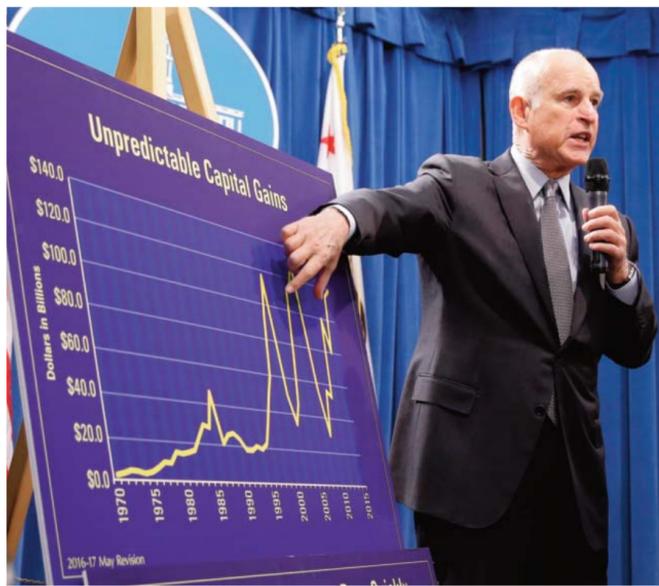
"The IMF has a point that running a primary surplus of 3.5 percent of GDP for a very long time is a huge thing to ask and we need to be realistic here," Dijsselbloem said.

Germany warns off Commission

It will be against this backdrop that finance ministers will also discuss a recommendation by EU Economic Affairs Commissioner Pierre Moscovici that after years of hugely unpopular austerity, it is now time to ease off the fiscal brakes and boost growth. The austerity drive has stoked growing anti-EU sentiment, likely to get a fresh airing in votes yesterday in Italy and Austria which will likely color today's talks.

Moscovici-another former French finance minister-said governments with strong enough finances could boost spending by an average 0.5 percent of GDP to bolster a modest recovery. His plea got a blunt rebuff from Germany's hardline Wolfgang Schauble, who in the 2015 cliff-edge bailout negotiations famously suggested it would be simpler for all concerned if Greece just left the eurozone.

"The role of the Commission is to ensure member state budgets... meet European rules," Schauble told the Bundestag. "That is the role of the Commission, to ensure that the eurozone remains stable, that the euro currency remains strong," he said. — AFP



SACRAMENTO: In this May 13, 2016 file photo, California Gov. Jerry Brown gestures to a chart showing the unpredictable capital gains revenues as he discusses his revised 2016-17 state budget plan in Sacramento, Calif. — AP

AUB BOOTH AT PAAAFR TO OFFER ITS PRODUCTS AND SERVICES FOR 5 DAYS

KUWAIT: Ahli United Bank (AUB) announced its presence with a special booth at the premises of the Public Authority of Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources, Rabiya Area which took place recently for five days, with the objective to raise awareness about the Bank's products and services, and benefit from all platforms to engage with its customers.

AUB's customer service team and representatives were available at the premises of the Public Authority of Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources to provide the necessary information on its services, products and finance services that are in line with customers' varied needs and are also sharia compliant. Bader AlMater, head of direct sales unit at Ahli United Bank, "We are honoured and proud to be present in the Public Authority of Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resource, and look forward to providing an integrated range of financial products and services that aim at reinforcing strong partnerships with customers and strengthen our activities in the local market."

AlMater, said, "AUB is keen to be present on a regular basis across all ministries and government bodies to present their products, accounts, services and special offers." AlMater, added, "AUB will not spare any effort to reach all segments across various areas of Kuwait, to



offer the most advanced services and provide the latest technology related to banking transactions as part of its business strategy to

improve better customer service, and provide a comprehensive range of products, banking services and financial offers."

KFH OFFERS UP TO 55% DISCOUNT FOR KFH CREDIT, PREPAID CARDHOLDERS

KUWAIT: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) is pleased to introduce a highly distinguished package of discounts to its customers, Credit, Prepaid Cardholders. Customers are entitled to avail up to 55 percent discounts at over 100 stores and international brands upon using KFH credit and prepaid cards. The names of the stores are available on KFH website KFH.com.

The discount program encompasses a plethora of restaurants, hotels, hospitals, clothes shops, accessories shops and different other stores and international brands. This serves in offering unique and distinguished privileges to its customers, thus serves in meeting their expectations.

KFH chain of discounts continue to thrill KFH customers as it aims to place its customers at the top of its priorities while ensures that they will always have the priority and the distinguished rank over other customers at the market level. KFH is always keen to ensure that these special and unique advantages and services fulfill all various expectations, needs and requirements of all customers.

KFH was established in Kuwait in 1977 and is enlisted in the Kuwait Stock

Exchange. KFH Group is a global pioneer in the field of Islamic banking services, where it offers a wide array of Islamic products and services, not to mention a high standard of innovation and client service.

KFH manages its operations in the GCC, Asia, and Europe through over 446 branches, including KFH-Turkey, in order to offer services for the bank's clients in Turkey, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Germany, Jordan, and Dubai.

KFH's mission is to achieve highest levels of excellence and innovation in the field of client service, while developing common interest for all those concerned with the financial institution. KFH's vision is to spearhead the global development in Islamic financial services, and to upgrade the bank into the level of becoming the most sustainable profitable Islamic bank in the world.

KFH's values include cementing leadership through all its businesses, including leadership in the Islamic banking services worldwide, through innovation and in client service and the development of its employees. In addition, KFH is committed to all its procedures, and to setting up long-life partnerships with the concerned authorities.

VENEZUELA CONFIRMS BIGGER BILLS AMID HIGHEST INFLATION

CARACAS: Venezuela will introduce six new notes and three new coins starting in mid-December to help alleviate practical problems in doing business with the world's most inflationary currency, according to the central bank.

Currently, the OPEC nation's largest note is worth just 2 US cents on the black market, meaning cash transactions are extremely cumbersome. The bolivar currency has suffered its most dramatic monthly fall in history, down 60 percent since early November against the dollar on the black market, as the country struggles with a major economic crisis that is leaving millions hungry and the medical sector in crisis.

The largest new bill, according to a central bank communique, will be worth 20,000 bolivars, just under \$5 on the streets. It will be accompanied by notes of 10,000, 5,000, 2,000,

1,000 and 500 bolivars and three coins of smaller value.

"(This) will make the payments system more efficient, facilitate commercial transactions and minimize the costs of production, replacement and transfer ... which will translate into benefits for banking, trade and the general population," the central bank said. Paying a restaurant or supermarket bill without a debit or credit card can often require a backpack full of cash. However, even getting cash at ATMs in recent months has proven difficult.

On Friday, the country's point-of-sale machines suffered chronic malfunctions. Unable to process transactions, businesses asked customers to use cash, transfers or pay later.

President Nicolas Maduro blamed the problems on a cyberattack, but he did not

provide any evidence. He attributes the country's economic crisis to an "economic war" led by the opposition with a helping hand from Washington.

Strict currency controls introduced in 2003, which pegged the bolivar to the dollar, coupled with heavy reliance on oil are seen as the root of the crisis by most economists. Venezuela's central bank has failed to publish any inflation data for 2016. The International Monetary Fund estimates that price rises next year will surpass 2,000 percent. The money supply, the sum of cash and checking deposits as well as savings and other "near money" deposits, was up a staggering 12 percent in the two weeks to Nov. 25 and the curve is literally exponential since Maduro's predecessor Hugo Chavez came to power in 1999. — Reuters



NEW DELHI: A large queue of people wait to exchange discontinued currency outside an Axis Bank branch in central New Delhi, India. This is just one bank, in one city, in a country of 1.3 billion people, millions of them increasingly desperate for cash amid a chaotic government effort to crack down on corruption by banning high-denomination currency notes. — AP



KUWAIT RANKS AMONG TOP 10 MIDDLE EAST CITIES TO LIVE IN

BAYT.COM 'TOP CITIES IN MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA' SURVEY

KUWAIT: In a new survey by Bayt.com titled 'Top Cities in the Middle East and North Africa', Kuwait City ranked among in the Top 10 Cities to live in. In Kuwait City, 40 percent of the citizens were happy about their current city of residence, and 19 percent were 'very happy'. The ranking was based on several factors including economic, environmental, standard of living, socio-cultural, and entrepreneurship factors.

Economic factors

Of the key economic elements addressed in this study, three quarters (75 percent) of respondents believe that availability of jobs is the most important factor. Affordable housing (72 percent), followed by reasonably-priced day to day necessities (70 percent) and career growth (70 percent) were also of high- importance to respondents.

Health insurance and social security systems (78 percent) are considered the most important labor rights for respondents in the MENA region. These are followed by wage protection (69 percent), end of service benefits (68 percent), and termination rights (68 percent). Around a third of Kuwait City respondents find that health insurance and social security systems (40 percent), vacation allowances (40 percent) and the wage protection system (30 percent) was either good or excellent.

MENA respondents' priorities for their city's standard of living revolve around safety, education, and healthcare. Feeling of stability and security (84 percent), quality of education (81 percent), availability of healthcare facilities (81 percent), and quality of available healthcare facilities (80 percent) emerge as the most important standard of living factors. Respondents found that the availability of electricity, water and

sewage systems (63 percent), entertainment venues (52 percent), and healthcare facilities (42 percent) was either good or excellent in Kuwait City.

Socio-cultural factors

These factors are the forces within cultures, societies, and cities that affect the thoughts, feelings, and behaviors of the individuals who are part of them. In the MENA region, the most important socio-cultural factors are low crime rate (81 percent) and effective law enforcement (77 percent). 50 percent of Kuwait City respondents perceive the crime rate as being low, and 42 percent believe that law enforcement in their city is good or excellent.

Respondents felt less passionately about sports, arts, culture and recreation factors, and proportionally more respondents ranked them as "somewhat important". Availability of natural areas/landscapes (53 percent) was the most important factor in this category, followed by availability of family-friendly activities (47 percent), availability of outdoor/sports activities (46 percent), and availability of relaxation options (46 percent). Inhabitants of MENA cities value environmental factors relating to cleanliness above all, with clean water (83 percent), clean air (74 percent), and clean streets (69 percent) ranking as the most important survey factors. In terms of environmental factors, residents in Kuwait City agreed that clean streets (49 percent), clean water (47 percent) and beauty of architecture and buildings (46 percent) was good or excellent.

Entrepreneurship factors

Financial elements were the most important entrepreneurship factors for MENA respondents, with affordability of taxes and fees (60 percent), ease of starting up a new business (59 percent),

and ease of finding finances to start a business (59 percent) as the most important of them.

Suhail Masri, Vice President of Employer Solutions at Bayt.com, said: "The MENA region is very diverse when it comes to the factors that affect the overall quality of living in each city. Our Bayt.com Top Cities survey ranks the most desirable cities for people to both work and live in. Our responsibility as a leading career site in the region extends to providing job seekers holistic information to make an informed decision if they are, for instance, looking to relocate to any of these cities for work. Simultaneously, when employers know where their city stands, they can do more to contribute to their city's standard of living by addressing the needs that job seekers are looking for the most. At Bayt.com, we strive to empower people with the tools, information and technologies to build their lifestyle of choice, which is why we always share valuable insights into life in cities that MENA professionals might choose to live in."

Arleen Gonsalves, Assistant Research Manager at YouGov, said: "This is one of most comprehensive surveys conducted in the MENA, which provides deeper understanding of standards of living across major cities using social and cultural yardstick instead of focusing merely on physical infrastructure. The survey findings give valuable insights to MNCs as well as job seekers who are planning to move to this region."

Data for the 2016 Bayt.com 'Top Cities in the Middle East and North Africa' survey was collected online from September 23, 2016 to October 18, 2016. Results are based on a sample of 1,436 respondents. Cities assessed include Algiers, Alexandria, Cairo, Amman, Kuwait City, Beirut, Casablanca, Marrakech, Rabat, Muscat, Doha, Jeddah, Riyadh, Eastern Province, Tunis, Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Manama, and Sharjah.

JOB DEALS LIKE CARRIER'S OFTEN FALL SHORT OF POLITICAL HYPE

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo: When President-elect Donald Trump announced a deal to save hundreds of jobs at a Carrier plant in Indiana, it came with a cost to state taxpayers of about \$7 million in tax breaks and grants. Similar jobs-for-subsidies deals are struck nearly every day around the country by governors, mayors and other officials. But it's debatable whether the economic impact ultimately lives up to the political hype.

Some projects fall short of their promises. Economists say other business deals likely would have occurred even without the incentives. And in some places, it's hard for the public to track the exact amount of state and local subsidies that get provided.

In any given year, federal, state and local governments promise companies tens of billions of dollars in public subsidies in exchange for creating or saving thousands of jobs. States offer more than 1,800 incentive programs for businesses, a figure that has declined slightly over the past five years as programs have been consolidated and revamped, according to the Arlington, Virginia-based Council for Community and Economic Research.

While some governments provide direct grants, the arrangements often allow companies to forgo paying property, income or sales taxes under the premise that the money the company saves will help it expand, hire workers and create an economic ripple effect in the community.

The announcement marked an extraordinary accomplishment for Trump, who had railed against Carrier's plans to shift jobs to Mexico while campaigning. The deal was unique because the president-elect became personally involved in it, and Vice President-elect Mike Pence was in a position as Indiana governor to help facilitate the incentives. But "somewhere around the country it's probably highly likely that it is happening on a weekly basis," said



INDIANAPOLIS: President-elect Donald Trump talks with workers during a visit to the Carrier factory in Indianapolis. — AP

Judith Stallmann, a professor of applied economics at the University of Missouri's Truman School of Public Affairs.

Incentives

In fact, on the same day Trump tweeted his intent to make a "major announcement" about Carrier keeping jobs in Indianapolis, Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey announced that startup electric vehicle company Lucid Motors will build an assembly plant there that could employ up to 2,000 people. The Arizona Commerce Authority said the company could receive up to about \$46

million in state incentives. Lucid Motors hopes to compete with Tesla Motors, which previously received a \$1.3 billion incentive package from the Nevada Legislature to build a lithium battery factory near Reno employing 6,500 workers.

Such deals are no longer rare. Missouri has awarded a similarly sized incentive package for health care technology company Cerner to build a sprawling new office complex that could eventually employ 16,000 people on the site of an abandoned shopping mall in Kansas City.

Aircraft manufacturer Boeing holds the record, winning \$8.7 billion in incentives from Washington state in 2013. "Demand in the form of elected officials anxious to be aggressive on the economy is up, because the recovery is so long and slow," said Greg LeRoy, executive director of Good Jobs First, a Washington, DC-based nonprofit that tracks economic development incentives. So "the price of these megadeals goes up."

Indiana's \$7 million incentive package for Carrier's furnace manufacturing facility pales in comparison to some of those deals. But that's likely because it wasn't Trump's sole selling point.

And Trump, who has pledged to cut corporate tax rates, had leverage because Carrier's parent company, United Technologies, also owns Pratt & Whitney, which has contracts to produce fighter jet engines for the US military. The Carrier incentives also are significantly smaller than the \$80 billion federal bailout for the auto industry during the Great Recession, most of which was later repaid by the companies. —AP

GULF BANK ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF RED AND SALARY ACCOUNTS MONTHLY DRAW

KUWAIT: Gulf Bank has announced winners of both monthly salary account and Red Account draws, which took place on Tuesday. The Salary & Red Account have a cash draw prize of KD 1,000 for each account.

Fahad Mohammed Bader Saleh and Mohammed Faisal Al-Hajiri were announced as the lucky winners of the Salary Account and Red Account draw prize for this month, each of the two winners received cash draw prize of KD 1,000. New Red Account or Salary Account customers who open an

account and transfer their student allowance or salary will also be eligible to enter the monthly cash draws for a chance to also win up to KD 1,000 each. In addition, the last quarterly car draw will be for 1 lucky winner who will have a chance to win a new Cadillac Escalade.

For further information about Gulf Bank's red and Salary account and other prize draws, visit one of Gulf Bank's 56 branches, call the Customer Contact Center on 1805805, or go online at www.e-gulfbank.com.

National Bank of Kuwait Financial Markets Daily Report								
At 02:00 PM Previous Day								
Global Stock Indices								
Index	Previous Close	Last Price	Change	Daily Performance %	Yearly Performance %			
Dow Jones	19,191.93	19,170.42	-21.51	▼	-0.11	10.02		
NASDAQ	5,251.11	5,255.65	4.54	▲	0.09	4.96		
S&P 500	2,191.08	2,191.95	0.87	▲	0.04	7.24		
Financial Times	6,752.93	6,730.72	-22.21	▼	-0.33	7.82		
DAX	10,534.05	10,513.35	-20.70	▼	-0.20	-2.14		
CAC 40	4,560.61	4,528.82	-31.79	▼	-0.70	-2.33		
Swiss	7,779.11	7,784.01	4.90	▲	0.06	-11.73		
Nikkei 225	18,513.12	18,426.08	-87.04	▼	-0.47	-3.19		
Topix	1,483.27	1,477.98	-5.29	▼	-0.36	-4.48		
Hang Seng	22,878.23	22,564.82	-313.41	▼	-1.37	2.97		
Straits Times	2,928.58	2,919.37	-9.21	▼	-0.31	1.27		
MENA Stock Indices								
Index	Previous Close	Last Price	Change	Daily Performance %	Yearly Performance %			
Kuwait	5,569.00	5,554.90	-14.10	▼	-0.25	-0.83		
Saudi Arabia	7,093.66	7,153.06	59.40	▲	0.84	2.63		
Dubai	3,360.91	3,417.05	56.14	▲	1.67	6.66		
Abu Dhabi	4,308.77	4,261.86	-46.91	▼	-1.09	0.04		
Bahrain	1,177.72	1,175.93	-1.79	▼	-0.15	-3.14		
Qatar	9,913.75	10,010.27	96.52	▲	0.97	-4.94		
Oman	5,590.16	5,610.02	19.86	▲	0.36	3.40		
Lebanon	1,221.33	1,217.65	-3.68	▼	-0.30	4.43		
Jordan	2,164.59	2,169.52	4.93	▲	0.23	1.32		
Egypt	11,548.15	11,631.94	83.79	▲	0.73	64.83		
Morocco	10,617.85	10,621.99	4.14	▲	0.04	18.96		
Tunisia	5,518.26	5,510.67	-7.59	▼	-0.14	9.44		
Global Currencies Exchange Rate								
Currency	Kuwaiti Dinar	Saudi Riyal	US Dollar	Euro	Sterling Pound	Swiss Franc	Japanese Yen	Australian Dollar
Kuwait Dinar		12.1906	3.2642	3.0581	2.5622	3.3001	370.62	4.3727
Saudi Riyal	0.08203		0.2678	0.2509	0.2102	0.2707	30.40	0.3587
US Dollar	0.30635	3.7346		0.9369	0.7849	1.0110	113.54	1.3396
Euro	0.32700	3.9863	1.0674		0.8386	1.0786	121.25	1.4316
Sterling Pound	0.39029	4.7579	1.2740	1.1925		1.2869	144.58	1.7082
Swiss Franc	0.30302	3.6940	0.9891	0.9271	0.7771		112.43	1.3250
Japanese Yen	0.00270	0.0329	0.0088	0.0082	0.0069	0.0089		0.0118
Australian Dollar	0.22869	2.7879	0.7465	0.6985	0.5854	0.7547	84.76	
MENA Currencies Exchange Rate								
Currency	US Dollar	Kuwaiti Dinar	Saudi Riyal	Bahraini Dinar	Qatari Riyal	Omani Riyal	Emirates Dirham	Egyptian Pound
US Dollar		0.30635	3.7346	0.3741	3.6267	0.3832	3.6570	18.0900
Kuwaiti Dinar	3.2642		12.1906	1.2210	11.8384	1.2507	11.9373	59.0501
Saudi Riyal	0.2678	0.08203		0.1002	0.9711	0.1026	0.9792	4.8439
Bahraini Dinar	2.6734	0.81901	9.9842		9.6958	1.0243	9.7768	48.3625
Qatari Riyal	0.2757	0.08447	1.0298	0.1031		0.1056	1.0084	4.9880
Omani Riyal	2.6099	0.79956	9.7471	0.9762	9.4655		9.5446	47.2139
Emirates Dirham	0.2734	0.08377	1.0212	0.1023	0.9917	0.1048		4.9467
Egyptian Pound	0.0553	0.01693	0.2064	0.0207	0.2005	0.0212	0.2022	
Global Interest Rates								
Currency	1-Week	1-Month	3-Month	6-Month	1-Year			
Kuwaiti Dinar	0.00	1.19	1.44	1.63	1.94			
US Dollar	0.46	0.64	0.94	1.29	1.64			
Euro	-0.39	-0.38	-0.33	-0.22	-0.08			
Sterling Pound	0.24	0.25	0.38	0.54	0.79			
Swiss Franc	-0.79	-0.83	-0.74	-0.67	-0.50			
Australian Dollar	1.56	1.63	1.63	1.62	1.63			
Japanese Yen	-0.03	-0.11	-0.06	0.01	0.11			
Global Bond Yields								
Country	2-Year	5-Year	10-Year	30-Year				
United States	1.10	1.83	2.39	3.07				
Europe	-0.75	-0.44	0.28	0.95				
United Kingdom	0.08	0.57	1.37	2.01				
Commodities								
Index	Previous Close	Last Price	Change	Daily Performance %	Yearly Performance %			
Kuwait Oil	49.15	49.77	0.62	▲	1.26	41.51		
Brent	51.91	51.89	-0.02	▼	-0.04	27.59		
West Texas	51.75	51.65	-0.10	▼	-0.19	28.25		
Gold	1176.88	1176.88	0.00	-	0.00	9.82		
Silver	16.70	16.70	0.00	-	0.00	17.07		

SMALL BANKS RALLY PAUSES BUT MAY NOT BE OVER YET

WALL STREET WEEKLY OUTLOOK

NEW YORK: The rally in regional US bank stocks that followed last month's election of Donald Trump may not be over, but investors may have to wait for policy to take shape for the massive move to extend further. The S&P 600 index of small-cap banks has surged more than 20 percent since Trump's surprise Nov. 8 victory, while their large-cap peers on the S&P 500 index have jumped over 17 percent.

Investors booked profits on Friday, with the small-cap index down 0.8 percent and the larger banks dropping 1.1 percent. Smaller lenders could potentially add as much as 40 percent to their fourth-quarter 2017 earnings if Trump's promises of tax cuts and regulatory changes materialize, according to Sandler O'Neill analyst Brad Millsaps.

But Millsaps has not changed his official estimates to reflect this possibility as he is waiting for confirmation that those policy changes will happen. Trump is scheduled to take office Jan. 20. His Treasury Secretary nominee, Steven Mnuchin, on Wednesday criticized the Dodd-Frank banking regulation act saying that it inhibited bank lending, potentially implying a willingness to try to change regulations to help boost that revenue source.

"It remains to be seen how much longer the rally can continue until we see some tangible evidence of changes coming from the administration that relates to regulations or tax rates," said Millsaps.

Investors are betting that rising long-

term interest rates, expected corporate tax cuts as well as lighter regulation will help banks under a Trump administration. Domestic banks have more to gain from policy changes than their multinational counterparts as lighter regulation should make it easier for them to grow more quickly and could allow more mergers, according to investors and analysts.

They could also benefit more from expected tax cuts and they would be insulated from currency fluctuations. "There's definitely more opportunity on the regional banking level," David Lebovitz, global market strategist at JPMorgan Asset Management. "When you go down in market capitalization you begin to insulate yourself from a lot of these external forces. Dollar strengthening is less of an issue."

Bank profits depend largely on the spread between long- and short-term rates. The spread between benchmark US 10-year Treasury notes and 2-year Treasuries has widened nearly 30 basis points since the US presidential election, touching its highest in a year on Thursday.

Adding to upward pressure on yields, the Federal Reserve is expected to raise overnight US interest rates at its meeting on Dec. 13-14 by 25 basis points, the first hike in nearly a year. In relation to rising interest rates alone, Keefe, Bruyette & Woods boosted its operating earnings growth estimates for banks with assets of \$50 billion or lower to 10 percent from 6 percent next year, and to 11 percent from 4 percent in 2018. — Reuters



MOHAMMED BIN ABDULLAH AL-THANI PARTICIPATES IN OPEN ROADS SUMMIT

SUMMIT DISCUSSES LATEST TRENDS IN TELECOM TECHNOLOGY

KUWAIT: Ooredoo Kuwait's CEO and General Manager Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdullah Al-Thani attended the Open ROADS summit in London recently, as a member of the summit's advisory board. The summit aims to bring the Open ROADS community together to discuss the latest technologies and ways to implement joint efforts to advance telecommunications worldwide.

Founded by Huawei, a pioneer in the field of telecommunications technology, the Open ROADS community stands for "real-time on-demand all-online do-it-yourself and social,"

an invitation to the digital world to all companies in the telecom and related industries. It brings together leading voices from across the information and communication technology industry to answer the questions posed by the transformation to digital business. Among the attendees of the London summit are some of the industry's biggest names, such as Google, GSMA and Vodafone.

Commenting on attending this event, Ooredoo Kuwait CEO and General Manager Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdullah Al-Thani said: "I'm proud to be part of this event with

global industry key players. This stems from our core values at Ooredoo: caring, connecting and challenging. We are always striving to stay up to date with the latest in the field of telecommunications technology, and taking part in an event like this with such esteemed speakers is a great opportunity."

The event included workshops, presentations and roundtable discussions in which speakers from various fields related to telecom technology highlighted the importance of adapting the latest trends, with a focus on digital and cloud-based businesses. Speakers

noted the importance of adapting such technologies to stay up to date with consumers' needs, as that is where the future is heading. Speakers also highlighted the key role played by small and medium enterprises, especially when it comes to programming, coding, and developing services that operate digitally and on the cloud. Such services can be of great benefit to various sectors such as transportation, energy, government entities, and trade.

Open ROADS community holds events regularly throughout the year in different

cities to discuss the latest updates and trends related to the telecommunications industry.

Ooredoo's operations in Kuwait date back to December 1999 when it launched wireless services as the second operator. The company today provides mobile, broadband internet and corporate managed services tailored to the needs of customers and businesses. Ooredoo is guided by its vision of enriching people's lives and its belief that it can stimulate human growth by leveraging communications to help people achieve their full potential.



US DOLLAR LOSES MOMENTUM AMID MIXED DATA

NBK ECONOMIC REPORT

KUWAIT: Last week, the US dollar lost some momentum and recorded its first weekly decline in almost a month despite positive data from the economy. It also seems like investors focus has turned away from the almost fully priced in rate hike in December, and turned towards looking for more clarity on the ability of Trump's economic policy proposals to raise inflation rates and in turn drive policy rates higher.

Furthermore, the dollar was under pressure as traders prepared themselves for uncertainties of other key events, from Friday's US job report to Sunday's Italian reform referendum to the European Central Bank meeting next week. Whereas Italy's referendum on reducing the power of the Senate is also weighing on risk sentiment, given a win for 'No' could result in the government's removal. On Friday, the greenback depreciated after the disappointing figures released of the US non-farm payrolls, resulting in volatile trading in the FX market.

For now, risk appetite has generally remained supportive in the market as OPEC members agreed last week on a deal to reduce production pushing oil prices higher with equities either rising or holding on to recent gains. The gains in oil prices boosted views of higher inflation, which in turn sent US Treasury yields higher given the negative impact of inflation on bond prices. The higher Treasury yields fuelled demand for the dollar relative to currencies such as the euro and yen, whose government bond yields are still low-to-negative.

Data from the US ranging from housing to retail sales and manufacturing suggests that the economy regained its momentum early in the fourth quarter even as exports appear to be falling against the dollar's strength. The US economy grew faster than initially thought in the third quarter, reaching its best performance in two years as the second estimate was revised higher.

On the currency front, the US dollar index opened the week at 101.49 and traded in a wide range as volatility was fuelled by investor's cautiousness ahead of key events such as the US job report, next week's Italian reform referendum and the Europe central bank meeting. After reaching a high of 101.830 the index dropped ahead of the US job report on Friday. Finally the index closed the week at 100.660 after the Non-farm payroll figure.

Last week the single currency traded with a strong footing against the greenback on the back of better-than-expected economic data. The euro rallied as the region's unemployment rate unexpectedly dropped more than seven-year lows, which may cause investors to question whether an extension of the ECB's quantitative-easing program is, as many had assumed,

inevitable. The currency reached a high of 1.0690 and closed the week at 1.0664 after opening at 1.0589.

In the UK, the British pound continued to trade on a positive note against the greenback supported by the prospect of the UK retaining preferential access to the European Union's single market after Brexit. Sterling reached its strongest level in two months as Brexit Secretary David Davis said the UK would consider making contributions to the EU in order to secure the best possible access to the single market. Cable opened the week at 1.2477 before rallying to a high of 1.2738. The currency closed the week at 1.2720.

In Japan, the US dollar hit its highest level against the yen in 10 months as sentiments were lifted as some of the world's largest oil pro-

ducers agreed to curb oil output for the first time since 2008. The USD/JPY reached a high of 114.83 its highest level since Feb. The pair lost some of that momentum ahead of the US Jobs report and closed the week at 113.51.

On the commodities front, OPEC sent crude oil prices soaring by agreeing to its first production cuts in eight years. The organization will reduce output by 1.2 million barrels a day to reach 32.5 million barrels a day. Benchmark oil prices gained as much as 10% and the share prices of energy companies around the globe jumped alongside the currencies of large exporters. Whether that's sustained will depend on how strictly members stick to the agreement.

despite uncertainty surrounding the policies of President-elect Trump. The Consumer Confidence Index hit 107.1 in November, up from 98.6 in October, according to data from the Conference Board on Tuesday, the highest since July 2007. Meanwhile, economists expected the consumer confidence index to hit 101.2.

The survey, a closely followed indicator of consumer attitudes, measures confidence toward business conditions, short-term outlook, personal finances and jobs.

Manufacturing expanded in November at the fastest pace in five months, indicating American producers are finding more relief in resilient domestic demand. The Institute for Supply Management's index increased to 53.2 from 51.9 a month earlier, the Tempe, Arizona-based group's report showed Thursday. Readings above 50 indicate growth. The medi-

an forecast in a Bloomberg survey of economists was 52.5.

performance in two years, buoyed by strong consumer spending and a surge in soybean exports. Gross domestic product increased at a 3.2 percent annual rate instead of the previously reported 2.9 percent pace, the Commerce Department said in its second GDP estimate released last week. Economists had forecast third-quarter GDP growth being revised up to a 3.0 percent rate.

Growth was the strongest since the third quarter of 2014 and followed the second quarter's anemic 1.4 percent pace. Output was lifted by upward revisions to business investment and home building.

Consumer Confidence

US consumer confidence rebounded in November to its highest level in nine years

Payrolls mixed

US employers increased hiring by 178K in November and in line with market expectations. Although the October data was revised negatively from 161k to 142k, the unemployment rate dropped to more than nine-year low at 4.6 percent, making it almost certain that the Federal Reserve will raise interest rates later this month. However, average hourly earnings fell 0.1 percent in November, after shooting up 0.4 percent in October, which was the largest rise in nearly 7-1/2 years.

The drop lowered the year-on-year gain in wages to 2.5 percent in November from October's 2.8 percent increase. In summary, as the labor market is near full employment, job gains have slowed from an average of 229K per month in 2015 to an average of 180K this year.

In the private sector, businesses hired aggressively in November and there is little evidence that the uncertainty surrounding Trump's presidency is pressuring the job market. This growth was seen in primarily consumer driven industries like retail, leisure and hospitality. Overall, consumers are feeling confident and are driving the strong performance we currently see in the job market. The private sector added 55K more jobs than analysts had expected, reaching 216K and up by 97K from the previous month.

Draghi speaks

ECB President Draghi said that stalling recovery would be the greatest risk facing the eurozone's economy. The ECB is due to decide on that day whether to extend its 1.74 trillion euro bond-buying program beyond March. The central bank has pushed its benchmark interest rate below zero, bought 80 billion euros of bonds a month and given free loans to banks and lowered borrowing costs to bring euro zone inflation back to its target of almost 2 percent. However, inflation is slowly picking up, having reached 0.5 percent in October, and is expected to exceed 1 percent next year.

German retail sales

German retail sales rose at their fastest pace in more than five years in October, data showed on Wednesday, reinforcing expectations that private consumption will propel growth in Europe's largest economy in the fourth quarter. But the positive effects of private consumption are likely to wane next year, as rising consumer prices and weaker wage increases are expected to discourage Germans from spending. In addition, the outlook for German exports is clouded

by uncertainty linked to Britain's vote to leave the European Union and the election of Donald Trump as US president, who could pursue a protectionist trade agenda. Retail sales rose by 2.4 percent on the month in real terms, the Federal Statistics Office said, the highest increase since June 2011 and more than double the forecast in a Reuters poll for a 1.0 percent rise.

In November, manufacturing PMI in the UK unexpectedly declined from 54.2 to 53.4 in November versus the 54.4 expected. The currency's weakness since Brexit is proving to be a double-edged sword. Firms report that they had to increase prices as their input costs surged, but the pound's decline is also benefiting manufacturing, which will probably make a positive contribution to growth this quarter, Markit said.

UK construction PMI

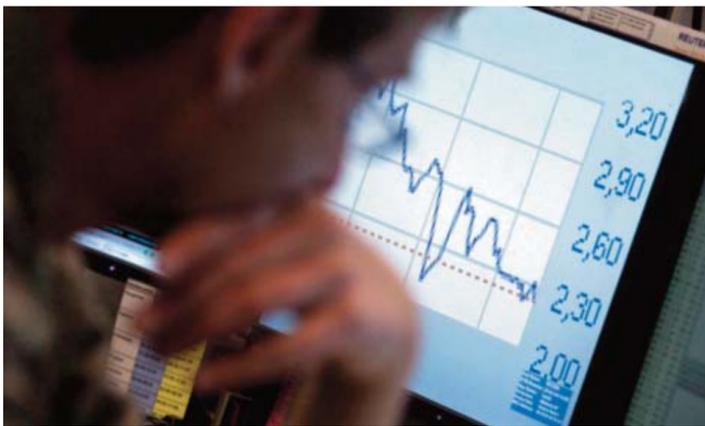
Construction activity in the UK grew at the fastest pace in eight months in November, but companies warned that rising costs are squeezing their profit margins. Housing, commercial and civil engineering improved and it marked the first time since May that all three sectors posted readings of at least 50, the dividing line between growth and contraction. IHS Markit said its headline construction index rose to 52.8 from 52.6 in October. That's the highest since March, though it's still below the average of the past two years.

Japan production rising

Industrial production rose for a third consecutive month in October, with a slight gain just beating the median forecast of economists, as the nation's exports compensate for weak domestic spending. In details, industrial output increased by 0.1 percent in October from a month earlier versus a forecast of -0.1 percent. In summary, a weaker Japanese Yen, a pick-up in global demand for IT items such as smartphones, economic recoveries in the US and Asia, are supporting Japanese industrial production.

The manufacturing sector grew more than expected in November, expanding at its strongest pace in more than two years. In details, the manufacturing activity increased by 0.5 points to 51.7 in November from the previous month. In conclusion, China's economy expanded at a steady 6.7 percent in the third quarter and looks set to hit Beijing's full-year target of 6.5 percent to 7 percent, fueled by stronger government spending, record bank lending and the red-hot property market that is adding to its growing pile of debt.

Kuwait
Kuwaiti dinar at 0.30480
The USDKWD closed at 0.30480 last week.



LEXUS SHORT FILM WINNER JEANNIE DONOHOE'S FILM PREMIERED AT NAPA VALLEY FILM FESTIVAL

Lexus and The Weinstein Company premiered an exciting new film, *Game*, created and directed by the award-winning filmmaker Jeannie Donohoe, at the Napa Valley Film Festival. An alumna of Columbia University's graduate film program, Donohoe has written and directed several short films, including *Lambing Season* and *Public*. Donohoe is currently developing her first feature-length film, *Flock*.

The plot of *Game* involves a high school sophomore who relocates to a new high school and decides to try out for the reigning state champion boys' basketball team. On the court, the player demonstrates extraordinary skill, worthy of making the roster. However, when the team discovers this student's shocking secret, the storyline is taken to a whole new level. *Game* also features a performance by Canadian actor and three-time NBA champion Rick Fox.

Game is one of four films being produced by Joey Horvitz of The Weinstein Company as part of this third season of Lexus Short Films, a partnership between Lexus International and The Weinstein Company to support up-and-coming filmmakers. The three other Lexus Short Films Series films, *Friday Night*, *MESSIAH* and *A Nation Holds Its Breath* also screened at the Napa Valley Film Festival.

The Weinstein Company co-chairman Harvey Weinstein, said, "We were very excited

to be at the Napa Valley Film Festival to premiere *Game* for the first time. Donohoe's talent was demonstrated throughout the film and truly showcased the theme of Lexus Short Films Season 3 - Anticipation."

David Nordstrom, global branding department General Manager of Lexus International, said, "The attendees not only had the opportunity to experience Jeannie's creativity and imagination with *Game*, but they also viewed the other projects created as part of Lexus Short Films Season 3 - all filled with creativity and imagination for a global audience."

"The Weinstein Company and Lexus International are thrilled with the success of this partnership to date and can only hope to inspire and encourage even more filmmakers around the globe through these films and the program's initiative overall," said The Weinstein Company COO and President David Glasser.

Takayuki Yoshitsugu, Chief Representative, Middle East and North Africa Representative Office, Toyota Motor Corporation, said "We are excited and proud that four films from this season's Lexus Short Films Series were screened at the Napa Valley Film Festival, with Jeannie Donohoe's terrific new film, making its world premiere at the well-respected festival. The Lexus Short Films Series gives a unique opportunity for emerging filmmakers to bring their cinematic vision to life and showcase their work on an international stage. We are



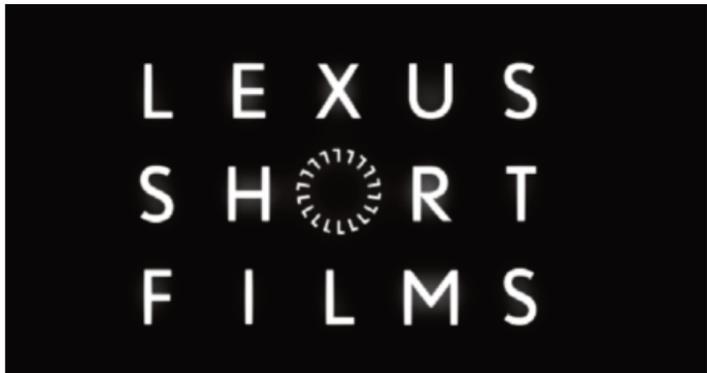
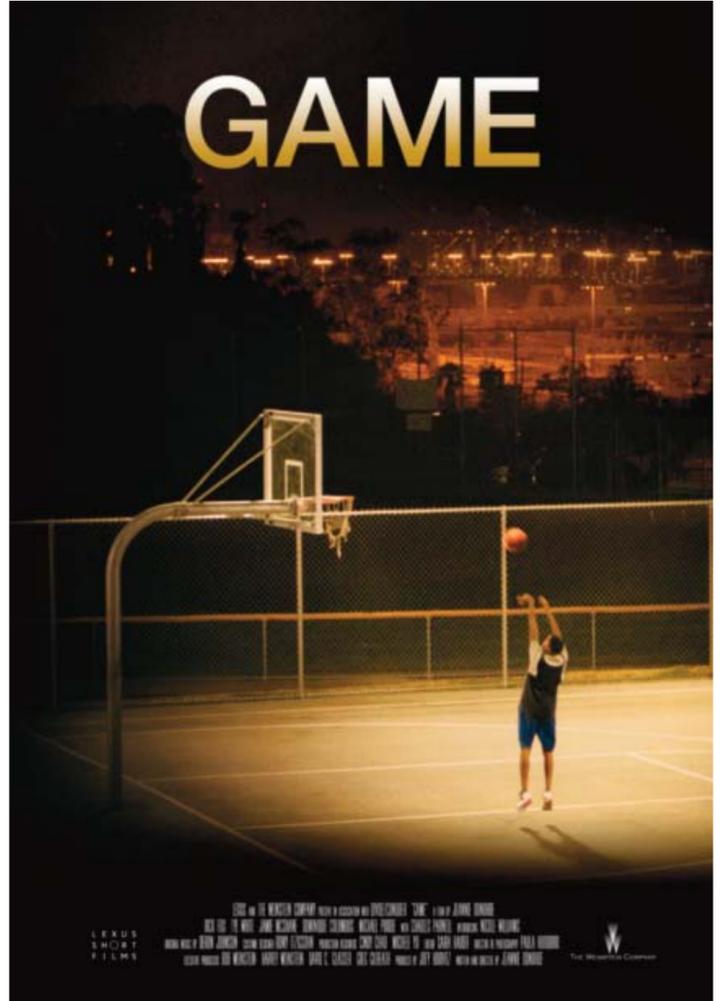
Jeannie Donohoe

extremely grateful to our customers who have enthusiastically backed our efforts to nurture a new generation of creative talents through the Lexus Short Films Series."

About Lexus short films

In 2013, Lexus Short Films was launched with the goal of supporting and nurturing a new generation of emerging filmmakers. These aspiring directors and writers have received a unique opportunity supported by Lexus to collaborate with acclaimed film studio The Weinstein Company to produce and showcase their work on an international stage. For more information, visit www.lexusshortfilms.com and follow #LexusShortFilms

Since its US market debut in 1989, Lexus has earned a worldwide reputation for high-quality products and exemplary customer service. Renowned for the superior reliability of its vehicles, Lexus is the luxury hybrid leader, offering hybrids that combine innovative technology and premier luxury. To date, Lexus has grown into 90+ markets worldwide.



BURGAN BANK ANNOUNCES NAMES OF WINNERS OF YAWMI ACCOUNT

KUWAIT: Burgan Bank announced yesterday the names of the lucky winners of its Yawmi account draw, each taking home a prize of KD 5,000.

The lucky winners for the daily draws took home a cash-prize of KD 5,000 each, and they are:

1. Jehad Mostafa Ahmed Shaban
2. Mohammad Makki Abdulaziz Al Qallaf
3. Khairyah Mohammad Hassan Gholom
4. Saleem Ahmed Moydeen
5. Talal Ahmad Abdullah Al Khars

In addition to the daily draw, Burgan Bank also offers a quarterly draw with more chances to win higher rewards, entitling one lucky cus-

tomers to win KD 125,000 every three months. The Yawmi Account offers daily and quarterly draws, the quarterly draw requires customers to maintain a minimum amount of KD 500 in their account for 2 months prior to draw date. Additionally, every KD 10 in the account, will entitle customers to one chance of winning. If the account balance is KD 500 and above, the account holder will be qualified for both the quarterly and daily draws.

Burgan Bank encourages everyone to open a Yawmi account and/or increase their deposit to maximize their chances of becoming a winner. The more customers deposit, the higher the

chances they receive of winning.

For more information on opening a Yawmi account or about the new quarterly draw, customers are urged to visit their nearest Burgan Bank branch and receive all the details, or simply call the bank's Call Center at 1804080 where customer service representatives will be delighted to assist with any questions on the Yawmi account or any of the bank's products and services. Customers can also log on to Burgan Bank's www.burgan.com for further information.

Established in 1977, Burgan Bank is the youngest commercial Bank and second largest by assets in Kuwait, with a significant focus on the corporate and financial institutions sectors, as well as having a growing retail, and private bank customer base. Burgan Bank has majority owned subsidiaries in the MENAT region supported by one of the largest regional branch networks.

The Bank has continuously improved its performance over the years through an expanded revenue structure, diversified funding sources, and a strong capital base. The adoption of state-of-the-art services and technology has positioned it as a trendsetter in the domestic market and within the MENA region. Burgan Bank's brand has been created on a foundation of real values - of trust, commitment, excellence and progression, to remind us of the high standards to which we aspire. 'People come first' is the foundation on which its products and services are developed. The bank was re-certified with the prestigious ISO 9001:2008, making it the first bank in the GCC, and the only bank in Kuwait to receive such accreditation for the third consecutive year. The Bank also has to its credit the distinction of being the only Bank in Kuwait to have won the JP Morgan Chase Quality Recognition Award for twelve consecutive years.

Burgan Bank, a subsidiary of KIPCO (Kuwait Projects Company), is a strongly positioned regional Bank in the MENA region.

now... "Yawmi" account offers
KD 125,000 quarterly
 and **KD 5,000** daily

"Yawmi"... changed my day

1804080
www.burgan.com

بنك بروطان
 BURGAN BANK
 driven by you

MALABAR GOLD & DIAMONDS TO OPEN 2 NEW SHOWROOMS IN HAWALLY AND MAHBOULA

KUWAIT: Malabar Gold & Diamonds is all set to open two new showrooms at Mahboula and Hawally in Kuwait on the same day to strengthen its presence in the region.

Malabar Gold & Diamonds' the leading jewellery retailer across the globe is nearing the much-awaited launch of its 159th and 160th showrooms at Hawally; next to Grand Hypermarket and Mahboula; block 1/A, street 10, Public Authority for Minors Affairs complex/A in Kuwait, both on Thursday, 8th December, 2016 at 6pm and 8pm respectively.

The grand opening will be celebrated exhibiting the finest collection of gold and diamonds in addition to offering exciting promotions for their customers.

The outlets unveil a significantly large collection of traditional as well as contemporary designer jewellery. In addition to exhibiting the latest designs in jewellery, the new showrooms also offer the most exciting promotions as a part of the special inaugural offer. As a part of the inaugural offer, both the showrooms will provide customers with the below mentioned offers. Customers can get a free 1 gram gold coin on purchase of KD 200 worth diamond jewellery. Furthermore, customers can get a free

1/2 gram gold coin on purchase of gold jewellery worth KD 200, these offers being valid until 10th December, 2016.

The new showrooms showcases the exquisite collection of gold jewellery in 18K, 22K and 24K alongside Diamond, Uncut diamond and precious gem jewellery handpicked for the jewellery lovers in Kuwait. Malabar group offers exquisite and beautiful jewellery as a part of various brands presented at Malabar Gold & Diamonds' namely Ethnix - Handcrafted Designer jewellery, Era - Uncut Diamond jewellery, Mine - Diamonds Unlimited, Divine-Indian Heritage jewellery, Precia - Gem jewellery and Starlet - Kids jewellery.

Malabar Gold & Diamonds has been working towards extending a strong presence across the globe and continues striving towards being the most preferred jewellery retailer among customers. Presently, Malabar Gold & Diamonds has a strong presence in the Kuwait market having showrooms in Al Rai, Maliya, Mahboula, Dajeej, Fahaeel, and Hawally. With 6 showrooms & few more to be launched, Malabar Gold & Diamonds will be the largest gold & diamond jewellery retailer in Kuwait. The wide network of showrooms helps the brands to stay as close to its discerning customers in Kuwait.

AL-TIJARI ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF AL-NAJMA ACCOUNT DRAW

KUWAIT: Commercial Bank of Kuwait held the Al-Najma Account daily draw yesterday. The draw was held under the supervision of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry represented by Abdulaziz Ashkanani.

The winners of the Al-Najma daily draw are:
 Ali Owdah Al Shemmari — KD 7000
 Abdullah Mohammad Al-Hamadi — KD 7000
 Adnan Neamah Sahi Jaida — KD 7000

Mohammed Salem Ibrahim Salem — KD 7000
 Muzaffar Hussain Laldin — KD 7000

Al-Najma awards are now brighter and bigger than ever. With the revamped Al-Najma account, all your dreams will be turned to reality. On top of offering the highest daily prize in Kuwait for KD 7,000, now our Mega prize draws got bigger to reach KD 250,000.

The new prizes scheme for Al-Najma account

Daily draw to win KD 7000.
 Quarterly draws to win great prizes that would start from KD 100,000 to KD 250,000
 1ST QUARTER — KD 100 000
 2ND QUARTER — KD 150 000
 3RD QUARTER — KD 200 000
 4TH QUARTER — KD 250 000.

With Al-Najma you have more chances to win greater prizes

- Each KD 25 kept in your account gives you one chance to win
- Each KD 25 kept in your account for one week will give you a chance to enter the daily draw.
- Each KD 25 kept in your account for 3 months will give you chance to enter the quarterly draw.

Additional features:

- ATM card
 - Issue a credit card against your account
 - Obtain all CBK banking services
- You deserve to win! Open an account now with just KD 500 and you will enter all draws.

Amazing news from Al-Tijari...
 Al-Najma account gives you the biggest daily prize in Kuwait!
KD 7000

'more' prizes
 Pay your bills and win cash prizes every KD 1 gives you a chance to win

VIVA Web - Quick Pay or Self Care
 VIVA 102 IVR (Interactive Voice Response)
 VIVA App
 Kiosk
 Direct Debit

Daily Prize - KD 100
 Monthly Grand Prize - KD 1,000

Services
VIVA

Call 102
viva.com.kw
 @vivatelecom

VIVA ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF 'MORE' PRIZES CAMPAIGN

KUWAIT: VIVA, Kuwait's fastest-growing and most developed telecom operator, announced 6th week draw's winners of KD 100, of "more" prizes campaign for postpaid customers.

The name of November's big prize winner, KD 1000, is Abdullah Ebraim Jazi Alazmi. As for names of daily prize winners, KD 100, from 22 November until 30 November, were as follows: Abrar W M Buresli, Suad Thamer Arfaj Alkhalidi, Saad Dhaidan Majed Aladwani, Seetah Battal

Mohammad Al-Ajmi, Ariel Salvador Dimla, Khaled Fahh Sanad Aldaer, Khaled Talaq Mashaan Alrashed, Ghazwah Reden Abdullah Almutairi, Khaled Mohammad Ali Alansari.

VIVA gives the customers a wonderful opportunity to win amazing cash prizes, KD 100 daily and KD 1000 at the end of each month, once they pay their VIVA bills through Direct Debit, VIVA website, VIVA's Kiosks, VIVA App or by calling 102. Customers earn one chance for each KD 1.

DIGITAL INTEGRATION WILL TRANSFORM THE REGION'S BUSINESS FUTURE

The Global Manufacturing and Industrialization Summit (GMIS) and PwC, the global consulting firm, recently released a report on Industry 4.0, known as the fourth industrial revolution, that sheds new light on the enterprise landscape in the Middle East. Everyone, from policy-makers to employers to aspiring entrepreneurs, should take note of the report's key findings. It has pressing implications for businesses and government in the region over the coming decades and offers valuable insights that can accelerate our economic growth.

The report, 'Industry 4.0: Building The Digital Industrial Enterprise', illustrates the possibilities for regional growth and job creation, powered by technological progress. The report argues that digital transformation could generate a staggering US\$17 billion in extra revenue for companies in the Middle East each year over the next five years. Annual digital revenues are expected to rise by 3.8 per cent on average, according to the report, and some companies expect an overall increase of as much as 50 per cent over five years. In parallel with this increase in revenue, the report demonstrates that digitization has the additional potential to cut overheads, creating efficiencies valued at an additional US\$17.3 billion annually for companies in the region between now and 2021.

We all know that technology has revolutionized how we live and work. We have seen advances in connectivity with the internet and smartphones transform-

ing everything from our relationships with family and friends to the way we book a taxi. We are seeing artificial intelligence move from science fiction to science fact. And we now expect a modern manufacturing facility to include robotics, technologically advanced materials, and 3D printing. These innovations are changing our lives for the better. The challenge now is to scale their potential, and look at ways in which these new technologies and the data they capture can be used to boost productivity and growth, create new and rewarding careers, stimulate and spark new businesses, and make our world more equitable and sustainable for everyone.

In order to chart that path forward, our decisions need to be evidence-based. The GMIS and PwC and report helps to frame an informed debate about our shared future. It shows that, regionally, companies are expanding their digital portfolios. Between now and 2021, the region's enterprise base plans to invest US\$42 billion each year in digital transformation. But, converting that investment into productivity will remain challenging, with more than half of companies surveyed considering digital culture and skills as barriers to transformation. While companies in the region recognize that tools such as big data analytics are important, almost half believe they lack a structured approach to mining information for insights that would help them grow.

It is clear, then, that the region faces



Badr Al Olama

both opportunities and challenges in catching the global digital transformation wave. The pace at which innovation is disrupting every sector of the global economy means that we cannot afford to stand still. The futurist, Thomas Frey, predicts that, by 2030, over two billion jobs will disappear. That's about half of all jobs on the planet. This may contain an element of fear-mongering, but it begs the question, what type of jobs will replace them? How can we ensure the interface between machines and humans - and the rapidly emerging 'cobot' model - delivers economic growth

that is both sustainable and shared? And that this disruption happens without displacing people whose tasks could be absorbed by automation.

When we were developing GMIS, these questions were on our minds. We wanted to create a forum that was outcomes-focused, with a mandate to tackle drivers for sustainable economic growth, the workforce of the future, global cooperation on convergent innovation standards, and climate action and environmental stewardship. GMIS is about all manufacturing, wherever it is in the world, and whatever the sector. But technology, especially the Internet of Things (IoT), is fast connecting global industry, bridging the digital and physical worlds. This has profound implications for competitiveness, employment, processes and productivity across emerging economies and developed nations. The data from the GMIS and PwC report demonstrates this in no uncertain terms. It is important that our region is positioned to exploit the opportunity.

Young people, in particular, will be on the frontline. In a region where two-thirds of the population are under the age of 30, and there is a pressing need to create employment to avoid the twin spectres of unemployment and under-employment, it matters even more to us in the Arab World. In September, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai's swathes of announcements regarding

the #NationalYouthDialogue and our young people demonstrate just how firmly youth and their role in our collective future are positioned at the heart of the national agenda.

In the UAE, we are already making strong progress on innovation and building the future employment landscape. In companies like AI Ain-based Strata, where I have the rewarding role of CEO, integrating smart automation into our business will help us become one of the top three global composite aerospace manufacturing companies in the world. This demonstrates the ambition of the UAE to drive performance in the non-petroleum sector whose economic contribution has grown to 77 per cent. It shows how progress can be achieved through partnership between the public and private sectors, playing to their respective strengths of wealth creation and regulation.

That is what GMIS is about - bringing together a coalition of decision-makers with the power to effect transformation. What matters now is our collective will to devise and deliver solutions for the our national, regional and global good. With the new tools of technology at our hand, there has never been a better time to act.

Badr Al-Olama is CEO of Strata and member of the GMIS Organising Committee. The Global Manufacturing and Industrialization Summit will be held in Abu Dhabi from March 27-30, 2017. www.gmisummit.com

DESPITE UPROAR, NORTH CAROLINA GOVERNOR RIVALS USE PRIVATE EMAIL

RALEIGH: Republican incumbent Pat McCrory and his Democratic opponent in the undecided North Carolina governor's race have together sent or received hundreds of messages from private email accounts - a sidestep around official communication channels that McCrory's team blasted as "questionable" in a comparison to Hillary Clinton.



Pat McCrory

McCrory and Attorney General Roy Cooper - locked in a hotly contested race, with Cooper leading by just over 10,000 votes of more than 4.7 million cast and a state recount possible - each conducted state business via their private emails. The Associated Press learned from documents provided under North Carolina's public records law.

Staffers for both candidates have lagged in producing the emails as required by state law and won't say when they will fully comply with AP requests made months ago. The AP sought from both men personal emails they sent or received across state servers between Election Day four years ago and the end of last year.

That delay comes despite an updated email management system installed in 2014 that allows the retrieval of almost any email sent through state government servers within minutes, said Tracy Doaks, the state's deputy chief information officer.

In response to the AP requests, aides for McCrory and Cooper said they culled the private messages for information that the law allows to be withheld or requires kept secret. It's impossible to know how much communication they have withheld.

"Our office does not release records without a thorough review for personnel information, attorney-client privileged information, criminal record information, and/or personal financial information," Cooper spokeswoman Noelle Talley wrote in an email.

Private email records

McCrory's staff in September quit providing the private email records sought by the AP and wouldn't respond when asked about their progress. Talley said in October that she couldn't estimate how many more of Cooper's personal emails involving state business were yet to be produced.

Cooper had sent only a handful of emails using his official state account in the 16 years he has been the state's top prosecutor. Talley said Cooper prefers communicating in person or by phone but wouldn't respond when asked whether the Democrat minimized his use of official email in preference to his private account.

A McCrory campaign ad released a week before Election Day said Cooper's scant use of email through his official account was "questionable."

"Emails could well be the downfall of .

Roy Cooper. Surprised? We know of Hillary's email problems, but it was Roy Cooper who vouched for Hillary's "honesty," the ad said.

Clinton, the Democratic presidential candidate, was attacked by Republicans throughout the campaign for maintaining a private email server during her time as secretary of state and for refusing to release some personal emails. The State Department's inspector general found that Clinton broke department rules when she used private email for government business, concluding that she created a security risk and violated transparency and disclosure policies. Clinton said she did nothing wrong.

Public officials who communicate through private emails may be trying to circumvent public records laws or just seeking greater convenience, said Jonathan Jones, director of the North Carolina Open Government Coalition at Elon University. Either way, as Clinton's email controversy showed, it fosters mistrust if private email leaves the account-holder in control of what is publicly released, Jones said.

"I think to a lot of citizens, that's why it matters," Jones said. "They're bothered by an air of secrecy."

The practice of skirting official email accounts and communicating privately has been employed by politicians of both major parties, including former Republican Gov. Mitt Romney of Massachusetts and Chicago's Democratic mayor, Rahm Emanuel.

Neither McCrory nor Cooper responded when The AP emailed their personal accounts asking why they communicated outside official channels or what advantage they gained from the practice.

McCrory spokesman Josh Ellis said the governor has received messages from constituents in his private account for many years, and that email involving public business is "treated in accordance with public records law."

For most of his term as governor, McCrory has conducted state business via three private email accounts maintained in addition to two government accounts, the AP learned through its records request. Many other high-ranking members of his administration also commonly conduct state business on private accounts.

McCrory has used one of the private accounts for at least a decade, including when he was Charlotte's mayor.

Some back-channel communications came from political donors and bigwigs seeking to influence public policy. Requests for favors include one from a top lobbyist at the Charlotte law firm that employed McCrory without clear duties before he was elected governor in 2012. A year after insurance giant MetLife Inc. announced that it would move 2,600 jobs to North Carolina, the CEO wanted McCrory to meet with executives and the company's board of directors, the lobbyist wrote.

A sampling of Cooper's personal email traffic, nearly always funneled through a few top aides, included updates on pending legal settlements and a request from a state attorney who Cooper's top assistant said "needs to know if you can sign some wiretap papers for him."

The email issue has a special significance in North Carolina because former Gov. Mike Easley, a Democrat, used private email to shield his internal office discussions from transparency requirements of public records law. His staffers said they were told to routinely delete sensitive email. Those details were revealed after Easley was sued in 2008 by The AP and other media organizations.

Since then, McCrory and his predecessors have signed executive orders requiring their agencies to store government email for years as "the property of the people." —AP

BIG DATA HELPED TRUMP EVEN AFTER HE SCORNEDED IT PROPELLED HIM TO VICTORY?

WASHINGTON: Donald Trump derided the use of data and technology tools for his presidential campaign-but those techniques might well have propelled him to victory.

Trump's stealth digital campaign, thrown together hastily in the final months of the campaign, allowed the Republican billionaire to fine-tune his message and reach voters in crucial Rust Belt states that gave him an Electoral College majority. During the primaries, Trump dismissed as "overrated" the kinds of data analytics and "micro-targeting" successfully used by President Barack Obama.

But after winning the nomination, he quietly developed a digital strategy led by a political neophyte, his son-in-law Jared Kushner, and a data company whose parent firm worked on the Brexit campaign.

In the final stages of the race, Trump relied on insights generated by Cambridge Analytica, the US unit of British behavioral marketing firm SCL, that allowed his campaign to reach voters in the key states of Pennsylvania, Michigan and Wisconsin that delivered his majority over Democrat Hillary Clinton.

"We built an algorithm that generated top cities to reach the highest concentration of persuadable voters," said Matt Oczkowski, head of the data science team for the Trump campaign at Cambridge Analytica.

"That intelligence was being updated and shared daily. This campaign had to be far more surgical because Hillary Clinton outspent this campaign by double."

The digital efforts involved "thousands of variations" of messages that were targeted based on voter profiles to platforms such as Facebook, Snapchat or Pandora radio, Oczkowski said.

Cambridge Analytica said its 4,000 different online ads for

Trump were viewed 1.5 billion times by millions of Americans. The data science team could glean information about users to deliver pitches "based on the issues they care about," Oczkowski said.

Voter turnout

While many factors contributed to Trump's win, data analysts from both parties said a major element was determining who would turn

out to vote, but have a hard time predicting who is going to vote."

Trump's digital strategist tapped by Kushner was Brad Parscale, head of a Texas-based marketing firm who was new to politics.

Parscale's lack of experience may have played to his advantage, said Chris Wilson, CEO of WPA Research, who led digital strategy



CINCINNATI: In this Dec 1, 2016, photo, President-elect Donald Trump smiles as he speaks during the first stop of his post-election tour. Democrats need to rebuild the political "blue wall" of traditionally Democratic upper Midwest and Great Lakes states that Republican Donald Trump captured with an appeal to white, working-class voters. —AP

out to vote. "The linchpin to understanding this election was based on the ability to understand who a likely voter was," said Oczkowski. "The main reason we were hired was to quantify the Trump effect," and to quantify "how unique this candidate was."

Tom Bonier, CEO of the consultancy TargetSmart that worked with Democratic candidates, agreed that understanding turnout was a key factor in 2016.

"If there is an Achilles heel in analytics, it is predicting turnout," Bonier said. "The models do a great deal in predicting how peo-

ple are going to vote, but have a hard time predicting who is going to vote."

Digital targeting

Effective digital targeting involves gathering data from various online and offline sources to match voters to their profiles on Facebook and other platforms. "I can take a predictive model of a potential Trump voter that I can

match to Pandora, and match it to the kind of music they listen to and target them on Snapchat based on the filters they use," Wilson said.

A report by Bloomberg/Business Week said the Trump campaign used micro-targeting to deliver negative messages on Facebook-reminding them of Clinton's comments and "super predators" seen as disparaging to African-Americans-in an effort to depress turnout. Oczkowski said negative ads were "a very small part of our strategy" and that "most of our focus was to reach our voters."

He added that the campaign did only a small amount of "psychographic" profiling because of the limited time frame it had to work in. The company said it was able to review and update ads on a daily basis to reach undecided voters, who were divided into 12-15 subgroups for "highly-targeted" messages.

"Our cutting-edge digital capabilities allowed the campaign to reach voters more effectively than ever before, and at a fraction of the cost spent by the Democratic candidate," Cambridge Analytica CEO Alexander Nix said in a statement.

Wilson said that there is no evidence that negative ads and posts depressed turnout, and that such efforts "are more likely to do the opposite" by energizing supporters.

Bonier said there appeared to be a slight drop in turnout of black voters in key states, but that it was not clear if this was due to Trump's ads or other factors. "It's difficult to draw too many lessons from this particular campaign, this was such a unique race," Bonier said. "We did see some new tools emerging, Snapchat was one of them, but I think agility is the lesson, the ability to adapt to the changing landscape." —AFP

APPLE REVEALS AUTONOMOUS VEHICLE AMBITIONS

SAN FRANCISCO: Apple has revealed it is investing heavily in autonomous vehicles in a letter asking the government to make it easier to develop self-driving cars.

The company is "excited about the potential of automated systems in many areas, including transportation," Apple said in a November 22 letter to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration offering Apple's opinion about draft regulations for the sector. "Apple looks forward to collaborating with NHTSA and other stakeholders so that the significant societal benefits of automated vehicles can be realized safely, responsibly, and expeditiously," the company's director of product integrity Steve Kenner wrote.

Apple issued the letter because it is "investing heavily in machine learning and autonomous systems," an Apple spokesman said in an email to AFP. "There are many potential applications for these technologies,

including the future of transportation, so we want to work with NHTSA to help define the best practices for the industry."

Rumors about Apple's ambitions in the sector have circulated for years. The company has a separate organization called "Project Titan" that is developing automotive projects. Although Apple has never officially confirmed the project, several of CEO Tim Cook's comments have fueled speculation.

After a \$1 billion investment in a Chinese ride-hailing service called Didi Chuxing, he spoke of "some strategic things that the companies can do together over time." However, in early September, The New York Times reported that the group had narrowed its ambitions, laying off dozens of staff as part of the project's "reboot."

Instead of designing and producing a complete self-driving car, the group will now concentrate on developing underlying

technologies for autonomous vehicles. In its letter, Apple urges the NHTSA not to penalize new participants in the sector by restricting the testing of cars under development on public roads, for which established automakers generally have exemptions. "To maximize the safety benefits of automated vehicles, encourage innovation, and promote fair competition, established manufacturers and new entrants should be treated equally," it says.

Apple also encourages data sharing, particularly for accidents, saying that would enable the industry to "build a more comprehensive dataset than any one company could create alone." Most major auto manufacturers and many technology groups are currently developing autonomous vehicles, considered to be the future of the automobile, along with electric power, with first production models promised for around 2020.—AFP

HIGHER BLOOD CLOT RISK AFTER STARTING TESTOSTERONE TREATMENT

FRANKFURT: Men may have an increased risk of blood clots after they start taking testosterone to treat sexual dysfunction, a recent study suggests.

In the first six months after starting testosterone, men have a 63 percent higher risk of clots in the legs and lungs than they did before beginning treatment, the study found.

While the absolute risk of a clot, known as a venous thromboembolism, is low and diminishes over time, men should still discuss it with their doctors, said lead study author Dr. Carlos Martinez of the Institute for Epidemiology, Statistics and Informatics GmbH in Frankfurt, Germany. "This observational study suggests an increased risk of venous thromboembolism soon after the start of testosterone use," Martinez said by email. "The risk declines after more than six months' treatment."

Although the increased risks are temporary, and

still relatively low in absolute terms, the researchers warn that failure to investigate the timing and duration of testosterone use in previous studies could have masked this association. For the current study, researchers examined data on about 19,000 patients with blood clots and more than 900,000 similar men without a history of clots collected from 2001 to 2013 in the UK

For the men treated with testosterone, researchers looked at three different groups: patients in current treatment, men with recent treatment not currently taking testosterone, and men who had not taken testosterone in the previous two years. Current treatment was subdivided into duration of more or less than six months.

Comparisons

Compared with men who hadn't used testos-

terone, current users had a 25 percent higher risk of clots, researchers report in The BMJ. After six months of treatment, the risk returned to levels similar to what men had before starting testosterone.

The study is observational and can't prove testosterone causes clots or that stopping treatment would reduce the risk of clots, the authors note. Testosterone levels decline gradually over time, leading to symptoms such as decreased libido, sexual dysfunction, decreased bone mineral density, mood disorders, reduced muscle mass and fatigue. Most of these symptoms can also come from other causes such as diabetes, high blood pressure, heart disease and thyroid disorders.

Millions of men worldwide have taken testosterone to address these symptoms. Some previous studies suggest a possible relationship between

low testosterone and hardening of the arteries, heart disease, and blood clots, said Dr. Joao Zambon, a researcher at Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, North Carolina who wasn't involved in the study.

"It is unclear if this is a causal relationship or a concomitant event," Zambon added by email.

"Despite all the benefits in terms of well-being, quality of life and symptom improvement, there are still many controversies and questions without answer in terms of testosterone replacement therapy," Zambon said. This makes regular check-ups essential. "For patients with symptoms and low testosterone levels and for those who have already been using testosterone replacement therapy, it is highly recommended that they get a regular follow-up with a specialist to avoid any unexpected events," Zambon said. — Reuters



CHENNAI, India : In this photograph taken on November 11, 2016, Indian snake-catcher Kali holds a sawscaled viper on a stick, caught in the paddy fields during scouting in the early hours of the morning at Vadanemmel village. — AFP

THE SNAKE-CATCHING TRIBE SAVING LIVES IN INDIA

WORLD'S DEADLIEST SNAKES

CHENGALPATTU, India: A small scythe, a crowbar and a bundle of canvas bags are all that Kali and Vedan carry when they venture into the fields of southern India to catch some of the world's deadliest snakes. Their skills, passed from generation to generation of the Irula tribe they belong to, are crucial for the production of anti-venom in a country with the world's highest number of deaths from snake bites.

Since it began in the 1970s, the Irula snake-catchers' cooperative on the outskirts of the southern city of Chennai has revolutionized the treatment of snake-bites in India, enabling it to produce enough anti-venom to supply hospitals across the country.

It also provides much-needed income for the Irula, one of the region's most deprived groups, who used to hunt snakes and sell the skins but lost their livelihood overnight when India banned the practice in 1972.

Kali learned the intricate skill of tracking and then catching snakes from his father, whose abilities were renowned in the small community. Now the 36-year-old uses those same skills to catch snakes for the cooperative, which keeps them for a month under license from the government and harvests their venom before returning them to nature.

This month he is tasked with catching the saw-scaled and Russell's vipers two of India's four deadliest snake varieties under the quota system the cooperative uses to ensure it harvests the right quantity of venom.

Within 20 minutes of starting the search in rice fields less than a mile (kilometer) from a busy highway, he has spotted a tiny snake concealed under the bark of a fence post, its

brown markings barely visible against the wood.

Minutes later his partner Vedan has expertly maneuvered the slithering creature with his bare hands into a canvas bag, which he secures with a tight knot and slings into a plastic shopping basket. "It's an adult female saw-scaled viper, one of the most venomous snakes," says Kali, who like many Indians goes by only one name. "In winter they like to hide in tree bark, that's how we found it."

'Sacred work'

Kali will be paid 300 rupees (\$4.5) for the viper under a tariff system that rises to 2,500 rupees for a cobra. Sometimes he gets lucky and finds a snake quickly; other times he will go for days without a catch, but the money is good, and unlike him, Kali's children are able to attend school regularly.

The cooperative, which was set up by the American conservationist Rom Whitaker and is now controlled by the state authorities, will keep the snake for a month and harvest its venom four times.

Non-lethal amounts of venom from four snake species are injected into horses, which then produce antigens that are used to make antivenom for all bites. That is the only reliable treatment for a human bitten by a venomous snake, although the Irula also use herbal treatments that they say give them more time to reach a hospital.

India has 244 snake species and the four most venomous, the cobra, krait, Russell's viper and saw-scaled viper, are found throughout the country. Experts say thousands of people

die every year from snakebites in India, still a predominately rural economy where farmers run the risk of being bitten every time they go into their fields.

Government figures show just a few recorded cases every year, but most go unreported because victims never reach hospital and a 2011 study put the number of annual deaths at around 46,000. Villagers living near the cooperative said snakes frequently entered their homes, putting them at risk of being bitten in their sleep-but were pretty nonchalant about the threat.

"In our village one person was bitten by a snake. He was taken to hospital and he recovered," said Maragadham, a 36-year-old child minder. "Snakes are found in most homes, but they are not a threat to us."

That is because most health facilities in India now have sufficient supplies of anti-venom. Back at the cooperative, Kali and Vedan have placed their catch in a clay pot in preparation for the extraction process.

The extractor takes out the snake, gripping it below the head, which he places in front of a thin piece of leather that has been stretched over the top of a small glass jar to imitate skin. As the snake opens its jaw and sinks its fangs into the leather covering, the deadly liquid drips into the jar.

"The snake has to bite, only then will it inject the venom," explains R. Kumar after snipping a few scales from the snake's skin to indicate that extraction has taken place. "We don't have much education. We're not interested in any other work. But this work is important, it is sacred to us." — AFP

GERMANY DETECTS H5N1 BIRD FLU ON POULTRY FARM IN BRANDENBURG

BRANDENBURG: Germany reported a first case of the contagious bird flu strain H5N1 on Friday on a small poultry farm in the northeastern state of Brandenburg, the state's consumer protection ministry said.

The farm in the Oberhavel district was sealed off and some 500 chicks, ducks and geese were culled, a spokeswoman for the consumer protection ministry of Brandenburg said. "It's the first time in the current season that this type of bird flu was detected on a poultry farm in Brandenburg," the spokeswoman said.

The H5N1 strain is regarded as highly pathogenic, but less dangerous than the even more contagious H5N8 strain found in several European countries in the past

few weeks. France reported a H5N8 case of bird flu on Friday on a duck farm in the southwest, another setback for French poultry and foie gras exports which were hit by a similar outbreak a year ago.

The avian influenza virus was confirmed at a farm in the Tarn region, the agriculture ministry said, days after the virus was detected among wild birds in northern France and following outbreaks in Europe linked to migrating birds.

The H5N8 bird flu strain has also been found in over 370 wild birds in Germany since the present outbreak started in early November. Three large farms have suffered outbreaks along with a series of small farms, hobby poultry owners and zoos. — Reuters

NOVARTIS SAYS 82 PERCENT OF LEUKEMIA PATIENTS IN REMISSION AFTER CAR-T

MUMBAI: An experimental cancer therapy being developed by Novartis AG eliminated an aggressive form of blood cancer in 82 percent of children and young adults treated with modified immune cells in a mid-stage trial, the company said on Saturday.

Interim results from the multi-center trial for 50 patients with acute lymphoblastic leukemia whose cancer returned or did not respond to other treatment, showed that 41 were disease-free three months after treatment with the drug, called CTL019.

The trial results were presented at a meeting of the American Society of Hematology in San Diego. Novartis estimated that 60 percent of those responders were relapse-free after six months. Complete remission was defined as including "remission with incomplete blood count recovery."

CTL019 is part of an experimental class of drugs that are made by genetically altering a patient's T-cells, a type of white blood cell, in the lab to help the immune system find and kill cancer cells. The modified cells, called chimeric antigen receptor T-cells, or CAR-T, are infused into the patient.

Novartis said it plans to file early next

year for US Food and Drug Administration approval of CTL019. The company said nearly half of trial patients experienced severe cytokine release syndrome, a dangerous buildup of toxic debris known as CRS, and 15 percent experienced serious neurological problems including delirium. Researchers said the side effects were treated, and no patients died due to CRS.

CRS, a known side effect of CAR-T therapy, led to the decision last week to halt a trial of JCAR015, a rival drug being developed by Juno Therapeutics Inc. "We have learned that the patients who come in with more leukemia in their body have a much higher risk of getting sick," said Dr. Stephan Grupp, the Novartis trial's lead investigator and director of the cancer immunotherapy program at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.

He said the trial did not show a big difference between patients whose leukemia was refractory, meaning they had stopped responding to treatment, and patients who had relapsed, or might have responded temporarily to chemotherapy. "We do see a difference in toxicity," the researcher said. "Refractory patients with high disease burden can get sicker temporarily on the way to remission." — Reuters



MUMBAI: A Novartis logo is pictured on its headquarters building on April 1, 2013. — AFP

EGYPT BRINGS IN TOUGHER PENALTIES AGAINST FGM

CAIRO: An amended law that toughens penalties for female genital mutilation to up to 15 years in jail has come into effect, the health ministry announced yesterday.

Health ministry officials will monitor and oversee clinics and private hospitals to enforce the anti-FGM law that came into effect last Tuesday, the ministry said in a statement. The government had sent the bill to parliament on August 28, and lawmakers approved it days later. In Egypt, the partial or full removal of the external sex organs for no medical purposes, ostensibly to control women's sexuality, remains widespread, especially in rural areas.

The procedure, common in some parts of the African continent, is practiced by both Muslims and Christians in Egypt. Under the new law, those convicted of carrying out female circumcision can now be jailed for between five and seven years, from three months and two years under the former law. If the procedure leads to permanent disability or death, the perpetrators could be jailed for up to 15 years.

The new law also calls for anyone who forces a female to undertake the proce-

dures to be jailed for between one and three years, which could potentially apply to parents or family members. FGM can cause lifelong pain, including extreme discomfort during intercourse, serious complications during childbirth and psychological trauma.

In January 2015, an Egyptian doctor was sentenced to two years in jail for involuntary manslaughter and three months for practicing FGM, after a 14-year-old girl died during an operation he performed. He served only the three-month sentence. However, "the latest figures from the Egypt Demographic and Health Survey show that we're winning," the United Nations Development Program said in a report last year. "Mothers' attitudes are changing, too," UNDP said.

While 92 percent of mothers had undergone the procedure, only 35 percent of them "intend to circumcise their daughters", according to the UNDP report. According to the World Health Organization, more than 200 million girls and women alive today have been cut, and over two million join their ranks every year. — AFP

EX-DRUG EXECUTIVE SHKRELI CONGRATULATES AUSTRALIAN STUDENTS

SYDNEY: Former pharmaceutical executive Martin Shkreli has congratulated a group of Australian students who reproduced the active ingredient for a life-saving, anti-parasitic drug at the center of a drug-price controversy involving his former company.

The students from Sydney Grammar School drew global media attention this week after they said they had produced the drug Daraprim for about \$2 a dose, a fraction of the current list price of \$750 per dose. Shkreli is a former chief executive of Turing Pharmaceuticals, where he sparked outrage among patients and US lawmakers for raising the price of Daraprim by more than 5,000 percent.

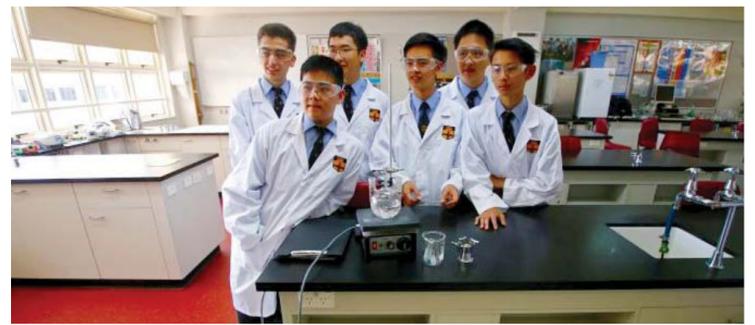
"These Australian students are proof that the 21st century economy will solve problems of human suffering through science and technology," Shkreli said in a video message posted on YouTube. "We should congratulate these students for their interest in chemistry and I'll be excited about what is to come in this STEM-focused 21st century," he said, referring to science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

Daraprim is used to fight parasitic infections in AIDS patients, pregnant women and others. The six students and their science teacher

worked under the guidance of the University of Sydney and members of the Open Source Malaria consortium, which allows scientists to share research on anti-malaria drugs. "We had to repeat a lot of the reactions and try different reaction conditions in order to see which materials in which things would react to make the

Daraprim," student Brandon Lee told Reuters Television on Friday.

Turing made front-page headlines after it bought the rights to Daraprim in August 2015. With no rival manufacturers making the drug, Turing quickly raised the price for a tablet of Daraprim to \$750 from \$13.50. — Reuters



SYDNEY: A group of chemistry students James Wood, Brandon Lee, Austin Zhang, Patrick Ngo, Christopher Lai, and Dylan Siow-Lee (L-R) stand together in their school lab with the equipment they use to make the compound of an anti-parasitic medicine used to treat malaria, called Daraprim, at Sydney Grammar School on December 2, 2016. — AFP

GORE SAYS US CLIMATE CURBS ON TRACK, HOPES TRUMP WILL SURPRISE

OSLO: US greenhouse gas emissions are likely to fall irrespective of the pro-coal policies of President-elect Donald Trump, who may still surprise the world by embracing global action to limit climate change, former vice president Al Gore said.

Gore, a climate activist who will lead a 24-hour televised marathon on Dec 5-6 about global efforts to limit rising temperatures, told Reuters that companies and US states would cut emissions despite Trump's doubts that warming is man-made. "Business alone, along with states, will almost guarantee that we meet the reduction targets (set by US President Barack Obama) regardless of the policies the new president ends up adopting," Gore said in a phone

interview. Obama wants to cut greenhouse gas emissions by between 26 and 28 percent from 2005 levels by 2025, a goal opposed by Trump who wants to promote jobs and bolster national security by exploiting more US coal, oil and natural gas.

Greener companies

Gore said companies were finding that both customers and employees, especially the young, wanted greener, less polluting products. And prices of electricity from solar or wind power were falling below the cost of coal-fired power in many nations. A Democrat, Gore also said it was premature to assume that Republican Trump would carry out campaign

pledges to ditch the 2015 Paris Agreement signed by almost 200 nations, which aims to end the fossil fuel era by shifting to renewable in the second half of the century. "It's too early to write off the prospects of the new administration surprising people like me on the upside," said Gore, a 2007 Nobel Peace Prize laureate for his work to highlight the risks of global warming.

During the campaign, Gore once said Trump's policies would "take us toward a climate catastrophe." Trump has dismissed the idea of man-made climate change as a hoax but told the New York Times on Nov. 22 that he had an "open mind" on the Paris Agreement, softening past opposition.

After Trump won, Gore offered on Nov 9 to "do

everything I can to work with him (Trump) and his administration." He declined comment when asked if Trump's transition team had been in touch. Gore said it was hard to keep all campaign promises upon assuming what he called the "awesome responsibilities" of government, citing his own experiences from 1993-2001 with former president Bill Clinton. Gore's Climate Reality Project will run a 24-hour broadcast from Monday at 2300 GMT, televised in 75 nations and available globally online, about actions to slow climate change in major emitters led by China, the United States, India and Russia. It will also feature celebrities including Ryan Reynolds, Jon Bon Jovi, Carole King, Thirty Seconds to Mars and PJ Harvey. — Reuters

NY TWEAKS MEDICAL POT LAW BUT STILL NO TALK OF LEGALIZATION

ALBANY: New York is loosening restrictions in its nearly year-old medical marijuana law but, to the dismay of some pot advocates, there is no sign the state is in any hurry to join eight other states in embracing full legalization.

Among the latest to do so are two in the Northeast - Massachusetts and Maine - and the huge state of California. Still, Gov. Andrew Cuomo remains a skeptic of outright recreational use and legalization faces challenges in the Legislature too. "It's unlikely to happen in the short term," predicted physician Kyle Kingsley, chairman of Vireo Health, one of five companies selected under New York's law to grow and sell cannabis for medical uses. "But I do think what's going on in Massachusetts, it helps knock down the stigma ... I think it's inevitable. It's just a matter of time."

New York's medical marijuana law still has some of the strictest rules among the more than 20 states that allow medical pot. Among its requirements: that pot products can't be dispensed in smokeable form and that physicians complete a training course to approve the drug for patients.

So far, 750 physicians have signed up to participate, and 10,730 patients have been certified, a number that dispensary operators have complained has made it hard to turn a profit. "We're not breaking even yet, and neither has anyone else in the industry," said Hillary Peckham, chief operations officer of Etain, a family run company that has dispensaries in Albany, Kingston, Syracuse and Yonkers. "It's not at a sustainable point."

Boosting patient access

In an effort to boost patient access, officials are loosening some regulations. Nurse practitioners and physician assistants will soon be allowed to certify

patients for the drug. The state is considering authorizing home deliveries and this past week announced plans to add chronic pain to a list of 10 qualifying conditions that also include cancer, AIDS, multiple sclerosis and epilepsy.

Kate Hintz lobbied for the law to help people like her daughter Morgan, who has a rare form of epilepsy. The Westchester County woman said that the state is making significant progress in making the medicine more accessible to patients - but that more work is needed.

"I don't think it will ever move fast enough, but the changes are encouraging," she said. Morgan is enrolled in the program, but Hintz said no dispensary currently offers the type of medical cannabis that would best treat her daughter. "No one I know is utilizing the program 100 percent."

Among the changes dispensary owners and patient advocates say are still needed: expanding the formulations the dispensaries can offer, encouraging more doctors to participate and approving more qualifying conditions.

The state is also looking at permitting additional companies to open new dispensaries, a move opposed by the operators of the 19 current dispensaries around the state. Owners say the market is too small and fragile to absorb the new competition. "What we don't want to do is compromise the integrity of the program by saturating the market," said Nicholas Vita, CEO of Columbia Care NY, which operates a Manhattan dispensary in addition to three upstate facilities.

One option that's not on the table yet is full legalization. Massachusetts, California and Maine's votes in November join them with states including Colorado, Washington and Oregon in allowing recreational use of pot. AP



CHRISTCHURCH, New Zealand: In this Friday, Dec 2, 2016, photo provided by Christina Korp, right, Buzz Aldrin lies in a hospital bed. —AFP

BUZZ ALDRIN: ALTITUDE SICKNESS FORCED SOUTH POLE EVACUATION

RECUPERATE IN A HOSPITAL

CHRISTCHURCH, New Zealand: Buzz Aldrin said he was evacuated from the South Pole last week because he became short of breath and began showing signs of altitude sickness.

The 86-year-old adventurer, who was the second man to walk on the moon, released details yesterday of his dramatic medical evacuation from Antarctica. He is continuing to recuperate in a hospital in Christchurch, New Zealand.

Because of the thick ice that blankets Antarctica, the South Pole sits at an elevation of 2,835 meters (9,300 feet). Aldrin said in a statement he still has some congestion in his lungs and so has been advised to rest in New Zealand until it clears up and to avoid the long flight back to the US for now.

Aldrin, his son Andrew and manager Christina Korp had been visiting Antarctica as tourists on a trip organized by the White Desert tour company. They left last Tuesday from South Africa. "South Pole here I come!" Aldrin wrote on Twitter at the time. He said the trip began well, and that he'd been planning to spend time with scientists who were studying what it would be like to live on Mars because the conditions in Antarctica were similar. "I had been having a

great time with the group at White Desert's camp before we ventured further south," he said.

"I started to feel a bit short of breath so the staff decided to check my vitals. After some examination they noticed congestion in my lungs and that my oxygen levels were low, which indicated symptoms of altitude sickness."

Escape

Aldrin said he was put on the next flight, a ski-equipped LC-130 cargo plane that took him to McMurdo Station, a US research center on the Antarctic coast. "Once I was at sea level I began to feel much better," he said.

From there he was flown to Christchurch, where he arrived at 4:30 a.m. on Friday. His manager described the evacuation as "grueling." She posted a picture of Aldrin on his hospital bed, on oxygen and with an IV in his left arm.

The following day he was looking upbeat as he welcomed NASA Deputy Administrator Dava Newman. Aldrin posted a photo of himself wearing pajamas and sitting up in bed with Newman by his side. Both were giving the thumbs-up sign. "I had a surprise visitor this morning. My longtime friend," Aldrin wrote. "She

beat me to the South Pole by one day."

Korp, his manager, wrote on Twitter that "Buzz is ok. Resting but flirting with all the nurses!" She said she'd told Aldrin he now holds the record as the oldest person to reach the South Pole, according to the National Science Foundation. "He'll be insufferable now," she wrote.

Indeed, the achievement completes a remarkable list of extreme locations visited by Aldrin. In 1966, he spacewalked while in orbit. In 1969, he and Neil Armstrong became the first men to walk on the moon.

In 1996, Aldrin voyaged to the bottom of the North Atlantic in a mini-submarine to view the Titanic. A couple of years later, he travelled to the Arctic aboard a Russian icebreaker.

Aldrin is now focusing on getting back to his home in Satellite Beach, Florida, which is not far from Cape Canaveral and its launch pads. But he's eyeing more distant horizons. "I'm looking forward to getting home soon to spend Christmas with my family and to continue my quest for a permanent settlement on Mars," he said in his statement. "You ain't seen nothing yet!" —AP



WILSONVILLE, Oregon: In this April 12, 2014, file photo, vials containing extracted medical marijuana are ready for testing at a lab. — AP

CLINIC PAGE



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Dr. Fahad Al-Mukhaizeem
ر. فهد علي المخيزيم

استشاري أطفال
M.B. Bch. FRCPC. FAAP. PEM



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



AL MULLA EXCHANGE COMPANY OPENS 70TH BRANCH IN KUWAIT

Al Mulla Exchange, the leading money exchange company in Kuwait, continues its expansion drive opening the 70th branch in Kuwait at Sama mall in Khaitan. This is the company's fifth branch in Khaitan, which further strengthens its strong presence in the area. Talking to the media during the opening ceremony, Mr. Rakesh Joshi, General Manger of Al Mulla Exchange, said the growing demand for the services of Al Mulla Exchange has prompted the company to set up more branches. He took the opportunity to

thank their customers for their valuable support and promised to continue in their strife to provide the highest quality services to fulfill the needs of customers in the safest, fastest and the best way possible, there are no other exchange companies in that area as of none. This is part of Al Mulla Exchange's commitment to enable easy access for their customers. The branch will be equipped to provide all the services and products of Al Mulla Exchange and is manned by well trained staff capable of providing the right solutions to

customers. Mr. Rakesh further added that Al Mulla Exchange lays great emphasis on continuous improvement in terms of manpower and technology. "This is the reason we have been able to hold our leading position in the market despite stiff competition." The customers at the new branch expressed their satisfaction at the having a branch closer to them. "We will now be able to conduct our transactions much easier." Al Mulla Exchange is planning to open more branches in the future.



TASHKENT HOSTS THE ANNUAL FASHION WEEK



From 22 to 29 November 2016 Tashkent hosted the annual fashion week, organized by the Association of Designers of Uzbekistan "Osiyo Ramzi". The event was attended by designers from Uzbekistan, Tadjikistan, Italy, Kyrgyzstan, Kuwait, China, Russia and South Korea. The program included fashion shows, workshops and scientific conferences. The invitation of the Uzbek side was passed to the Kuwaiti side by the International Women Group (IWG) of Kuwait, which organized the first exhibition of traditional Muslim dresses with the participation of embassies of different countries in Kuwait in March 2016. Well-known designers, who have worked many years to create outfits for Muslim women, presented the Kuwaiti side as well as Amal and Lona Al-Farez and Elena Solomatina, the IWG president in 2016-2017.



The plan of this event has been approved and supported by the National Council for culture, arts and letters and the Minister of information of Kuwait Sheikh Salman Al-Homoud Al-Sabah.



The collection presented by Kuwaiti designers was praised by the organizers of the exhibition - Halida Kamilova, professor of history and art of Uzbekistan and Mario Bazella, honorary chairman of the Italian Chamber of fashion and welcomed by the audience. The screening was also attended by the staff of the Embassy of Kuwait in Uzbekistan. Madame Kamilova, designers from other countries and leading experts in the world of fashion have expressed the wish to see the Kuwaiti designers participating in the future fashion shows and to organize a similar event in Kuwait. The idea was supported by the ambassador of Uzbekistan in Kuwait Bakhtomjon Alov, who offered to organize part of the scheduled activities within the framework of the Uzbekistan culture week. The participation of representatives of Kuwait in Tashkent Fashion Week and organization of the similar events in Kuwait next year will contribute to the further development of cultural cooperation and rapprochement of the peoples of different countries.



WORLD AIDS DAY SERVICE SHOULD ENLIGHTEN SOCIETY : NSH VICE PRESIDENT SABU ALISHA CONQUERS HEARTS



In the line of activities of Social Responsibility such as UN International Day against Drug Abuse, UNESCO's International Literacy Day, World Heart Day, Master Brain Quiz, Partners of Environment Protection, this oil & gas business conglomerate and the single largest employer in the Middle East, NSH has recently conducted the awarding ceremony of the contest held in connection with the various globally accepted values including anti- drugs. Inaugurating this memorable event, NSH Vice President Sabu thematically expressed his views that NSH is indebted for social change,

and added that NSH is focusing on youth empowerment to work together for change in the communities positively, in support of Kuwait's efforts. Stating that the service should enlighten society, this veteran appreciated the community members and youth involved in the week long programs, and group discussions among students regarding raising the awareness in the society on anti- drugs and the ways to fight against AIDS. Alisha won the hearts and thunderous applause from audience of students, teachers and parents when she received the

first prize for her excellent performance. Sabu, Harikumar and Michael O Bailli honored the winners with first, second and third prizes respectively. Earlier, HR Manager Pani J Anthony delivered the introductory speech. Project Managers Abdul Rahman, PV Santhosh, Dileep Kumar Raroth discussed with the audience about the ongoing events. The teachers, students and parents said that the programs are timely and useful, and appreciated NSH for having been honored with the Kuwait's Excellent CSR Award by the KNPC CEO recently.

ACK HOLDS ITS SECOND 'HEALTH DAY'

The Australian College of Kuwait (ACK) held its 2nd Health Day for students, staff, Alumni and families. The objective of the event was to raise awareness on Prostate Cancer and the importance of its early detection.

In his opening speech, Mr. Abdulmohsen Al-Rifaie, Manager of Occupational Health & Safety Department at ACK, welcomed the attendees and the numerous participating entities. The event followed with an awareness lecture presented by the Cancer Awareness National Campaign (CAN), in addition to several events and activities for all family members.

ACK's Business Management students played an integral role in organizing the Health Day, as students have been studying Event Management this semester and relished the opportunity to put their new-found event skills into real life practice. They were responsible for planning and implementing a large number of activities for the children's program, as well as creating a diverse program that included parkour, bubble ball football, slippery slides, magic shows and educational games in line with the event's 'Movember' theme.

Organized by the Office of the Dean, a Decathlon was also set up for students, staff and graduates of ACK, including different sports activities, such as football, basketball, tennis and volleyball. Winning teams were awarded gold medals and trophies.

The event was concluded by a donation of KD/1,000 to the representatives of the Cancer Awareness National Campaign (CAN) on behalf of ACK students, staff and Alumni as a sign of support to the cause.



MCDONALD'S KUWAIT CELEBRATES 5TH ANNIVERSARY OF 'FAMILY TIME FOREVER'

With this year's theme of "Family Fun Run", McDonald's Kuwait marked the 5th anniversary of its beloved and highly anticipated "Family Time Forever" this past Friday. Families from across Kuwait gathered at Souq Sharq Mall to celebrate family time alongside the beloved McDonald's ambassador,

Ronald McDonald, and the rest of the McDonald's Kuwait family.

The "Family Fun Run" was open to all family members, featuring four different categories for kids, as well as adult categories for both mothers and fathers. For those who did not participate in the run, an assortment of fun activities

and games took place throughout the day, offering something for each member of the family. At the end of the race, Ronald McDonald entertained the crowd with his special "Ronald Show", before awarding prizes to all the winners.

"Family Time Forever continues to be one of our most popular events at McDonald's Kuwait,

and it succeeds every year in bringing families together for some fun quality time. It is simply a joyful day for all those who participate. Through this initiative, our goal is to highlight the importance of family and the need to set time aside from our busy lives to celebrate what truly matters in our lives," said Sherif Coutry, Marketing

Director at McDonald's Kuwait.

He further added: "The McDonald's experience is designed to draw a smile on everyone's face, and it is something that every single member of a family is guaranteed to enjoy - from the youngest child to their parents, and even grandparents."



Malayali Media Forum (MMF), Kuwait members pose for a photograph with Oscar-winning Bollywood sound designer following an interactive session with him at the Indian Community School, Salmiya.



- 00:50 Gator Boys
- 01:45 Mountain Monsters
- 02:40 Mutant Planet
- 03:35 Mutant Planet
- 04:25 Mutant Planet
- 05:15 Mutant Planet
- 06:02 Mutant Planet
- 06:49 Mutant Planet
- 07:36 Swamp Brothers
- 08:00 Swamp Brothers
- 08:25 Too Cute! Pint-Sized
- 09:15 Big Fish Man
- 10:10 Mutant Planet
- 11:05 Tanked
- 12:00 Too Cute! Pint-Sized
- 12:55 Bondi Vet
- 13:50 Big Fish Man
- 14:45 Gator Boys
- 15:40 Mutant Planet
- 16:35 Tanked
- 17:30 Into The Pride
- 18:25 River Monsters (Best Of Series 1-5)
- 19:20 Dr. Dee: Alaska Vet
- 20:15 Tanked
- 21:10 China's Last Elephants
- 22:05 Mutant Planet
- 23:00 Dr. Dee: Alaska Vet
- 23:55 Gator Boys



- 00:00 Fred Dinenage: Murder Casebook
- 01:00 The Haunting Of...
- 02:00 My Haunted House
- 03:00 Robbie Coltrane's Critical Evidence
- 04:00 Fred Dinenage: Murder Casebook
- 05:00 The Haunting Of...
- 06:00 My Haunted House
- 07:00 Fred Dinenage: Murder Casebook
- 08:00 Nightmare In Suburbia
- 09:00 Homicide Hunter
- 10:00 It Takes A Killer
- 10:30 It Takes A Killer
- 11:00 Crimes That Shook Australia
- 12:00 Crimes That Shook Australia
- 13:00 Crimes That Shook Australia
- 14:00 Crimes That Shook Australia
- 15:00 The First 48
- 16:00 Gangs Of Britain...
- 17:00 Crimes That Shook Britain
- 18:00 I Killed My BFF
- 19:00 Nightmare In Suburbia
- 20:00 Homicide Hunter
- 21:00 It Takes A Killer
- 21:30 It Takes A Killer
- 22:00 The First 48
- 23:00 Britain's Darkest Taboos



- 00:30 Prototype This
- 01:20 Prototype This
- 02:10 Dirty Jobs
- 03:00 Dirty Jobs
- 03:50 Ultimate Survival
- 04:40 Ultimate Survival
- 05:30 Ultimate Survival
- 06:20 How It's Made
- 06:40 How It's Made
- 07:00 Kids vs Film
- 07:25 Doki
- 07:50 America's Cutest Pets
- 08:40 How It's Made
- 09:05 How It's Made
- 09:30 Prototype This

- 12:15 Street Outlaws
- 13:05 How It's Made: Dream Cars
- 13:30 Storage Hunters UK
- 13:55 The Liquidator
- 14:20 Edge Of Alaska
- 15:10 Gold Divers
- 16:00 Deadliest Catch
- 16:50 Fast N' Loud: Demolition Theatre
- 17:40 Wheeler Dealers
- 18:30 How It's Made: Dream Cars
- 18:55 How Do They Do It?
- 19:20 Gold Divers
- 20:10 Storage Hunters UK
- 20:35 The Liquidator
- 21:00 Gold Rush
- 21:50 Deadliest Catch
- 22:40 Catching Monsters
- 23:30 Fast N' Loud: Demolition Theatre



- 00:00 Ultimate Guide To The Presidents
- 01:00 America's Book Of Secrets
- 02:00 Ancient Aliens: The Ultimate Evidence
- 03:00 Your Bleeped Up Brain
- 03:50 The Universe: Ancient Mysteries Solved
- 04:40 Ultimate Guide To The Presidents
- 05:30 Ultimate Guide To The Presidents
- 06:20 Cities Of The Underworld
- 07:10 Ancient Discoveries
- 08:00 America's Book Of Secrets
- 09:00 Ancient Aliens: The Ultimate Evidence
- 10:00 Your Bleeped Up Brain
- 11:00 The Universe: Ancient Mysteries Solved
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- 18:00 Ultimate Guide To The Presidents
- 19:00 Ancient Aliens
- 20:00 Missing In Alaska
- 21:00 Ancient Discoveries
- 22:00 WWI: Europe's Secret Army
- 23:00 Monster Quest



- 00:40 A Haunting
- 01:30 Paranormal Lockdown
- 02:20 Alaska Haunting
- 03:10 The Haunted
- 04:00 Paranormal Lockdown
- 04:48 I Almost Got Away With It
- 05:36 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones
- 06:24 Southern Fried Homicide
- 07:12 Nowhere To Hide
- 08:00 Disappeared
- 08:50 I Almost Got Away With It
- 09:40 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones
- 10:30 Southern Fried Homicide
- 11:20 Mansions & Murders
- 12:10 Evil Online

- 17:14 Mythbusters
- 18:02 Science Of The Movies
- 18:50 Da Vinci's Machines
- 19:40 Unchained Reaction
- 20:30 Invent It Rich
- 21:20 How Do They Do It?
- 21:45 Food Factory
- 22:10 Science Of The Movies
- 23:00 Invent It Rich
- 23:50 Mind Control Freaks



- 00:10 Hank Zipzer
- 00:35 Binny And The Ghost
- 01:00 Violetta
- 01:45 The Hive
- 01:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 02:15 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 02:40 Hank Zipzer
- 03:05 Binny And The Ghost
- 03:30 Violetta
- 04:15 The Hive
- 04:20 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 04:45 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 05:10 Hank Zipzer
- 05:35 Binny And The Ghost
- 06:00 Violetta
- 06:45 The Hive
- 06:50 Mouk
- 07:00 Jessie
- 07:25 Jessie
- 07:50 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
- 08:15 Tsum Tsum Shorts
- 08:20 Elena Of Avalor
- 08:45 Bunk'd
- 09:10 Austin & Ally
- 09:35 Shake It Up
- 10:00 A.N.T. Farm
- 10:25 A.N.T. Farm
- 10:50 That's So Raven
- 11:15 That's So Raven
- 11:40 Good Luck Charlie
- 12:05 Good Luck Charlie
- 12:30 Jessie
- 12:55 Disney Mickey Mouse
- 13:00 The 7D
- 13:15 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
- 13:40 Hank Zipzer
- 14:05 Star Darlings
- 14:10 Austin & Ally
- 14:35 Austin & Ally
- 15:00 Dog With A Blog
- 15:25 Jessie
- 15:50 Rolling To The Ronks
- 16:15 Hank Zipzer
- 16:40 Bunk'd
- 17:05 Disney Mickey Mouse
- 17:10 Elena Of Avalor
- 17:35 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
- 18:25 Descendants Wicked World
- 18:30 Liv And Maddie
- 18:55 Star Darlings
- 19:00 Austin & Ally
- 19:25 Disney Mickey Mouse
- 19:30 Austin & Ally
- 19:55 Descendants Wicked World
- 20:00 Backstage
- 20:25 Tsum Tsum Shorts
- 20:30 Elena Of Avalor
- 20:55 Best Friends Whenever
- 21:20 Girl Meets World
- 22:10 Good Luck Charlie
- 22:35 H2O: Just Add Water
- 23:00 Binny And The Ghost
- 23:25 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 23:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch



THE BERLIN FILE ON OSN MOVIES ACTION HD

- 14:30 Doc McStuffins Toy Hospital
- 15:00 The Lion Guard
- 15:30 Sofia The First
- 16:00 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
- 16:30 Doc McStuffins
- 17:00 The Lion Guard
- 17:30 PJ Masks
- 18:00 The Adventures Of The Disney Fairies
- 18:30 Goldie & Bear
- 19:00 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
- 19:30 Little Mermaid
- 20:00 PJ Masks
- 20:30 Sofia The First
- 21:00 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
- 22:00 PJ Masks
- 22:30 PJ Masks
- 23:00 The Adventures Of The Disney Fairies
- 23:30 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse

- 21:45 Guardians Of The Galaxy
- 22:10 Marvel Ultimate Spider-Man Vs...
- 22:35 Boyster



- 00:20 Pawn Stars Australia
- 01:10 American Restoration
- 02:00 Storage Wars: Best Of
- 02:50 Counting Cars
- 03:15 Counting Cars
- 03:40 Ice Road Truckers
- 04:30 Pawn Stars
- 05:00 Britain's Bloody Crown: War Of The Roses
- 06:00 Shipping Wars
- 06:50 American Pickers
- 07:40 Pawn Stars
- 08:05 Pawn Stars
- 08:30 Storage Wars Texas
- 08:55 Leepu And Pitbull
- 09:45 Leepu And Pitbull
- 10:35 Shipping Wars
- 11:00 Shipping Wars
- 11:25 Hoard Hunters
- 12:15 Shark Wranglers
- 13:05 Ice Road Truckers
- 13:55 Pawn Stars
- 14:20 Pawn Stars
- 14:45 Pawn Stars Australia
- 15:10 Pawn Stars Australia
- 15:35 Pawn Stars
- 16:00 American Pickers
- 16:50 Storage Wars
- 17:15 Storage Wars
- 17:40 Swamp People
- 18:30 Hoard Hunters
- 19:20 American Pickers
- 20:10 Pawn Stars
- 20:35 Pawn Stars
- 21:00 Ozzy & Jack's World Detour
- 21:50 Aussie Pickers
- 22:40 Billion Dollar Wreck
- 23:30 Ozzy & Jack's World Detour

- 09:45 The Shelbourne
- 10:35 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces
- 11:25 Carnival Eats
- 12:15 Miguel's Tropical Kitchen
- 12:40 Maximum Foodie
- 13:05 Top Tables, Top Cities

- 14:00 Eat Street
- 14:30 Cruise Ship Diaries
- 15:25 Miguel's Tropical Kitchen
- 15:50 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces
- 16:45 Places We Go
- 17:40 Carnival Eats
- 18:35 Miguel's Tropical Kitchen
- 19:05 Eat Street
- 19:30 Miguel's Tropical Kitchen
- 20:00 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces
- 20:50 Places We Go
- 21:40 Carnival Eats
- 22:30 Miguel's Tropical Kitchen
- 23:20 Top Tables, Top Cities
- 23:45 Top Tables, Top Cities



- 00:20 World's Deadliest
- 01:10 Caught In The Act
- 02:00 World's Deadliest
- 02:50 Wild Case Files
- 03:45 Baby Animals In The Wild
- 04:40 The Incredible Dr. Pol
- 05:35 World's Deadliest
- 06:30 Wild Case Files
- 07:25 Baby Animals In The Wild
- 08:20 The Incredible Dr. Pol
- 09:15 Unlikely Animal Friends
- 10:10 Jobs That Bite!
- 11:05 The Rise Of Black Wolf
- 12:00 Built For The Kill
- 12:55 Surviving The Serengeti
- 13:50 Wild Case Files
- 14:45 Baby Animals In The Wild



- 00:10 Sunday Night At The Palladium
- 01:00 Emmerdale
- 02:00 Coronation Street
- 02:30 The Chase: Celebrity Specials
- 03:25 Together
- 03:55 Gino's Hidden Italy
- 04:20 Paul O'Grady: For The Love Of Dogs
- 05:15 The Doctor Blake Mysteries
- 06:10 Sunday Night At The Palladium
- 07:05 The Chase: Celebrity Specials
- 08:00 Together
- 08:35 Gino's Hidden Italy
- 09:00 Paul O'Grady: For The Love Of Dogs
- 09:55 The Doctor Blake Mysteries
- 10:55 Sunday Night At The Palladium
- 11:50 The Chase: Celebrity Specials
- 12:45 Emmerdale
- 13:15 Coronation Street
- 14:15 Tonight At The London Palladium
- 15:10 Catchphrase
- 16:00 Broadchurch
- 16:55 Autopsy: The Last Hours Of...
- 17:50 The Doctor Blake Mysteries
- 18:45 Emmerdale
- 19:15 Coronation Street
- 20:10 Catchphrase
- 21:00 Broadchurch
- 21:55 Autopsy: The Last Hours Of...
- 22:50 Emmerdale
- 23:15 Coronation Street



- 00:10 Eat Street
- 00:35 Top Tables, Top Cities
- 01:00 Maximum Foodie
- 01:25 Top Tables, Top Cities
- 01:50 Top Tables, Top Cities
- 02:15 Eat Street
- 02:40 Meat V Veg
- 03:05 Raw Travel
- 03:30 Raw Travel
- 03:55 The Shelbourne
- 04:20 The Shelbourne
- 04:45 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces
- 05:35 Carnival Eats
- 06:00 Carnival Eats
- 06:25 Maverick Chef
- 06:50 Maximum Foodie
- 07:15 Top Tables, Top Cities
- 07:40 Top Tables, Top Cities
- 08:05 Eat Street
- 08:30 Meat V Veg
- 08:55 Raw Travel

- 15:40 The Incredible Dr. Pol
- 16:35 Safari Brothers
- 17:30 Jobs That Bite!
- 18:25 Dangerous Encounters
- 19:20 Baby Animals In The Wild
- 20:10 The Incredible Dr. Pol
- 21:00 Safari Brothers
- 21:50 Jobs That Bite!
- 22:40 Dangerous Encounters
- 23:30 Built For The Kill



- 00:00 Beneath
- 02:00 Attila
- 04:00 Wrath
- 06:00 The Berlin File
- 08:15 Christmas Twister
- 10:00 Reign Of Assassins
- 12:00 Apocalypse Pompeii
- 14:00 Robot Overlords
- 15:45 The Berlin File
- 18:00 Cradle 2 The Grave
- 20:00 The Man With The Iron Fists
- 22:00 Snakes On A Plane



- 00:10 To Catch A Smuggler
- 01:00 Big Fix Alaska
- 02:00 Big Fish, Texas
- 02:55 The Happenings
- 03:50 To Catch A Smuggler
- 04:45 Ultimate Survival Alaska
- 05:40 Don't Tell My Mother
- 06:35 Taiwan To The World 4
- 07:30 Yukon Gold
- 08:25 America's Lost Treasures
- 09:20 Ultimate Survival Alaska
- 10:15 Taiwan: Island Of Fish
- 11:10 Wicked Tuna: North vs South
- 12:05 Air Crash Investigation
- 13:00 America's Lost Treasures
- 14:00 Big Fix Alaska
- 15:00 Taiwan: Island Of Fish
- 16:00 Big Fish, Texas
- 17:00 Wicked Tuna: North vs South
- 18:00 Air Crash Investigation
- 19:00 Taiwan: Island Of Fish
- 20:00 Big Fish, Texas
- 20:50 Wicked Tuna: North vs South
- 21:40 Air Crash Investigation
- 22:30 Taiwan: Island Of Fish
- 23:20 Don't Tell My Mother



- 00:00 Please Give
- 01:45 Pixels
- 03:45 The Hundred-Foot Journey
- 06:00 Take Care
- 08:00 Accidental Love
- 10:00 The Hundred-Foot Journey
- 12:15 Pixels
- 14:15 Passed Away
- 16:00 Accidental Love
- 18:00 Easy A
- 20:00 What We Do In The Shadows



- 00:00 El Nino
- 02:30 The Fugitive
- 04:45 The Hurricane
- 07:15 Listen To Me Marlon
- 09:00 Gridiron Gang
- 11:30 The Fugitive
- 13:45 Bottle Rocket
- 15:30 Breathe In
- 17:15 Gridiron Gang
- 19:30 Hidden Agenda
- 21:30 Instrict
- 23:45 Five Easy Pieces



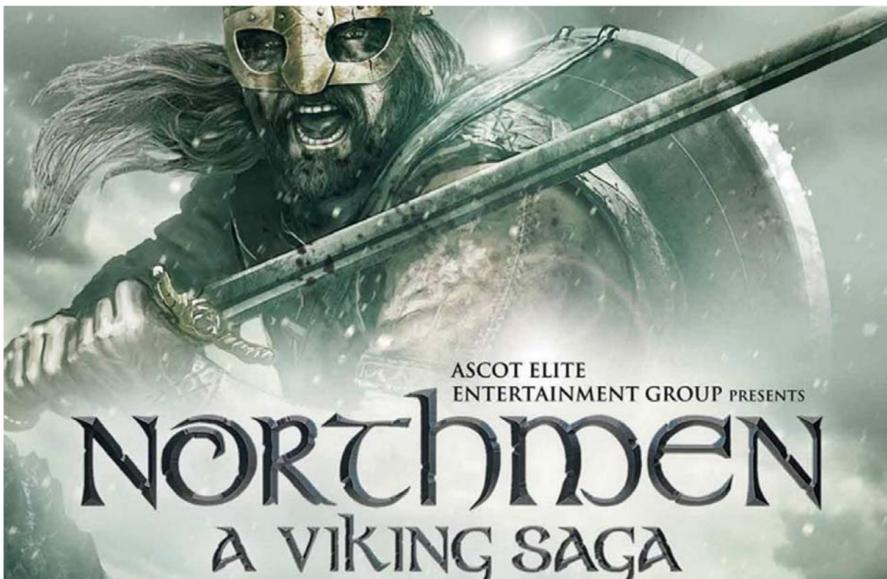
- 01:00 Northmen: A Viking Saga
- 03:00 I'll See You In My Dreams
- 05:00 The Grand Seduction
- 07:00 The Last 5 Years
- 09:00 The Lady In The Van
- 11:00 Alex Of Venice
- 13:00 Risen
- 15:00 Pressure
- 17:00 The Duff
- 18:45 The Intem
- 21:00 Maze Runner: The Scorch Trials
- 23:15 Straight Outta Compton



- 01:15 Bolts And Blip
- 02:45 Baby Geniuses And The Mystery Of The Crown Jewels
- 04:15 Jingle All The Way 2
- 06:00 Looney Tunes: Rabbit's Run
- 07:30 Blackie And Kanuto
- 09:15 The Three Dogaters
- 11:00 Daddy I'm A Zombie
- 12:45 Baby Geniuses And The Mystery Of The Crown Jewels
- 14:30 Bamse And The City Of Thieves
- 16:00 Dixie And The Zombie Rebellion
- 18:00 Goat Story 2
- 20:00 Baby Geniuses And The Space Baby
- 22:00 Bamse And The City Of Thieves
- 23:30 Dixie And The Zombie



- 01:00 Three Wishes
- 03:00 Batman Unlimited: Animal Instincts
- 05:00 American Girl: Grace Stirs Up Success
- 07:00 Three Wishes
- 09:00 The Tale Of The Princess Kaguya
- 11:30 American Girl: Grace Stirs Up Success
- 13:15 Mousehunt
- 15:00 Pirates Who Don't Do Anything
- 17:00 American Girl: Isabelle Dances Into The Spotlight
- 19:00 Houbal On The Trail Of Marsupilami
- 21:00 Mousehunt
- 23:00 Pirates Who Don't Do Anything



NORTHMEN: A VIKING SAGA ON OSN MOVIES HD

- 10:20 Mythbusters
- 11:10 Dirty Jobs
- 12:00 America's Cutest Pets
- 12:50 Ultimate Survival
- 13:40 How It's Made
- 14:05 How It's Made
- 14:30 Dirty Jobs
- 15:20 Mythbusters
- 16:10 Kids vs Film
- 16:35 Doki
- 17:00 Don't Drive Here
- 17:50 Pick A Puppy
- 18:15 Pick A Puppy
- 18:40 Prototype This
- 19:30 How It's Made
- 19:55 How It's Made
- 20:20 Mythbusters
- 21:10 Don't Drive Here
- 22:00 Pick A Puppy
- 22:25 Pick A Puppy
- 22:50 Untamed & Uncut
- 23:40 Ultimate Survival

- 13:00 I Was Murdered
- 13:50 I Almost Got Away With It
- 14:40 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones
- 15:30 Southern Fried Homicide
- 16:20 Nowhere To Hide
- 17:10 I Almost Got Away With It
- 18:00 I Was Murdered
- 18:50 I Almost Got Away With It
- 19:40 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones
- 20:30 Southern Fried Homicide
- 21:20 Nowhere To Hide
- 22:10 Last Hope With Troy Dunn
- 23:00 March To Justice
- 23:50 A Checklist For Murder



- 00:00 Doc McStuffins
- 00:30 Minnie's Bow-Toons
- 00:35 Zou
- 00:50 Loopydoo
- 01:05 Art Attack
- 01:30 Henry Hugglemonster
- 01:45 Calimero
- 02:00 Zou
- 02:15 Loopydoo
- 02:30 Art Attack
- 03:00 Calimero
- 03:15 Zou
- 03:30 Loopydoo
- 03:45 Art Attack
- 04:10 Henry Hugglemonster
- 04:25 Calimero
- 04:45 Loopydoo
- 05:00 Art Attack
- 05:25 Henry Hugglemonster
- 05:35 Calimero
- 05:50 Zou
- 06:00 Loopydoo
- 06:15 Art Attack
- 06:35 Henry Hugglemonster
- 06:50 Calimero
- 07:00 Zou
- 07:20 Loopydoo
- 07:35 Art Attack
- 08:00 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
- 08:30 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
- 09:00 Goldie & Bear
- 09:30 The Lion Guard
- 10:00 The Lion Guard
- 10:30 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
- 11:00 Sofia The First
- 11:30 The Lion Guard
- 12:00 Doc McStuffins Toy Hospital
- 12:30 Little Mermaid
- 13:00 Sofia The First
- 13:30 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
- 14:00 Jake And The Never Land Pirates



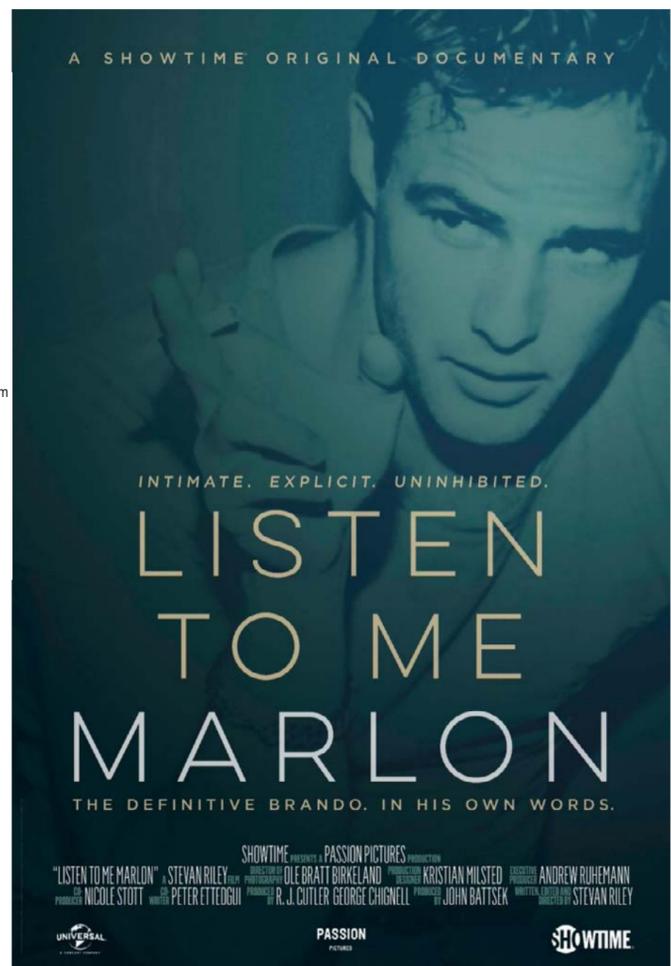
- 06:00 Star vs The Forces Of Evil
- 06:25 K.C. Undercover
- 06:50 The 7D
- 07:00 Phineas & Ferb
- 07:15 Atomic Puppet
- 07:40 Danger Mouse S1
- 07:50 Counterfeit Cat
- 08:05 Future Worm
- 08:10 Gravity Falls
- 08:35 Lab Rats: Bionic Island
- 09:00 Supa Strikas
- 09:25 Supa Strikas
- 09:50 Danger Mouse S1
- 10:20 Annedroids S3&4
- 10:45 Annedroids S3&4
- 11:10 Counterfeit Cat
- 11:35 K.C. Undercover
- 12:00 K.C. Undercover
- 12:30 Gravity Falls
- 12:55 Lab Rats
- 13:20 Lab Rats
- 13:45 Phineas And Ferb
- 14:10 Disney Mickey Mouse
- 14:15 Supa Strikas
- 14:40 Supa Strikas
- 15:05 Lab Rats: Bionic Island
- 15:30 Danger Mouse S1
- 15:55 Kirby Buckets
- 16:25 K.C. Undercover
- 16:50 Annedroids
- 17:15 Gamer's Guide To Pretty...
- 17:40 K.C. Undercover
- 18:05 Future Worm
- 18:10 Gravity Falls
- 18:35 Counterfeit Cat
- 19:00 Star Wars Freemaker
- 19:25 Supa Strikas
- 19:55 K.C. Undercover
- 20:20 Gamer's Guide To Pretty...
- 20:45 Mighty Med
- 21:10 Pickle And Peanut
- 21:34 Disney Mickey Mouse
- 21:40 Disney Mickey Mouse



- 00:40 Science Of The Movies
- 01:30 Science Of The Movies
- 02:20 Invisible Worlds
- 03:10 Curiosity: How Evil Are You?
- 04:00 Mythbusters
- 04:48 Mythbusters
- 05:36 Mythbusters
- 06:24 Mythbusters
- 07:12 Mythbusters
- 08:00 How Do They Do It?
- 08:26 Da Vinci's Machines
- 09:14 Mythbusters
- 10:02 Unchained Reaction
- 10:50 How Do They Do It?
- 11:14 Food Factory
- 11:38 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
- 12:26 Da Vinci's Machines
- 13:14 Mythbusters
- 14:02 How Do They Do It?
- 14:26 Food Factory
- 14:50 Unchained Reaction
- 15:38 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
- 16:26 Da Vinci's Machines



- 00:20 Wheeler Dealers
- 01:10 Car vs Wild
- 02:00 Alcatraz: Escaping The Rock
- 02:50 Free Ride
- 03:40 Fast N' Loud: Demolition Theatre
- 04:30 The Liquidator
- 05:00 How It's Made: Dream Cars
- 05:30 How Do They Do It?
- 06:00 Deadliest Catch
- 06:40 Wheeler Dealers
- 07:40 Fast N' Loud: Demolition Theatre
- 08:30 Gold Divers
- 09:20 The Liquidator
- 09:45 How It's Made: Dream Cars
- 10:10 How Do They Do It?
- 10:35 Fast N' Loud: Demolition Theatre
- 11:25 Sacred Steel Bikes



LISTEN TO ME MARLON ON OSN MOVIES FESTIVAL

CLASSIFIEDS



MONDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2016

Kuwait Times

Kuwait Times
 Now you can browse
www.kuwaittimes.net
 e-mail: info@kuwaittimes.net



KNCC PROGRAMME FROM THURSDAY TO WEDNESDAY (01/12/2016 TO 07/12/2016)

Movie/Event	Time	Movie/Event	Time	Movie/Event	Time
SHARQIA-1	11:45 AM	I AM NOT A SERIAL KILLER	2:15 PM	I AM NOT A SERIAL KILLER	4:45 PM
TAHT AL TARABEZA	2:00 PM	I AM NOT A SERIAL KILLER	4:45 PM	I AM NOT A SERIAL KILLER	7:00 PM
DEAR ZINDAGI - Hindi	5:00 PM	ALLIED	7:15 PM	I AM NOT A SERIAL KILLER	9:15 PM
TROLLS	7:00 PM	I AM NOT A SERIAL KILLER	9:45 PM	I AM NOT A SERIAL KILLER	11:30 PM
TAHT AL TARABEZA	9:30 PM				
TAHT AL TARABEZA	12:05 AM				
SHARQIA-2	12:30 PM	FANAR-3	1:00 PM	AVENUES-2	11:30 AM
UNDERWORLD: BLOOD WARS	2:30 PM	DEAR ZINDAGI - Hindi	1:30 PM	FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM	2:15 PM
UNDERWORLD: BLOOD WARS	4:30 PM	LION	4:00 PM	TROLLS - 3D - 4DX	5:00 PM
UNDERWORLD: BLOOD WARS	6:30 PM	KAHAANI 2: DURGA RANI SINGH - Hindi	6:30 PM	FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM	7:00 PM
UNDERWORLD: BLOOD WARS	8:30 PM	DEAR ZINDAGI - Hindi	9:00 PM	FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM	9:45 PM
UNDERWORLD: BLOOD WARS	10:30 PM	LION	12:05 AM	FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM	12:30 AM
UNDERWORLD: BLOOD WARS	12:30 AM				
SHARQIA-3	12:15 PM	FANAR-4	12:45 PM	ITALIAN RACE	12:30 PM
LION	2:45 PM	UNDERWORLD: BLOOD WARS	2:45 PM	ITALIAN RACE	2:45 PM
LION	5:15 PM	UNDERWORLD: BLOOD WARS	4:45 PM	ITALIAN RACE	5:15 PM
ALLIED	7:30 PM	UNDERWORLD: BLOOD WARS	6:45 PM	ITALIAN RACE	7:45 PM
ITALIAN RACE	9:45 PM	UNDERWORLD: BLOOD WARS	8:45 PM	ITALIAN RACE	10:15 PM
ITALIAN RACE	12:15 AM	UNDERWORLD: BLOOD WARS	10:45 PM	ITALIAN RACE	12:45 AM
MUHALAB-1	12:45 PM	FANAR-5	12:00 PM	360°-1	1:00 PM
DEAR ZINDAGI - Hindi	1:30 PM	TAHT AL TARABEZA	2:00 PM	UNDERWORLD: BLOOD WARS	3:00 PM
TAHT AL TARABEZA	3:45 PM	TROLLS	2:30 PM	UNDERWORLD: BLOOD WARS-3D	5:00 PM
DEAR ZINDAGI - Hindi	6:15 PM	TROLLS	4:30 PM	UNDERWORLD: BLOOD WARS-3D	7:00 PM
TAHT AL TARABEZA	9:15 PM	TAHT AL TARABEZA	6:30 PM	UNDERWORLD: BLOOD WARS	9:00 PM
TAHT AL TARABEZA	11:30 PM	TAHT AL TARABEZA	9:00 PM	UNDERWORLD: BLOOD WARS	11:00 PM
		TAHT AL TARABEZA	11:30 PM	UNDERWORLD: BLOOD WARS	1:00 AM
MUHALAB-2	11:45 AM	MARINA-1	12:15 PM	360°-2	1:15 PM
ARRIVAL	2:15 PM	ALLIED	2:30 PM	I AM NOT A SERIAL KILLER	3:30 PM
TROLLS	4:45 PM	DEAR ZINDAGI - Hindi	5:30 PM	I AM NOT A SERIAL KILLER	5:45 PM
ARRIVAL	7:00 PM	TROLLS	7:30 PM	I AM NOT A SERIAL KILLER	8:00 PM
ALLIED	9:30 PM	LION	10:00 PM	I AM NOT A SERIAL KILLER	10:15 PM
ARRIVAL	11:45 PM	LION	12:30 AM	I AM NOT A SERIAL KILLER	12:30 AM
MUHALAB-3	12:00 PM	MARINA-2	11:30 AM	360°-3	11:45 AM
UNDERWORLD: BLOOD WARS	2:00 PM	ARRIVAL	2:15 PM	ALLIED	2:15 PM
UNDERWORLD: BLOOD WARS	4:00 PM	TAHT AL TARABEZA	4:30 PM	ARRIVAL	4:45 PM
UNDERWORLD: BLOOD WARS	6:00 PM	ARRIVAL	7:00 PM	ANANDAM - Malayalam	7:15 PM
UNDERWORLD: BLOOD WARS	8:00 PM	TAHT AL TARABEZA	9:30 PM	ARRIVAL	9:45 PM
UNDERWORLD: BLOOD WARS	10:00 PM	ARRIVAL	12:05 AM	ARRIVAL	12:15 AM
UNDERWORLD: BLOOD WARS	12:05 AM				
FANAR-1	11:45 AM	MARINA-3	12:00 PM	AL-KOUT.1	12:45 PM
ITALIAN RACE	2:15 PM	UNDERWORLD: BLOOD WARS	2:00 PM	UNDERWORLD: BLOOD WARS	2:45 PM
ITALIAN RACE	4:45 PM	UNDERWORLD: BLOOD WARS	4:15 PM	UNDERWORLD: BLOOD WARS	4:45 PM
ITALIAN RACE	7:30 PM	UNDERWORLD: BLOOD WARS	6:15 PM	UNDERWORLD: BLOOD WARS	6:45 PM
ITALIAN RACE	10:00 PM	UNDERWORLD: BLOOD WARS	8:15 PM	UNDERWORLD: BLOOD WARS	8:45 PM
ITALIAN RACE	12:30 AM	UNDERWORLD: BLOOD WARS	10:15 PM	UNDERWORLD: BLOOD WARS	10:45 PM
		UNDERWORLD: BLOOD WARS	12:15 AM	UNDERWORLD: BLOOD WARS	12:45 AM
FANAR-2	11:30 AM	AVENUES-1	12:00 PM	AL-KOUT.2	12:30 PM
ALLIED	2:30 PM	ARRIVAL	3:00 PM	LION	3:00 PM
		LAF WA DAWARAN	5:15 PM	ALLIED	5:15 PM
			7:45 PM	LION	7:45 PM
				ITALIAN RACE	

SITUATION VACANT

Driver needed for Kuwaiti family part-time or full-time. Contact: 60623330 (C 5245) 2-12-2016

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Fakhruddin holder of Indian Passport No. K-3650949 & Civil ID No. 281112702289 has changed my name from Hakim Fakhruddin Ikhlas to Hakimuddin Gakher hereinafter in all my dealings and documents, I will be known by name of Hakimuddin Gakher. (C 5244) 2-12-2016

I, Mohan Lal Jangir old name S/o Omkar Mal Jangir holder of Indian Passport No. M8397095 and Civil ID No. 268020305095 has changed my from Mohan Lal Jangir to Mahaveer Prasad Jangir hereinafter in all my dealings and documents, I will be known by name of Mahaveer Prasad Jangir. (C 5242)

SITUATION WANTED

Purchase Manager experience 20 years from Jordan, seeking job in one of the leading construction co. Contact: 99061637 (C 5241) 27-11-2016

FOR SALE

For sell new white faux fur (artificial) coat size M and pre owned like new black leather coat size M made in Turkey Tel. No: 55020291 3-12-2016

As a part of its development activities in Kuwait, a reputed food services company is looking for candidates to fill the below positions on Local release basis.

REQUIRED URGENTLY

JUNIOR ACCOUNTANT - FEMALE

- Bachelor degree in Accountancy of Commerce
- Excellent communication skills both written & spoken English and Arabic
- Adept in using MS Office products
- At least 2 - 3 years of experience in the field of Accountancy

DATA ENTRY CLERK - FEMALE

- At least 2 -3 years relevant experience with exposure Warehouse/Purchasing department
- Adept in using Microsoft Office software

KITCHEN STEWARDS

- At least 5 years experience in hotels or large Central Kitchens.
- Leadership skills
- Good knowledge in Kitchen Cleaning Procedure

HEAD WAITRESS

- At least 5 years experience in Hotels / Catering Industries
- With strong leadership capabilities
- Excellent communication skills both written & spoken English
- Ability to speak in Arabic will be an added advantage

CATERING SUPERVISOR

- Diploma in Catering Technology and/or Culinary Course
- Proficient in staff management with strong leadership capabilities
- With high level of customer orientation
- At least 5 years relevant working experience in Catering Industries and/or Restaurants

Interested candidates having transferable visa may send CVs with recent photograph to the following contacts:

Email: mailtotag@gmail.com
 or Fax: 24313152 Mobile: 60910171

PRAYER TIMINGS

Fajr: 05:03
Shorook: 06:27
Duhr: 11:38
Asr: 14:31
Maghrib: 16:49
Isha: 18:11



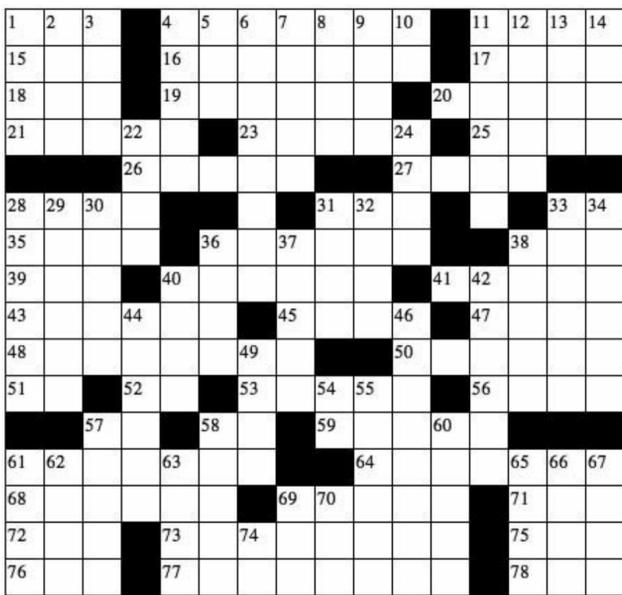
Flight Schedule

Directorate General of Civil Aviation Home Page (www.kuwait-airport.com.kw)

DIAL 161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

Arrival Flights on Monday 5/12/2016				Departure Flights on Monday 5/12/2016			
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
KAC	776	Riyadh	00:20	KAC	164	Paris	22:55
JZR	267	Beirut	00:30	FDB	185	Dubai	23:15
JZR	539	Cairo	00:40	KAC	071	Dubai	23:45
KAC	102	London	00:55	JAI	574	Mumbai	23:50
THY	772	Istanbul	00:55	BBC	143	Dhaka	23:55
FDK	803	Damascus	01:00	KAC	162	Geneva	23:55
RJA	642	Amman	01:05				
QTR	1086	Doha	01:15				
THY	764	Istanbul	01:50				
DLH	635	Doha	01:55				
PGT	858	Istanbul	02:00				
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	02:05				
UAE	853	Dubai	02:30				
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:30				
KKK	6506	Istanbul	02:55				
OMA	643	Muscat	02:55				
FDB	069	Dubai	03:05				
MSR	612	Cairo	03:10				
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:10				
CEB	0018	Manila	03:15				
KAC	358	Kochi	03:30				
QTR	1076	Doha	03:30				
KAC	784	Jeddah	03:55				
MSC	501	Alexandria	04:05				
KAC	418	Manila	04:25				
KAC	284	Dhaka	04:55				
UAE	873	Dubai	04:55				
FEG	933	Sohag	05:00				
JZR	503	Luxor	05:10				
KAC	354	BLR	05:20				
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:20				
KAC	332	Trivandrum	05:45				
THY	770	Istanbul	05:55				
KAC	364	Colombo	06:05				
KAC	384	Delhi	06:05				
KAC	206	Islamabad	06:20				
BAW	157	London	06:40				
BDR	7601	KRT	07:00				
PAL	668	Manila/Dubai	07:00				
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50				
KAC	302	Mumbai	08:20				
UAE	855	Dubai	08:40				
KAC	382	Delhi	08:45				
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:05				
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	09:05				
KAC	352	Kochi	09:10				
QTR	1070	Doha	09:30				
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40				
IRA	667	Esfahan	10:00				
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40				
KAC	774	Riyadh	11:05				
AXB	889	Mangalore/Bahrain	11:10				
JZR	165	Dubai	11:30				
MEA	404	Beirut	11:55				
KAC	744	Dammam	12:10				
MSC	401	Alexandria	12:30				
FEG	953	Asyut	12:35				

CROSSWORD 1451



ACROSS

1. The part of the nervous system of vertebrates that controls involuntary actions of the smooth muscles and heart and glands.
4. A firearm that is held and fired with one hand.
11. South African term for 'boss'.
15. Resinlike substance secreted by certain lac insects.
16. In an ideal manner.
17. A sensation (as of a cold breeze or bright light) that precedes the onset of certain disorders such as a migraine attack or epileptic seizure.
18. Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
19. Any of several plant glycoproteins that act like specific antibodies but are not antibodies in that they are not evoked by an antigenic stimulus.
20. (statistics) Relating to or constituting the most frequent value in a distribution.
21. The capital and largest city of Yemen.
23. Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
25. Cook and make edible by putting in a hot oven.
26. A large number of things or people considered together.
27. (Babylonian) God of storms and wind.
28. Pale gray.
35. Being or occurring in fact or actuality.
39. The month following February and preceding April.
41. Comb-plate or locomotor organ consisting of a row of strong cilia whose bases are fused.
43. Pertaining to or resembling amoebae.
45. A bachelor's degree in library science.
47. (prefix) In front of or before in space.
48. In a murderous frenzy as if possessed by a demon.
50. Having a squat and fleshy build.
51. A public promotion of some product or service.
52. A ductile gray metallic element of the lanthanide series.
53. Sluggish tailless Australian arboreal marsupial with gray furry ears and coat.
56. An officer who acts as military assistant to a more senior officer.
59. The time when something begins (especially life).
61. In some classifications considered a genus of subfamily Melinae.
64. The capital and largest city of Iran.
68. The condition of being honored (esteemed or respected or well regarded).
71. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
72. A branch of the Tai languages.
73. Showing empathy or ready comprehension of others' states.
75. An emotional response that has been acquired by conditioning.
76. Goddess of the dead and queen of the underworld.
77. A river in northeastern Brazil that flows generally northward to the Atlantic Ocean.
78. A doctor's degree in education.

DOWN

1. By bad luck.
2. Kamarupan languages spoken in northeastern India and western Burma.
3. The act of scanning.
4. Of or relating to or located near a hilum.
5. A sweetened beverage of diluted fruit juice.
6. Articles of clothing worn about the neck.
7. Marked by features of the immediate and usually discounted past.
8. Marked by lack of intellectual depth.
9. The inner and longer of the two bones of the human forearm.
10. A Mid-Atlantic state.
11. African tree having an exceedingly thick trunk and fruit that resembles a gourd and has an edible pulp called monkey bread.
12. Wild sheep of northern Africa.
13. Any of various strong liquors distilled from the fermented sap of toddy palms or from fermented molasses.
14. The general activity of selling.
22. Any group or radical of the form RCO- where R is an organic group.
24. With no effort to conceal.
29. Having or joined by a seam or seams.
30. Living quarters reserved for wives and concubines and female relatives in a Muslim household.
31. An Arabic speaking person who lives in Arabia or North Africa.
32. An intuitive awareness.
33. Predacious long-bodied large-eyed insect of warm regions.
34. The wool of a sheep or similar animal.
36. A Loioish language.
37. Small tropical American tree bearing edible plumlike fruit.
38. 100 penni equal 1 marka.
40. Sheet glass cut in shapes for windows or doors.
42. Flightless New Zealand birds similar to gallinules.
44. Italian lawn bowling (played on a long narrow dirt court).
46. A cut of pork ribs with much of the meat trimmed off.
49. A Loioish language.
54. The blood group whose red cells carry both the A and B antigens.
55. Chinese tree cultivated especially in Philippines and India for its edible fruit.
57. Praise, glorify, or honor.
58. A subsidiary proposition that is assumed to be true in order to prove another proposition.
60. A case or sheath especially a pollen sac or moss capsule.
62. United States tennis player who was the first Black to win United States and English singles championships (1943-1993).
63. Relatively deep or strong.
65. Any competition.
66. In bed.
67. An aromatic ointment used in antiquity.
69. A local computer network for communication between computers.
70. A reptile genus of Iguanidae.
74. A soft yellowish-white trivalent metallic element of the rare earth group.

Yesterday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

You could be feeling quite ambitious, as a rather practical streak motivates you to get your personal business organized. You want very much to be respected for who you are and what you can do and you find work, achievement and ambition means more to you at this time. You are very practical when it comes to dealing and working with other people. You just seem to have a natural talent for knowing what to do and can take action with very little fuss or bother. You are asked to make use of your talents. Being conscientious is of special importance now. Taking care of the necessary underpinnings of life, health, work and such, becomes a greater preoccupation. Preparing for the next party keeps you busy this evening.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

This should be a landmark day to enjoy-one to put in the photograph album or diary entry. You are in control of your beautiful day and able to guide yourself with ease. A clothes-conscious member of your family gives you important suggestions on your wardrobe this morning. A shopping trip may be in order. Some form of entertainment is enjoyable this afternoon. A broken item has your attention later. Sometimes it is better to have a professional fix some important item that has broken-the cost may be much less than having to buy a new item or fix it yourself. Enjoy your own special talents and let others step in where you may not really care to go. At day's end, you should find everything, including the family, running smoothly.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

This is a time when you could take on a new personality. There is such a demand for a certain type of sales or technical person that you may feel you could fill the requirements. Communication with authority figures is positive at this time. Your friends find you charismatic in speech and communication. Your friends would probably follow you to the end of the earth, if you asked it of them. The conditions are ripe for your kind of self-expression and work very well with your particular ideas. This is a great day-good feelings are plentiful. Take all of the positives that this day has to offer and enjoy them to the fullest. This kind of day should never be ignored. A festival with food, games and perhaps a silent auction is fun for this evening.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

Purchasing and selecting colors, etc., may be on your mind today. A new home requires plenty of time and patience in making it truly your own. If you are a new homeowner, decorator, realtor, etc., there is an interest in home improvement, for yourself or another person. You move to learn more about the things you need to know surrounding a particular neighborhood. You want to know where you go to vote, how the drainage is, ground stability, plumbing difficulties, styles, average age of the homeowners where you want to live, etc. Circumstances may augment and stimulate appreciation and enjoyment of your life situation. Your system of values may deepen, providing you with a better sense of discrimination and good taste. Knowledge is beneficial.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

It should not be hard for you to enjoy and value your own life situation today. This afternoon you may be thinking of ways to escape the everyday routine. Acupuncture or some other type of health treatment may be what you desire to investigate. You may also want to learn better methods for relaxation, weight loss, allergy relief, etc. Some of your friends will join you. Some words to an old song come to mind and while you are driving or while you are with friends you may join together to find the melody that goes with those words. This activity may bring to mind a few high school friendships. You and your friends may enjoy an evening together. Pictures from long ago may bring about much laughter and smiles.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

It seems to be difficult to concentrate today. It may be that there are many interruptions. If this is the case, keep notes and you will find that you are more able to concentrate on the subject at hand. With this note taking you will find that ideas and thoughts will not become lost. You may want to share some of your ideas with your teammates but it would be best to hold off until the noon break. You may have an idea for an exhibit that would bring in lots of future customers. When you discuss this, you may discover that others are willing to contribute their own ideas: a productive interaction. This evening you may enjoy a quiet setting at home. Getting involved in a good book or a movie is a relaxing thing to do. A hobby may catch your attention instead.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

Stress lessens now and your vitality improves. In the workplace, teamwork and compromise techniques lead to success. It is worthwhile to examine the views voiced by others. Writing thoughts or chores down is a good thing; it will force you to slow down and think through your next move before you push yourself too quickly. You can sense the challenges as well as the opportunities when it comes to a new boss or new work partner. This afternoon is a good day to be with others in play or work. The stores are full of sales that would make good gift purchases for next year. Family members make plans for you through the end of this month. Keep the promise you make to a young person this evening. This young person prospers.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

It may be impossible to try to lose yourself in your work this day. This may put you at odds with your more sensible duties. It is a good time to give your best to the moment-then the whole day will eventually work out. Take your important breaks to help eliminate some of the stress-perhaps a little walking. You may make your money in the field of exercise, perhaps through sports, but still need a break that moves the energies into another direction. You may be on the newspaper staff in your town and cover athletic games. If you are not married, you will probably want to look for a mate where there are people who will understand what you need to perform your work, such as reporters. Self-discipline and a sense of self-worth are important.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

You are multifaceted, impatient and self-promoting. In sales, you can be tough to beat. The people you work with may show extra appreciation for your work at this time. You are able to use logic and know what is necessary to solve most quandaries that come before you. Your co-workers will sometimes gather around you to see and understand the process you take. There is an opportunity to enter management soon. This afternoon you may be discussing childhood memories with a beloved friend. Your childhood was filled with adventures, not the usual adventures of children but the adventures that most adults dream about-perhaps travel. At the least, you have always enjoyed a diverse group of people.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

This may not be the best time to make any important decisions that could affect your living situation or life conditions. You may find others challenging your authority or questioning the direction you are taking. Step back and rethink your presentation. In a few more days, you will be able to make yourself heard, perhaps by only having to rephrase your words. This should all work out to your advantage in the long run, even though it may drag you through a bit of a hassle, or so it may seem. You may seem a little quieter to those around you just now, but it will be beneficial to the outcome of a few projects. A good listener is always a valuable asset. For now... You are a good listener. Fun activity this evening brings to mind ideas for next year.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

This is a great time to be involved with other people, either personally or in a work environment. Your sensitivity and understanding of others is appreciated as your life takes on a kind of incomprehensible quality at the emotional and instinctive levels. Hopes and fantasies, forgiveness and understanding human weaknesses are the things that stimulate deep feelings now. The former, the future and the obstruction between people vanish and there is a key to fine-tuning the spiritual sensitivity now. This afternoon, an extraordinary arts and crafts area in a nearby park has your attention. There are lots of beautiful flowers for this time of year and you began to think on just what you might want to grow in your own yard-colors are important.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

Today you may benefit from a visit to the library. Instead of buying books on subjects that are important to you, why not borrow the books and do your research this could mean you want to learn how to replace a mirror or build a new mailbox. Some attention may need to be paid to consolidating or organizing your personal affairs or to rearranging your living situation, perhaps, in clearing away one scheme to another. There are small challenges that you handle quickly. You make it a point to renew your energy occasionally by living a quiet personal lifestyle, if not all the time, at least occasionally. Being a loner would agree with you for short periods of time, and being married to a person that travels may create those quiet times you need.

WORD SEARCH

Livewire Puzzles

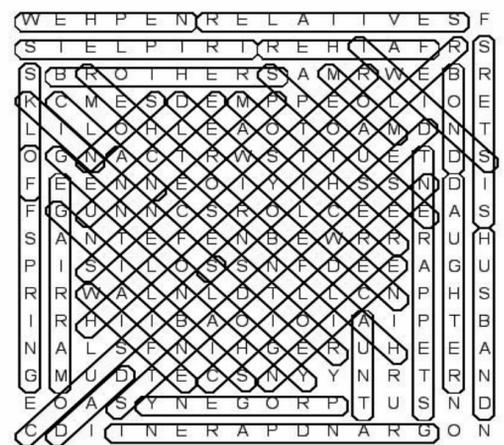
Find these words. They are some of the puzzles made by Livewire Puzzles since 19 The remaining letters spell a Dutch proverb.



- ABRACADABRA
- ARROW
- ASTROKNOT
- BALL AND RING
- BEDBUG
- BRIDGE THE GAP
- CENTPEDE
- CHINESE RINGS
- CORKSCREW
- CRYSTAL CLEAR
- DEAD END
- DOUBLE VISION
- EQUALIZER
- EUREKA
- FIRECRACKER
- FLIGHT TEST
- GRAND PRIX
- HANDCUFFS
- HAVE A HEART
- MELEDA
- MOTHBALLS
- MOUSETRAP
- NUT HOUSE
- PENTANGLE
- PINETREE
- PRETZEL LOGIC
- SHOCKWAVE
- SHORT CIRCUIT
- SILENT PARTNER
- SLEIGHT OF HAND
- SLINGSHOT
- SOMETHING FISHY
- SPUTNIK
- SQUARING OFF
- THE RACK
- TOUCH WOOD
- TRAPEZE
- TRIPLE CROWN
- TRIPLE PLAY
- TRIPWIRE
- TROUBLE CLEF
- VIRUS
- WEATHERVAIN
- WEDGE
- WOODEN OPEN

Yesterday Solution

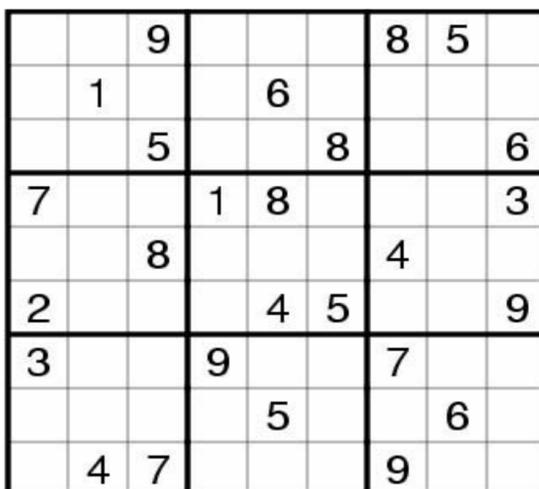
Family Ties



- ANCESTOR
- AUNT
- BOND
- BROTHERS
- CHILDREN
- CLAN
- COUSINS
- DAD
- DAUGHTER
- DESCENDANTS
- FATHER
- FOLKS
- GENEALOGY
- GRANDPARENT
- HALF BROTHER
- HALF SISTER
- HUSBAND
- KIN
- MARRIAGE
- MOM
- MOTHER
- NEICE
- NEPHEW
- NEWLYWED
- OFFSPRING
- PARENTS
- PROGENY
- RELATIONS
- RELATIVES
- SIBLING
- SISTERS
- SON
- SPOUSE
- STEPARENT
- STRIPPLETS
- TWINS
- UNCLE
- WIFE

The hidden message is: FAMILY REUNION

Daily SuDoku



Yesterday's Solution



For labor-related inquiries and complaints:
Call MSAL hotline 128

Hospitals

Sabah Hospital	24812000
Amiri Hospital	22450005
Maternity Hospital	24843100
Mubarak Al-Kabir Hospital	25312700
Chest Hospital	24849400
Farwaniya Hospital	24892010
Adan Hospital	23940620
Ibn Sina Hospital	24840300
Al-Razi Hospital	24846000
Physiotherapy Hospital	24874330/9

Clinics

Kaizen center	25716707
Rawda	22517733
Adaliya	22517144
Khalidiya	24848075
Kaifan	24849807
Shamiya	24848913
Shuwaikh	24814507
Abdullah Salem	22549134
Nuzha	22526804
Industrial Shuwaikh	24814764
Qadsiya	22515088
Dasmah	22532265
Bneid Al-Gar	22531908
Shaab	22518752
Qibla	22459381
Ayoun Al-Qibla	22451082
Mirqab	22456536
Sharq	22465401
Salmiya	25746401
Jabriya	25316254
Maidan Hawally	25623444
Bayan	25388462
Mishref	25381200
W Hawally	22630786
Sabah	24810221
Jahra	24770319
New Jahra	24575755
West Jahra	24772608
South Jahra	24775066
North Jahra	24775992
North Jleeb	24311795
Ardhiya	24884079
Firdous	24892674
Omariya	24719048
N Khaitan	24710044
Fintas	23900322



PHARMACIES ON 24 HRS DUTY

GOVERNORATE	PHARMACY	ADDRESS	PHONE
Ahmadi	Sama Safwan Abu Halaifa Danat Al-Sultan	Fahaeel Makka St Abu Halaifa-Coastal Rd Mahboula Block 1, Coastal Rd	23915883 23715414 23726558
Jahra	Modern Jahra Madina Munawara	Jahra-Block 3 Lot 1 Jahra-Block 92	24575518 24566622
Capital	Ahlam Khaldiya Coop	Fahad Al-Salem St Khaldiya Coop	22436184 24833967
Farwaniya	New Shifa Ferdous Coop Modern Safwan	Farwaniya Block 40 Ferdous Coop Old Kheitan Block 11	24734000 24881201 24726638
Hawally	Tariq Hana Ikhlas Hawally & Rawdha Ghadeer Kindy Ibn Al-Nafis Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop	Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Salmiya-Amman St Hawally-Beirut St Hawally & Rawdha Coop Jabriya-Block 1A Jabriya-Block 3B Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop	25726265 25647075 22625999 22564549 25340559 25326554 25721264 25380581 25628241

STATE OF KUWAIT DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT



Tel: (+965) 161 Ext: 2627 - 2630
Fax: (+965) 24348714
www.met.gov.kw

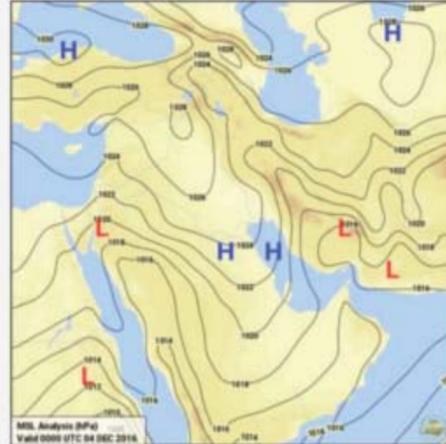
Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

Issued 04/12/2016-07:00 LT UTC +3hr

Max Temperature 20 °C

By Day : Mostly sunny with light to moderate northerly to north westerly wind, with speed of 12 - 35 km/h
By Night : Cool with light to moderate north westerly wind, with speed of 12 - 35 km/h and some scattered clouds will appear

SFC. CHART



Four-Day Forecast

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Expected Weather	Mostly sunny	sunny	sunny + blowing dust over open areas	sunny
Min Temp °C	12	11	08	07
Max Temp °C	21	21	18	18
Wind Direction	north westerly	northerly to north westerly	north westerly	north westerly
Wind Speed km/h	12 - 35	12 - 32	15 - 40	12 - 35

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	16		20
KUWAIT AIRPORT	15		20
ABDAILY	11		21
BUBYAN	13		20
JAHRA	14		20
FAILAKA ISLAND	15		19
SALMIYAH	17		19
AHMADI	18		20
JAL ALIYAH	12		20
QARQH ISLAND	20		21
UMH AL-MARADEM	19		21
MUWASIB	15		20
WAFRA	14		20
HANAGISH	12		19
SALMY	11		21
NUTRIBA	11		21

Recorded Yesterday at Kuwait Airport

Max Temp (°C)	22
Min Temp (°C)	14
Max Rel Hum (%)	99
Min Rel Hum (%)	40
Max Wind Speed (km/h) and Direction	46 N
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR	11.78 mm

Prayer Times

Sunrise	06:27
Sunset	16:49

Fiji

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		

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
Antiga	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		



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	24555050 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	24555050 Ext 123
Dr. Yousef Al-Omar	24719312
Dr. Tarek Al-Mikhaizeem	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



David and Victoria Beckham selling LA mansion

David and Victoria Beckham are selling their lavish mansion in Los Angeles for £24 million. The showbiz power couple quietly put the Italian-style villa, which they bought in 2007 for £14.2 million, on the market "a couple of years ago" because they want a bigger garden for their children sons Brooklyn, 17, Romeo, 14, Cruz, 11, and five-year-old daughter Harper. A source told The Sun newspaper: "Victoria and David have both had concerns over the house for some time - especially about its size. 'The garden is too small for football and the boys have to go round their friend's houses - usually either Gordon Ramsay or Sir Elton John - to have a kick about.' 'The private driveway is also relatively small. The house has been on the market for a long time and David and

Victoria are actively looking for a bigger place." The beautiful 1.25-acre property is situated in between Beverly Hills and Bel Air, California, boasts gorgeous views of city, comes with nine bathrooms and has a large swimming pool. Although it's been on the market for a while, it has raked in plenty of interest. Stephen Shapiro, one of America's top estate agents, said: "It has been quietly on the market for a couple of years. It is a beautiful house. I remember there was an asking price of \$30 million (£24 million)." But it's not just their house in Los Angeles they want to offload as soon as possible, as the famous family put their £2 million holiday home in the south of France on the market in August. The couple spent £5 million on renovations for the apartment but decided to part ways with it after visiting it just a few times since they bought it. They also have a £31 million townhouse in Holland Park, West London, they live in for the majority of the year.

Ashley Graham needed 'affirmation' after being dumped for the first time



Ashley Graham's first boyfriend dumped her because he thought she'd get "as fat as [his] mum". The 28-year-old model admits she was left feeling insecure and embarked on a number of casual relationships after the guy broke up with her when she was just 16. She said: "He's like, 'First, you won't have sex with me. And second, I'm afraid you're going to be as fat as my mum.' 'Never in my life had I felt more ugly, insecure and unworthy.' 'That was the beginning of how I would relate and interact with my own body. I started seeking affirmation from boys because of one man's words.' When she was 17, Ashley moved to New York and felt like she "dated half the city". She said: "I did it all wrong. I dated a lot of the wrong guys and I was just looking for love and affirmations." The brunette beauty then found herself in an abusive relationship with an alcoholic, but admits she was too "insecure" to walk away from the damaging romance. She said: "He was abusive in more than one way. 'He threw a couch on me. He came home drunk. I was sitting on it and he flipped it upside down. I remember my elbow being jammed but thinking, 'He didn't hit me, he was just really angry, you know?' 'You hear stories of women who say the exact same thing - I wasn't showing up with bruises, he wasn't beating me every day. 'I should have left, but I was an insecure woman in a terrible relationship who did not know herself.' After being urged to leave her boyfriend by her friends and family, Ashley - who is now married to Justin Ervin - was too "embarrassed" to tell them they were still in contact for almost a year. She told Britain's Cosmopolitan magazine: "They would tell me, 'You're a 10. You need to put more value in who you are as a woman.' 'But it was hard. For six months to a year, I hid that I was still talking to him. 'I was embarrassed that I couldn't step away. 'I don't think that heartache made me a better person but it helped me figure out my worth."

Felicity Jones

proud of Rogue One: A Star Wars Story role

Felicity Jones feels it is "important" for a woman to be heading 'Rogue One: A Star Wars Story'. The 33-year-old actress is thrilled that she gets to portray Jyn Erso in the hotly anticipated science fiction series as she believes it is a genre which is "traditionally dominated by men". She told Australia's Daily Telegraph: "Jyn is a fantastic woman ... I saw her as being tough and decisive and I tried to capture that attitude and portray her as an extraordinary heroine. We rarely see a woman like this in film ... 'It's important and exciting that this genre, which is traditionally dominated by men, is now featuring a woman in a central role. I spent hours practicing for the fight scenes. I even had to learn kung fu with my own coach, and I would work for hours every day learning the moves.' Meanwhile, Felicity previously admitted her 'Star Wars' fight scenes were "exhausting". She shared: "I'm laughing now, but at the time, it was physically exhausting. It took a lot of hours of practice, and I worked with a kung fu coach, and I learned to fight, even though I never thought beating up Stormtroopers was something I'd be doing in my job. It came through hard work and lots of practice and rehearsals." The brunette beauty worked hard to perfect her iconic line in the movie - "may the force be with us" - and knew it would be "momentous". She added: "I have to say it was one of those moments that I was really nervous about for weeks before. I kept walking around my house just trying out the line. 'I'd just be in the bathroom and be like, 'May the force be with you. May the force be with you. May the force be with you.' You just go over and over and over again because I knew it was such a momentous moment for the film."



Jessica Alba oils her hair

Jessica Alba puts oil on her hair every night. The 35-year-old actress - who has daughters Honor, eight, and Haven, five, with husband Cash Warren - was taught by her mother to look after her locks and her skin from a young age, so she always takes the time to do so. She said: "My mum told me to always take care of my skin, so I did from a very early age and she taught me to put coconut oil or olive oil on my hair every night." But when it comes to her own children, the 'Sin City' star would rather encourage them to be confident and treat people well. Asked what beauty tips she will pass on, she said: "It really is more about inner confidence and I want to put more of an emphasis on how they carry themselves and how they treat people. 'That' always so much more important than physical beauty." Looking back on the

past, Jessica wishes she hadn't been so critical of herself when she was a teenager and to have the confidence to be herself. Asked what she'd tell her teenage self, she told LOOK magazine: "I think not to be so critical or so hard on myself. 'And also, to not think that I have to conform to other people's ideas of beauty and to be OK with what makes me feel good. I think it took me a while to get to that.' 'The 'Mechanic: Resurrection' star recently admitted she likes taking her kids on her business trips so they can spend quality time together. She said: "I go on so many business trips, and they're usually two to three days. I'll bring just one at a time and it'll be like, 'Mom's gonna bring you on a special trip. We'll get to have a sleepover, we'll get to order room service, we'll get to rent a movie. It's really fun!"



The 36-year-old star has made no secret of the fact she'd like to add a sixth child to her brood but, after undergoing £12,000 worth of cosmetic procedures recently, she has decided to spend the next few years focusing on herself. She said: "It's time for me to enjoy me and my body. That's why I don't want any more kids." And news the blonde beauty has decided against having any more children will no doubt come as a huge sigh of relief for her family as she almost died giving birth to her youngest Dylan-Jorge - her daughter with husband George Kay - in 2014. Kerry hasn't had the easiest time over the past few years as she split from her beau George, 35, earlier this year after he allegedly assaulted her and was in possession of a weapon. He was waiting trial for the charges but the Atomic Kitten singer retracted her complaint and the pair - who got married in 2014 - have now got back together. She told The Sunday People newspaper: "I could moan about the past but I'd be stuck there. You have to move on your life. 'There are people with disabilities or poorly, I'm blessed with five healthy children and a wonderful husband - I'm lucky.' Kerry - who lives in Crowborough, East Sussex - has just moved her family to Lincoln temporarily while she plays the Fairy Godmother in the pantomime per-

Kerry Katona doesn't want any more children



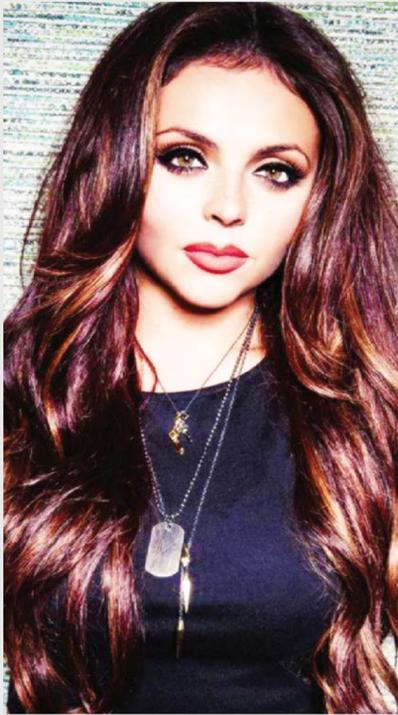
formance of 'Cinderella'. The show will run from now until January 8 and she couldn't bear to be away from her kids Molly, 15, Lily-Sue, 13 - her daughters with Brian McFadden - Heidi, nine, Maxwell, eight - her kids with Mark Croft - and Dylan for that long. She said: "I couldn't spend two months away from my children. The kids are really excited and my older two girls love watching me at work, watching the dancers and picking up quite a bit."

Cheryl to lean on family after baby's born

Cheryl will lean on her family after she's given birth as her boyfriend Liam Payne has work commitments in Los Angeles. The 'I Don't Care' hitmaker set tongues wagging earlier this week when she stepped out at a charity event with a burgeoning baby bump and, although her due date is not yet known, it's believed the little one is expected around the same time the One Direction hunk is scheduled to jet across the pond. A source told The Sun newspaper: "Liam is doing what he can to make sure he spends as much time as possible with Cheryl before and after the birth, but some commitments can't be changed. Luckily Cheryl has an incredibly supportive family, who will rally round if they are needed. 'They will also be helping her and Liam after the birth, as Cheryl is saying she doesn't want to get a nanny.' It's believed the 23-year-old singer has been told by his record label

to spend a few months early next year in California so he can finish his debut solo LP in the studio before the summer. His friend Calum Scott recently admitted to BANG Showbiz that Liam already has a "few amazing songs" ready to go. He said: "I was in the studio with Liam the other day. I heard a few of his songs. They are sounding amazing. I'd love to do something with him." Cheryl, 33 - who has been married twice to Ashley Cole and Jean-Bernard Fernandez-Versini - and Liam began dating back in February but first met when the hunk auditioned for 'The X Factor' in 2010 when he was just 16 and she was a judge on the TV talent show, the series which created 1D and set the boy band on the path to global pop superstardom. This will be the second One Direction baby following Liam's bandmate Louis Tomlinson having son Freddie with Los Angeles-based stylist Briana Jungwirth in January.

Jesy Nelson reveals best way to get over a break up



Jesy Nelson says "crying it out" is the best way to get over a break up. The Little Mix star - who has split from fiancé Jake Roche - offered her advice to other women going through a heartbreak and admits having a good set of friends makes a break up easier to cope with. Speaking to BANG Showbiz at the Capital Jingle Bell Ball with Coca-Cola, she said: "You have to go through the stages of just crying it out. Be around your friends and having that support and then you get yourself out and you mingle." Meanwhile, it was previously claimed that the 25-year-old singer's relationship with the Rixton star is over for good. A source said: "Their relationship became strained and they grew apart. They started rowing and it became too much." Whilst another added: "It's over as far as Jesy's concerned and there's no going back. The wedding is off and her engagement ring won't be going back on. Jesy's so busy with her career and she's throwing herself into work." The pair's families are said to be "terribly upset" by the split. An insider shared: "Both Jake and Jesy's families have been left reeling from the split and everyone is terribly upset by it. At the end of the day, they just want them both to be happy and if that means they're apart then so be it ... "They're both young and they could work it out in the future. They had a great time together and have a lot of happy memories. You can never say never." Jesy previously opened up about the couple's relationship, insisting they were "very much in love". She explained: "We're in no rush [to get married] We want to travel the world together. There's so much we want to do together, and at the moment, we're focused on our own careers that there just isn't time. We're literally in no rush. I think when we know, we'll know, and we'll do it, and [it will] probably be really intimate, hardly any people there. We're very much in love, and we'll do it when we feel the time is right."

Winnie Harlow doesn't think she's a role model



The 22-year-old model admits she is "breaking boundaries" and is pleased people find her "inspirational" but she won't go out of her way to change her behavior to set a good example. She said: "I'm breaking boundaries. But I definitely don't want to be called a role model. I'm just me. I live my life as myself. I make mistakes, I swear a lot. I'm just a young woman living my life and if people find something in that that's inspirational, then I'm happy." Winnie was bullied because of her skin pigment condition vitiligo when she was a child but eventually realized her own opinion was what counted and stopped listening to the hurtful comments. She said: "The only reason I didn't like my skin is because I was told it wasn't what's right. Or I was told it wasn't normal. "But who's to say that? Eventually I learned that my opinion of myself matters so much more than anyone else's and I wish I'd known it earlier. "One day I just didn't care anymore." And the former 'America's Next Top Model' contestant admits she finds it frustrating that her skin is constantly under scrutiny. She told Grazia magazine: "I am honestly so sick of talking about my skin. Literally, so sick of it. "I hope one day I can just stop talking about it. "It shouldn't be a box that people try and keep me in, but I feel like that's going to be a battle throughout my whole life. "All I can do is try to fight it for the next generation. I'm the first of my kind, but one day I hope I'm not the model with vitiligo. I hope I'll just be Winnie Harlow the model."

Seacrest says 'Things Are Going Better' for West as he continues to live apart from family

Ryan Seacrest says things are "going better now" for Kim Kardashian West and Kanye West. The couple have had a tough time of it lately after the 'Keeping Up With The Kardashians' beauty was robbed at gunpoint back in October and the 'Only One' rapper was hospitalized in November for exhaustion and sleep deprivation but the 41-year-old television personality believes the two are doing much better. He said: "I've spoken to Kim. I've not spoken to Kanye, but I think that things are going better now." And Ryan also denied rumors that filming for the family's E! reality



show had been temporarily halted. He added to People magazine: "There have been some reports that we halted production. We did stop for a little bit, briefly, after the Paris incident, but since then we've been back in full production. We're shooting season 13." Meanwhile, it was previously claimed that Kanye is living apart from Kim and their two children - North, three, and Saint, 11 months - as he continues treatment out of the hospital. A source shared: "He is receiving outpatient care else with a medical team. Kim still seems concerned but is supportive. They don't know

for how long Kanye will need outpatient care ... There are frustrations and problems, like any relationship, but they love each other deeply ... "People in Kanye's inner circle are hoping the hospital stay has made him realise that he needs to take a step back from work and focus on his personal health and mindset. Kanye loves working, but he loves Kim and his family more. "He had way too much on his plate and it came to a point where he couldn't handle it all, so he just broke. He needs to find a good balance with the two in his life and he'll work hard at finding that."

David Arquette's wife is his 'hero'

The 'Scream' star has praised his wife Christina McLarty for being such a good mother to their two-year-old son Charlie despite being pregnant with their second baby. He said: "She's doing good. It's not easy, it's so hard. I think the second pregnancy is a little harder than the first. She's got morning sickness on this one. "Being pregnant and watching a little rascal that's firmly in his terrible twos is pretty difficult. She a trooper, she's doing great. She's my hero." And the 45-year-old actor - who also has 12-year-old daughter Coco with his ex-wife Courtney Cox - is so proud of his son Charlie's preparations to become a big brother. He added to People magazine: "Charlie is really cute about it. We have little books that prepare him. We'll see how it goes when it all goes down. He's a tricky little bugger." In October, the couple took to Instagram to share the happy news that they are expecting



their second child together. David wrote: "So incredibly blessed and honored that my wife @christinaarquette is pregnant with a baby boy! Thank you Christina and humbled gratitude to G-D for this tremendous gift! Charlie and Coco are so excited and I am over the moon!!! (sic)" Meanwhile, David previously admitted his closeness to ex-wife Courtney can be "awkward". He said: "It's awkward, too - like, we get married, and there's beautiful pictures of our wedding, and there's also a picture of me and my ex, and it's like, 'Ooh! I've been married before! We have Coquette Productions so we produce things together and work together. It's just awesome to work together. I love her. We were married for 13 years or something and we have the baby. You just can't throw all that away."

Suki Waterhouse: I was 'allergic' to heels and dresses

Suki Waterhouse was "allergic" to heels and dresses growing up. The 24-year-old model hated wearing anything that wasn't baggy when she was a young girl but enjoys being able to "experiment" with fashion now. She said: "When I started modeling I remember a casting director telling me I better start dressing like a girl. "I was allergic to heels or dresses or anything that wasn't really baggy. I enjoy all the extremes of fashion now and experimenting for different moments." And the blonde beauty is really inspired by 60s fashion and looks up to Sienna Miller as a style role model. She added to Refinery29: "Well, I love '60s influences like Brigitte Bardot but more modern icons would be women like Sienna Miller. Just always so chic. "My favorite brands range from smaller ones like Rixo London - I love their dresses - to brands I utterly lust after like Gucci and Miu Miu. I admire Erdem and Christopher Kane for their consistently amazing collections I wish I could wear the whole time!" Meanwhile, Suki previously admitted she loves "ugly fashion" and thinks people should dress "weirder". She shared: "I've always liked the play on girly and sweet where you can also add in a sense of randomness. It was dorky in the 60s, and sexy but not overtly so. "People are too 'put together' these days, there's not enough 'weird' going on. Sometimes if I put an outfit on Instagram some people will comment going 'Ooh the bag and dress doesn't go' - well maybe I didn't care that they didn't. I almost like the 'ugly' fashion. If you think you're a cool girl then you're probably not cool. You might look cool, but that doesn't mean you are."



Nathan Sykes isn't in a 'rush' to date again

The 'Over and Over Again' hitmaker - who was previously in a relationship with Ariana Grande - is happy being single at the moment but wouldn't say no if the right person came along. Speaking exclusively to BANG Showbiz at the Capital Jingle Bell Ball with Coca-Cola, he said: "There is not a special someone in my life. I am very much single. "At the end of the day, I'm 23. As long as you are happy and enjoying yourself, there is no rush to get into a relationship but if the right person comes along, I'm very laid back." Meanwhile, the 23-year-old singer previously confessed he is looking for love on celebrity dating app

Raya. He added: "It was through peer pressure! I'm not normally one to give in, but I did. It's quite a closed community ... My friend came across someone quite unbelievably famous the other day." Despite splitting from Ariana, Nathan has remained close friends with the 'Dangerous Woman' singer and says he still has "great trust" in her. He said previously: "I never write songs with the intention of getting a story out there. I wouldn't necessarily get an artist on the song that I didn't think would bring anything to the record, just to get a bit more press or get a bit more radio play. I think that's quite shallow, as an artist.

We've obviously sung together before, on 'Almost Is Never Enough' off her debut album. "For me, it was like, 'Who would sound incredible on this?' The one name that stuck out to me was Ariana. She's an incredible vocalist, she's extremely talented, and I could trust her with doing the song. When you're doing a duet with someone, with a song so personal, it would have been weird inviting someone on the song who I'd never met before. I think having known her as well, makes it a bit easier. Also, I've got great trust in her as an artist and a vocalist to do a great vocal, and that's exactly what she did."

Liam Payne has songs ready for his solo album

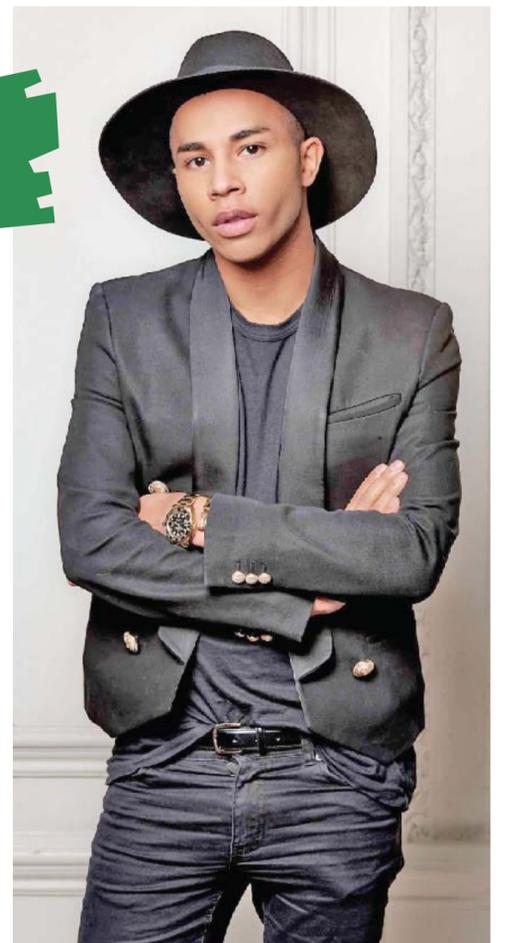
The former One Direction star - who is reportedly expecting a baby with girlfriend Cheryl Fernandez-Versini - is working hard on his debut solo LP and has a few "amazing" songs on there, according to label mate Calum Scott. Speaking exclusively to BANG Showbiz at the Capital Jingle Bell Ball with Coca-Cola, Calum said: "I was in the studio with Liam the other day. I heard a few of his songs. They are sounding amazing. I'd love to do something with him." The 23-year-old singer has been teasing fans with snaps of himself in the studio over the last few weeks and even shared a short clip of a song, where he appeared to provide the vocals. The news comes as Simon Cowell previously admitted he was a "bit annoyed" at Liam for signing with rival record label Capitol rather than choosing to stay with Sony Music. He said: "It is a bit

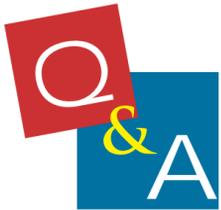


annoying if I am honest with you - mainly because it is another label who has now got your artist who you worked with for so many years. But that is the music business, unfortunately. I don't think anyone else from the band will do that. "We had spoken a lot - him and I - about what he wanted to do next. But I guess he read about Harry's deal and thought we weren't interested. My impression was that he wasn't in any hurry to make a record because he discussed this last year. He was more into songwriting. "I was teasing him saying, 'If you come up with a great song Liam make sure it is for you and don't give it away. When you're ready I am ready.' So I was a bit surprised. Of course there is a part of you that goes, 'Maybe we should have had the conversation.' That maybe is my fault but it has happened now."

Olivier Rousteing lets Kim Kardashian West secret slip

Kim Kardashian West and Kanye West conceived their daughter the night she wore her first custom made Balmain gown. Olivier Rousteing, the creative director at Balmain, has revealed the 'Keeping Up With The Kardashians' star was in her signature blue dress the night she got pregnant with North, now three. Speaking in a video Q & A, he said: "You know what is the most amazing thing about this dress that - I don't know if I can say it but I'm going to say it. I'm sorry Kim ... "It was worn the night when North was conceived. I don't know if I can say, maybe it's a secret, but I know that Kanye told me. So, I just wanted to share with you guys." Meanwhile, the 31-year-old fashion designer described his first meeting with Kim - who also has Saint, 11 months, with husband Kanye - as "surprising, electric and lovely". He shared: "My first meeting with Kim in three words - I would say surprising, I would say electric, and I would say love ... The first design that I sketch and I create for Kim was her dress for her Bachelorette party. This is a memory I will never ever forget. She wanted something really unique and really special for a day that was special. So, I kind of create that Marie Antoinette costume and it was really beautiful. "I think she looked so great in that dress and I was really really happy with that because I love Kanye and I love Kim and altogether being part of that moment - fashion moment - I think it was really important to me. She's a unique woman and that dress was unique as well so it was really special to me."





Sonia Braga plays the role of her life at 66



This file photo shows Brazilian actress Sonia Braga during an interview about her new film, "Aquarius," in New York. — AP photos

While female actors are fighting for more and better roles in Hollywood, Sonia Braga got the part of her life at 66 in Kleber Mendonca Filho's "Aquarius." The Brazilian star is getting rave reviews for her portrayal of Clara, a widow and retired music critic reluctant to sell the seaside apartment that holds her most cherished memories. "Ms. Braga is a living embodiment of the glories of Brazilian cinema," said The New York Times. "A breathtakingly intuitive actress, she's beautifully aged into an aristocratically sensual physicality, and makes Clara's firmness mingle with tenderness," said Variety.

"When I got the screenplay it was one of the most beautiful gifts I was getting in my whole life," Braga told The Associated Press in a recent interview in New York, where she lives. "I was reading the best screenplay that I ever read. Every word made sense. Scene to scene made sense to me, through the end." On top of that, "Kleber was giving me a movie that I was going to do in my mother tongue after 20 years working in the United States, I was going to be speaking in Portuguese again," she said. "I called him immediately. Well, I didn't call him IMMEDIATELY because I had to breathe before I could call."

"Aquarius" debuted last May at the Cannes Film Festival, where it was the only Latin American production competing for the Palm d'Or, and was recently nominated for an Independent Spirit Award. Although many considered it a natural contender for the foreign film Oscar, Brazil submitted David Schurmann's "Little Secret" instead, reportedly because of the "Aquarius" cast's protest against the interim administration of Brazil's Michel Temer at Cannes. Braga said she and her cast-mates had no regrets about the protest and that she would do it over again without question. As Mendonca Filho put it, "Aquarius," which had a limited US release in October and is still opening in different cities around the country, represents Brazil, regardless. Braga talks more about the film, and her life:

AP: In the film Clara has gone through a lot, including breast cancer, yet she can be as subtle as strong. How was it to play such a complex character?

Braga: Clara and I would come from different places: she is academic, I am intuitive; she has a family and I'm not married, I don't have kids. So we had a lot to negotiate, but the basics of the character, it was there. So we're talking, Clara and I, but at the same time we are commemorating this opportunity that Kleber was giving us to play this for the audiences.

AP: Kleber said you were very generous with the cast and crew and that you were delighted to work with non-actors.

Braga: He said, "Sonia, there's something that I need to tell you: sometimes I work with non-actors." And I said, "Really? That's fantastic! Because I'm not an actress either!" He said, "What do you mean?" "I'm scared of rehearsals, I'm scared of doing all this because I don't feel like I'm an actress. I never went to school for actors, I'm not academic, as a matter of fact academic actors intimidate me a little bit, so you are gonna work with people!" The way I see it, I belong to the film as any other department. I like visual arts, and what I love doing is participating in the making of it.

AP: It is very refreshing to see an actress leading in her 60s. Do you hope it will open the doors to more and better female roles?

Braga: Well, the doors are there, and they closed. A reporter told me it is very rare to see a woman of my age in the movies. Right! In the movies! But they have been for so long in very serious and important positions in life: scientists, prime ministers, candidates to be the president. ... There is a barrier with the languages also, and with the accents as well. Today we find many actors, they are Latin, they are Hispanic, they are living in the United States, they are American, but very rarely you find them in a lead role.

AP: It is evident from the movie how comfortable you feel in your own skin.

Braga: I did things in the movie that I usually don't do and that had a little anxiety about: I had to sing and I can't sing, unfortunately. I can't play the piano, and I cannot swim. But sex, I think I've been there before (laughs.) It's not so difficult to do. ... To be naked or even making love in a scene to me is very important if this is a movie about a couple or sensuality. It's a sort of moralism to think that this shouldn't be seen in the film. When was it that people decided as a society that your body is in one place and your sexuality in another place, something like a hat, or a coat, that when you leave home you hang it and when you come back home you say, "Ah! Let's wear my sexuality! I might wear it tonight?" It is something that belongs to your body. Women at my age they are making love, they are feeling sensual, they flirt, they have boyfriends, they have a sexual life. They are just not being represented in the movies. — AP



Morocco's Prince Moulay Rachid, left, welcomes Bollywood actress Kalki Koechlin before the royal dinner.



Morocco's Prince Moulay Rachid, left, welcomes Egyptian actress Yousra.

The 16th Marrakech International Film Festival



Morocco's Prince Moulay Rachid, center, Australian actor Jason Clarke, left and Italian actress Jasmine Trinca, right, attend the royal dinner during the 16th Marrakech International Film Festival in Marrakech, Morocco, Saturday. The festival runs from December 2 till 10. — AP/AFP photos



Morocco's Prince Moulay Rachid, left, welcomes Italian actress Jasmine Trinca.



Saida Jawad



Elsa Zylberstein attends Ceasefire premiere during the 16th Marrakech International Film Festival.



Moroccan transvestite, actress and dancer Noor.



Morocco's Prince Moulay Rachid, left, welcomes actress and producer Fatima Harandi known as Raouia.



Billy Chapin, child actor in 'Night of the Hunter,' dies at 72

Billy Chapin, a child actor known for his roles in "The Kid from Left Field" and "The Night of the Hunter" has died. He was 72. Chapin's sister and fellow former child actor, Lauren, announced the news on Facebook Saturday. She wrote that Billy had died Friday night "after a long illness." "Billy was a wonderful brother to both Michael and me," Lauren wrote. "And he made us proud of all the great films he was in... He will be greatly missed." Billy, Lauren and their brother, Michael, were all successful child actors during the 1940s and '50s.

Billy, born "William McClellan Chapin" is the middle of the three siblings who were all born in Los Angeles. Apart from several stage appearances as a newborn, Billy got his start in 1951 in the Broadway production of "Three Wishes

for Jamie." His first big on-screen role was as the "Diaper Manager" Christie Cooper in the 1953 baseball film "The Kid from Left Field." The family film also starred Dan Dailey, Anne Bancroft and Lloyd Bridges.

Billy's most recognizable role came in 1955 in the film noir "Night of the Hunter" directed by Charles Laughton and starring Robert Mitchum, Shelley Winters and Lillian Gish. Although it was considered a critical and commercial failure at the time, in 1992, the United States Library of Congress selected the picture for preservation in the National Film Registry, forever preserving its legacy. After "Night of the Hunter," his film career declined, then his television roles wrapped as well until his career in Hollywood ended in 1959. Hollywood Stars and Icons Lost in 2016. — Reuters

More than cookie sellers, Girl Scouts enter music industry



In this file photo, Liz Rose, one of three winners of the award for song of the year for "Girl Crush," poses in the press room at the 49th annual CMA Awards in Nashville, Tenn. — AP

The Girl Scouts of the USA are used to making you smile with sweet cookies, but now they're hoping to soothe your ears with sweet music. The organization announced Thursday that they've recorded an original song for the first time, featuring backup vocals from actual Girl Scouts. "Watch Me Shine" was written by Liz Rose, who has won Grammys for her work with Taylor Swift and Little Big Town, and Emily Shackleton, who sings lead on the song.

The track is being used in a Girl Scouts PSA called "I'm Prepared," which praises girls for being leaders, problem solvers and innovators. It's available on iTunes, Google Play and Amazon Music. A portion of the proceeds will go to the Girl Scouts organization. — AP



Father Angel Garcia Rodriguez (right) jokes with homeless people eating a free dinner at the Robin Hood restaurant in Madrid. — AFP photos



Waiters clear plates and serve dishes during a free dinner at the Robin Hood restaurant in Madrid.

In Madrid, the homeless dine out... for free

It is early evening at a restaurant in central Madrid and Jose Silva sits down for a meal of rice, meatballs and vegetables as waiters flit from one table to another. All very normal, except for one crucial detail: Silva, 42, cannot afford to pay. He lives rough under the platform of a cable car station in Madrid's sprawling Casa del Campo park, one of dozens of homeless people who have started dining for free at the "Robin Hood" restaurant that opened this week. The project is the brainchild of the "Messengers of Peace" association, led by Angel Garcia, a 79-year-old rebel priest with a thick head of white hair and kindly smile known for his charity work and alternative church.

By day, the restaurant charges regular customers for breakfast and lunch with an 11-euro (\$11.7) menu, subsidizing the same meal for the homeless at night, even if the association will likely have to step in with some funds. Garcia has plans for three more such eateries in Madrid and other parts of Spain, where one in five people live close to the poverty line after a devastating economic crisis.

'Dignity'

"It's really good," says Silva as he cuts up his meatballs, sporting a "GAP" sweatshirt he got as a handout—a welcome improvement, he adds, from the cold sandwich he usually has for dinner at the nearby Catholic church of

Father Angel, as Garcia is known. Once finished, he walks out of the warm eatery with its interior brick wall and chandeliers, back into the December cold. As he leaves, others enter the 50-seat restaurant, some parking their trolleys in front of the bar at the entrance before sitting at tables with white tablecloths and red napkins. "It's about giving more dignity to the people who need it," Garcia tells AFP days before the restaurant opening, sitting dressed in a smart suit in his San Anton Church in Chueca, the capital's gay district.

Next to him, homeless or cash-strapped men and women drink hot coffee and munch on pastries for breakfast. They will likely come back later, when the church serves sandwiches, soup and fruit for some 200 people every evening. "Up until now, people would queue in the street to get dinner, in the cold and rain," says Garcia. "So we asked ourselves why we couldn't do this in a restaurant." And "Robin Hood" was born.

An alternative church

The restaurant runs two services for the homeless, enough for 100 diners who come from the crowd that normally gets food at the church. The church itself has become an institution since Garcia took over last year with the firm belief it should be open to anyone, from any religion. Not only does it serve the homeless



A waiter clears plates and serves dishes during a free dinner at the Robin Hood restaurant in Madrid.

food on pews covered with white cloths, but it also broadcasts the Pope's appearances on television screens, as well as football matches. Last year's nativity scene featured a figurine of Aylan Kurdi—the three-year-old Syrian boy whose lifeless body washed up on a Turkish beach and

caused a global commotion—as baby Jesus, to emphasize the plight of refugees. Garcia himself baptises the children of same-sex couples, which has earned him a steady stream of visitors from all over the country, on top of those who regularly go to mass. "More than 1,000 people

come through every day," he says. The association, meanwhile, goes far beyond running the church and new restaurant. Horrified by the treatment of children in orphanages, Garcia founded "Messengers of Peace" in 1962 in his mid-twenties, with a view of creating welcoming homes for abandoned kids.

From there, the association grew and started looking after young people with AIDS or addictions, disabled children, women who suffered domestic violence and the elderly. Funded by a mix of donations, subsidies and income earned from some of its ventures, it also provides humanitarian aid abroad and employs close to 4,000 people, with 4,200 more helping as volunteers.

Over the years, the softly-spoken Garcia has accumulated a legion of stories, like the time he met Spain's dictator Francisco Franco in his constant search for funds... and made him cry. "He asked us what 'Messengers of Peace' did, and I said it was for children whose parents had abandoned them, or weren't married or in prison," he recalls.

"I saw some tears—he was old by then, this was two or three years before he died—and he told me 'I was one of those children, because my parents separated'."

"It's moving to see an old man recognizing he was one of those children, especially dressed in military garb as he was." — AFP

'Art alone can portray how peaceful Islam is'



Photo shows British musician Sami Yusuf. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat

By Faten Omar

Kuwait Times caught up with British musician Sami Yusuf just before his concert yesterday at Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmed Cultural Centre. Yusuf was named the "King of Islamic Pop" by the Al-Jazeera network and listed by the BBC as one of the '30 Most Famous Britons' in 2009.

Kuwait Times: Tell us about yourself. How did you get into music?

Sami: I come from a family of musicians; I entered the music industry when I was 14 years old. When you mix music with commercialism, it turns out to be fake. Coming from a cultural-



ly rich family, I decided that I didn't want to pursue such music. When I was 21, after the September 11 attacks, I felt the need to sing for a purpose and reflect the Muslim community. I felt the desire to defend my religion and explain that what happened wasn't a particular religion's fault. It was a calling from God for me to be what I'm today.

KT: How do you feel about performing live in Kuwait at the Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmed Cultural Centre?

Sami: I am very honored to be the first artist to perform at the Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmed Cultural Centre. This isn't my first time in Kuwait - I have been visiting since 2005 for the Hala February festival.

KT: What message do you want to convey to the world through your music?

Sami: My music is the message - I love my religion. I do not see music as a tool but as a gift from God. It is connected to the soul. In my previous album, the message was to preserve our traditions. In order to go forward, we have to preserve the past and our identity. The terrorist groups are modern-day groups and know nothing about our traditions - they have destroyed books that carried the traditions of Islam. Art alone can portray how peaceful Islam is. Truth is always connected with beauty - all mosques depict beauty. 'God is Beautiful and He loves beauty'.

KT: Whom would you like to work with in the future?

Sami: I will be more than happy to work with anyone who strives to deliver the right message without worrying about commercial considerations.

KT: Tell us about your new album.

Sami: My new album is a collaboration of one thousand Islamic songs from India to Andalus. It took me a year to research. I discovered that people are thirsty for tradition and it was No. 1 on iTunes and in the Western world. I felt I needed to show another side of tradition, particularly to modern youth who are religious but are detached from roots and traditions.

KT: In your view, what are the main reasons for the lack of solidarity and cooperation between the Muslim nation? How can we unite our ummah again?

Sami: Islamic traditions are dead, but in my opinion, the most important thing to do is to preserve our tradition. If we do not preserve it, we might lose our identity. We live in this era, so we have a responsibility to preserve traditions and pass them to the next generation.

KT: Tell us about your upcoming projects.

Sami: I work with Spirit foundation. We are trying to get songs from the 'Barakah' album into schools, not only in Arab countries, but also in British schools. Every school has music classes, so instead of singing the usual songs, we are trying to introduce some songs that were famous in the past. I dream of running an institute in the UK to teach people about traditional art, maqamat, Islamic music and music from all over the world.



This photo provided by Lisa Ludwinski shows the Pie-it-Forward wall at Sister Pie in Detroit, Mich. — AP photos

Giving chains: Holiday customers enjoy paying it forward

Lisa Ludwinski expects to sell more pie at her Detroit bakery during the holiday season, and not just to people enjoying it themselves. She anticipates that customers will buy pieces of pie for strangers through the shop's "Pie-it-Forward" program. Ludwinski, owner of Sister Pie, launched the program last fall. Shoppers buy a coupon for a free slice of a pie, and the coupons get hung on a wall. Anyone who visits can take one down to get some pie.

"It's a way to provide pie for a variety of people - people who are hungry or people who have never been to our pie shop before," said Ludwinski, whose specialties include Salted Maple and Cranberry Crumble. Although the program runs year-round, Ludwinski has found that customers are more enthusiastic about it during the holidays. Pay-it-forward programs seem to gain momentum around Christmas. Customers at Starbucks and Dunkin' Donuts around the country have made headlines in recent Decembers by buying coffee for the person behind them in line - leading to chains of hundreds of free drinks in streaks that can last for hours. Most people - even those who don't donate to charity - value generosity, and paying for someone's coffee is an easy way to express that, said Patricia Snell Herzog, an assistant professor of sociology and criminal justice at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville who co-authored "American Generosity: Who Gives and Why" (Oxford University Press, 2016).

"It just makes you feel good," she said. "It's like smiling at someone. You're passing on visible goodness." Also, nobody wants to be the person who breaks the chain, she said. "It's put right in front of you. This person in line is being really generous. It makes you feel called to respond," she said.

MaryJo Dunn was amazed when an anonymous gift that she made in honor of her late son became a pay-it-forward phenomenon at the First and Last Tavern in Glastonbury, Connecticut. On Feb. 20, what would have been Luke's second birthday, Dunn bought a gift card and asked the manager to give it, along with a note explaining the date's significance, to a family having lunch at the restaurant.

National media

The family that was chosen was celebrating their son's birthday; they insisted on reloading the card and giving it to another family, said Molly Shanahan, creative director for the restaurant. Diners continued to load the card through the next day. "It took off," said Shanahan. "It created this energy. It inspired people. It was a flame that ignited the whole place."

For Dunn, whose son died of cancer in 2015, the outpouring made a bad day more bearable.

She and her husband, Shane, routinely buy coffee and doughnuts for others and give the recipients printed cards asking them to "pay it forward in

memory of Luke." They find that these small gifts not only keep Luke's memory alive but inspire others to perform "random acts of kindness," she said. "We are so happy that people continue to do this. It definitely lightens our hearts."

Mason Wartman also has seen how powerful pay-it-forward opportunities can be. He has given away more than 70,000 slices of pizza paid for by the customers of his Philadelphia restaurant, Rosa's Fresh Pizza.

The effort started a couple of years ago when a customer learned that homeless people occasionally visited the eatery, which sells pizza for \$1 a slice. The customer offered to pay in advance for a slice to be given to someone in need. He also told Wartman about an Italian custom called "caffè sospeso," or suspended coffee: Someone who has had good fortune pays for an extra cup of coffee to be given later to someone down on his luck.

Wartman decided to keep track of the prepaid slices with sticky notes, which soon covered the walls of his restaurant. After the pay-it-forward program was featured on local and national media, the sticky notes became unwieldy and Wartman created a button on the cash register to record the free slices. Customers like the program because they can see it helping others, he said. "It's very transparent," he said. "My employees never ask, would you like to donate today? It's just out there. Everyone knows what we do." — AP

Lifestyle

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In Madrid, the homeless dine out... for free

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People dressed as Santa Claus pose for a group photo during a promotional event on the opening weekend in the alpine ski resort in Verbier, Saturday. Around 1,200 skiers dressed as Santa Claus were granted free access to the ski resort to celebrate the ski season's opening. — AP photos

Keys, lightbulbs tied to Thomas Edison sell at auction

Key to the New Jersey lab where Thomas Edison invented the phonograph and some of the lightbulbs that he perfected sold for more than \$60,000 at auction on Saturday. The keys sold for \$10,625 at an auction run by Heritage Auctions in Dallas.

A bulb created by a German inventor who claimed to have invented the incandescent lightbulb before Edison did was sold for \$23,750, while a set of five Edison bulbs used in a court case sold for \$30,000.

The items were acquired by Charlie Knudsen, 69, of Pittsburgh, and had belonged to his great-aunt. She was married to one of the attorneys whose law

firm represented Edison in patent lawsuits. Tags on some of the keys list the doors that they opened, including Edison's 1876 lab that became known as the "invention factory." Another key says "motor shed," and a third "shop."

Edison had applied for about 400 patents, including improvements to the incandescent bulb, before he left for New York City in 1882, said Kathleen Carlucci, director of the Thomas Edison Center in New Jersey. The lab itself was built by Edison's father about 30 miles northeast of Trenton and was the world's largest in its day. Carlucci said it also was "the first research and development facility." The bulbs up for auction were part of a collection used in patent infringement lawsuits. "One bulb in particular was used in a case where he (Edison) was able to prove he had a patent," Knudsen said.

After making lightbulbs commercially viable, the "Wizard of Menlo Park" turned his attention to New York City where he worked to develop an electric utility. Squatters took over the abandoned Menlo Park property, raising chickens and crops, Carlucci said. Local residents held dances in the lab.

Today, Menlo Park is a national historic site and a state park. None of the original buildings remain, but a museum and education center highlight Edison's accomplishments. A 131-foot memorial tower to commemorate his work on the lightbulb stands on the site. It was restored last year and its 14-foot tall replica bulb shines in the night. — AP



This photo provided by Heritage Auctions shows Thomas A Edison: Keys to His Menlo Park Laboratory on display. — AP

French choreographer Millepied starts anew in LA

French dancer and choreographer Benjamin Millepied warms up at The Los Angeles Theater Center in Los Angeles, California.



French choreographer Benjamin Millepied, who spectacularly left the Paris Opera Ballet earlier this year, will mark his return to Los Angeles this week with a new show. The dance star-husband of Hollywood actress Natalie Portman also revealed he is working on a feature film as he held rehearsals this week with his dance troupe from the L.A. Dance Project at a studio in downtown Los Angeles. The performances December 9 and 10 will consist of four dances, including the world premiere of "Homecoming," choreographed by the ex-star dancer of the New York City Ballet.

"It's a beautiful title that evokes a couple's reunion but also a return," Millepied told AFP in an interview. The show symbolizes his comeback in Los Angeles, where he settled in 2012 with Portman before his brief stint at the Paris Opera Ballet. It also marks the first time he will be taking to the stage in a year. "It's a duo that I created with Janie Taylor, an exceptional dancer with the New York City Ballet, but I don't plan on doing this often. It's probably the last time," said the 39-year-old blue-eyed star who sports a short beard. Dancing "requires a lot of preparation, even though when you get into it, it's a real pleasure," he says.

"I prefer to concentrate on creating and making sure that the L.A. Dance Project becomes a success for the Los Angeles community and that it encompasses what I believe an artistic organization must represent in our times." He said all performing arts organizations, be they orchestras, operas or ballets were having a hard time

evolving from the mindset of the 1950s. "They are often stuck in a time that no longer fits in with what the public is looking for," he says. For Millepied, the ballet companies of the future "must come up with powerful projects and work closely" with musicians, artists and major brands to attract a new public. The show in Los Angeles will also include a live performance by the singer Rufus Wainwright, who composed "Homecoming," artwork by LA artist Mark Bradford and music by Philip Glass. Millepied, who was initiated to dance by his mother, herself a dancer, said he is aiming for shows that are "immersive" and wants to establish partnerships with museums, cities or even brands and special sites-like a train station using new media in order to reach a wide public.

'Wasn't for me'

One example of how he wishes to break away from the mold is his collaboration with the French jewelry house Van Cleef & Arpels with which he partnered to create a short film set against the Los Angeles river. He said he is delighted to be back in Los Angeles, where he feels at home. "Los Angeles is not like New York, full of artistic organizations that have become a bit conservative, it's a great cultural city," he said. "To dance in Los Angeles today is like an artist setting up shop in New York in the 1960s and 1970s-its virgin territory," he adds, pointing out that there are no major dance companies in the city. — AFP