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TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2016



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KUWAIT FOOTBALL REELS AS CHIEF RESIGNS, TEAM QUITS

VAGUE DISCIPLINARY RULES BLAMED FOR LATEST CHAOS

Max 22° Min 110 **High Tide** 02:37 & 17:07 Low Tide 10:12 & 22:23

NO SURVEILLANCE OF PRIVATE SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS MOI REFUTES REPORTS

KUWAIT: The Ministry of Interior has denied reports on social media claiming that a new surveillance law dealing with these websites is in effect. "The reports are absolutely baseless and untrue," a statement issued by the ministry yesterday noted, adding that "there hasn't been any new communication law enacted" as these reports allege.

Moreover, the statement noted that the ministry is committed to its security obligations without encroaching on personal privacies. The statement also underscored that a new information technology law in effect since Jan 12 has specified the penalties violators face, noting that the law does not authorize the ministry to intrude on peoples' privacies. It added that social media users are free to utilize the platform as they see fit, and will only face legal action for any infractions of state laws.

Ministry Spokesman Mohammad Al-Awwash said in a later statement that the electronic media law regulates the media profession and is not applicable to personal accounts on social media

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DOHA: Saudi King Salman (left) waves next to the Emir of Oatar Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani during a welcoming ceremony yesterday. King Salman is on a regional tour to the UAE, Qatar, Bahrain and Kuwait. — AFP

By Ahmad Jabr

KUWAIT: Kuwait football entered yet another dark tunnel Sunday night after the head of the football association resigned after just over three months in office and one of its top teams withdrew from league competition. Another team is expected to follow suit shortly. Both teams are dropping out after complaints regarding the league's chaotic disciplinary system.

Fawaz Al-Hasawi, the owner of English Championship side Nottingham Forest, was appointed in August after

authorities dissolved the Kuwait Football Association amid a clampdown on sports governing bodies that triggered strong international criticism. Hasawi announced his resignation on Twitter late Sunday without giving a reason, but his decision came only hours after the competitions committee at KFA rejected complaints by two league teams over allowing two sides



Fawaz Al-Hasawi

to field suspended players. Social media reports late yesterday said Hasawi had withdrawn his resignation, but this could not be immediately confirmed.

The controversy started two weeks ago, after Al-Arabi Sports Club filed an official protest to the KFA, claiming that rival Kuwait Sports Club fielded a

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OPPOSITION ISSUES MORE WARNINGS ON MINISTERS

ROME: Italy's Prime Minister Matteo Renzi announces his resignation during a press conference at the Palazzo Chigi following the results of a referendum on constitutional reforms yesterday. — AFP

RENZI PACKS HIS BAGS AFTER REFERENDUM ROUT

ROME: Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi said his goodbyes yesterday after a ruinous referendum defeat that was cheered by populist leaders and sent shockwaves rippling around Europe. "My experience of government finishes here," said a downcast Renzi after accepting a defeat of almost 60-40 percent over his constitutional reform bid. The result, coming on the coattails of Brexit and Donald Trump's US election win, has plunged Italy into a period of political uncertainty and cast a shadow over the short- and long-term future of the eurozone's third-largest economy.

After a first meeting with President Sergio Mattarella to discuss his departure, Renzi posted a link on his Facebook page defending his record since he came to power in February 2014. "1,000 difficult but wonderful days. Thanks to everyone. Viva l'Italia," he wrote.

Renzi, 41, later arrived at the presidential palace in Rome to formally offer his resignation. Mattarella was expected to either accept his resignation, ask him to stay on for a few days in order to pass the country's 2017 budget, or appoint a caretaker leader until elections can be held.

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REFORM PLANS

ANTI-AUSTERITY

MPS THREATEN

KUWAIT: A parliament packed with lawmakers who oppose wage cuts and taxes, and who want to keep Kuwait's sumptuous welfare state intact, is threatening the government's attempts to close a gaping budget deficit. Opposition candidates won about 24 out of 50 seats last month in a parliamentary election seen by Kuwaitis as a referendum on austerity measures aimed at dealing with the 2016/17 shortfall, forecast at KD 9.5 billion (\$31 billion).

Citizens of the country, one of the world's wealthiest, have bristled at recent fuel subsidy cuts and utility price hikes that the government pushed through the outgoing parliament with relative ease. But the new lawmakers say they are determined to protect basic services and jobs in a public sector, which employs more than 90 percent of workers. Governments across the Gulf - also trying to rein in spending in an era of flagging oil prices - are watching closely as the government tries to pass more reforms, including taxing corporate profits and cutting government wages and benefits.

Kuwait's opposition, which includes the Muslim Brotherhood, liberals, tribal representatives and independents, say the government should trim other costs first, including what it calls "wasted expenses" such as an overseas medical allowance. By law, Kuwaitis, who enjoy the fourth highest gross domestic product per capita in the world, can travel abroad for specialized medical treatment at the expense of the government.

Opposition figures elected to the Assembly say the allowance, which costs an estimated KD 760 million a year, is used to line the pockets of people with ties to government.

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By B Izzak

KUWAIT: Opposition MPs yesterday issued more warnings to the prime minister against retaining a number of ministers in the new Cabinet, saying they will spark tensions with the new National Assembly. Opposition Islamist MP Waleed Al-Tabtabaei yesterday added Finance Minister Anas Al-Saleh to a list of at least six ministers who have already been rejected as potential "crisis makers".

Tabtabaei said on his Twitter account that the return of the finance minister to the Cabinet will trigger a crisis between the Assembly and the government over his role in undermining the "pockets of citizens" and for his major failures in managing Kuwait Investment Authority (KIA), the country's wealth fund. Tabtabaei was referring to accusations that Saleh is responsible for a series of measures to reduce subsidies and raise prices.

Several MPs have already issued strong objections to retaining the ministers of interior, health, justice, social affairs and labor and education among others. Tabtabaei also charged that a majority of KIA board members have been in their posts for the past 20 years as if there are no replacements for them in the country.

MP Al-Humaidi Al-Subaei called on the prime minister not to include any minister that may cause problems with the Assembly, saying this will be understood by the Kuwaiti people as a challenge to their decision in the general election last month. He said the outcome of the election clearly indicates that the Kuwaiti peo-

ple want to restore their seized constitutional and legal rights and want development without corruption.

Subaei also said the Kuwaiti people also want measures to safeguard public funds and legislation that require the private sector to shoulder its responsibility in boosting the state's resources instead of those undermining the income of citizens.

Opposition MP Riyadh Al-Adasani urged the premier to form a government capable of achievement and which will seriously tackle all unresolved issues. He said the latest government austerity measures have overburdened the income of citizens, and as such the economic and financial reform package must be abolished, coupled with curbing squandering of public funds and corruption.

Adasani said that any economic measure must not impact the income of citizens and must not include imposing taxes, reducing subsidies or raising prices. He also called for restoring all citizenships revoked for political reasons and not revoke any citizenship in the future without a final court verdict.

Meanwhile, the constitutional court yesterday received a new petition challenging the general election on the basis that the formation of the election committee to examine the candidates was not in line with the constitution. The court had rejected a similar petition before the elections were held on Nov 26.

The court has already received a petition challenging the election results in the fourth constituency by candidate

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JAYALALITHAA DIES AFTER LONG ILLNESS

CHENNAI: Jayalalithaa Jayaram, the chief minister of south India's Tamil Nadu state and one of the country's most popular political leaders, died after a prolonged illness, hospital authorities announced late yesterday night. "It is with indescribable grief, we announce the sad demise of our esteemed honorable chief minister of Tamil Nadu ... at 11:30pm (local time) today (December 5)," Chennai's Apollo Hospital said in a statement released to the media.

Doctors had been treating the 68-year-old former film star, who enjoys an almost godlike status in Tamil Nadu. Hundreds of devotees have kept a round-the-clock vigil outside the private hospital in the state capital Chennai since she was first admitted in September suffering from a fever. Their numbers swelled since her condition worsened on Sunday. "Nothing can kill Amma," said one man holding a picture of the leader outside the hospital. To millions of her followers, the chief minister was known simply as "Amma" (mother).

Prime Minister Narendra Modi offered his condolences over her demise. "I will always cherish the innumerable occasions when I had the opportunity to interact with Jayalalithaa ji (honorific). May her soul rest in peace," Modi said on Twitter. Her political party, AIADMK, on Twitter said: "our beloved leader, the Iron lady of India...Amma, is no more."

Jayalalithaa was introduced to politics by her cinema screen partner, M G Ramachandran, another actor-turned politician, and went on to serve as chief minister of Tamil Nadu five times. Jayalalithaa remained hugely popular despite being jailed more than once for corruption. The reclusive leader ran her party with an iron hand with no clear line of succession to govern a state that is home to major auto and IT outsourcing firms.

During her latest illness, her picture was put in a chair at the head of the table at state cabinet meetings. Her ministers have on occasions been seen to prostrate themselves at her feet.

O P Panneerselvam, a cabinet colleague, has stood in for Jayalalithaa in the past, but he has repeatedly made it clear he is not replacing her and pointedly refused to sit in her chair at cabinet meetings. "There is no second line of defense here, and these are emotive times. There is a chance of violence," said T R Ramachandran, an independent expert on Tamil Nadu politics.

The Press Trust of India said police across the state had been put on high alert to maintain law and order, with 2,000 officers stationed at the hospital alone in case emotional crowds of devoted supporters reacted strongly to further developments. Supporters have been known to commit suicide in reaction to bad news. Media reports said some Chennai schools would remain closed, while the US consulate in the city said it had suspended services and warned Americans to exercise

caution.



MUMBAI: Supporters hold a photograph of Tamil Nadu state leader Jayalalithaa Jayaram as they offer prayers for her well-being at a temple yesterday. — AP

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Kuwait 🗠 Times 🍜





His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah



GCC Secretary General Abdullatif Al-Zayani

AMIR LEAVES FOR BAHRAIN TO ATTEND GCC SUMMIT

SUMMIT IS HELD AMID CHALLENGES: ZAYANI

KUWAIT/MANAMA: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah will leave for Bahrain today leading a Kuwaiti official delegation to attend the 37th Summit of the GCC Supreme Council and GCC leaders' meeting with British Prime Minister Theresa May.

The summit is held amid quite significant regional challenges, affirmed Abdullatif Al-Zayani, the GCC Secretary General. These political, security and economic challenges warrant solidarity and cooperation among all the GCC member states and relentless action to attain merger among them, Zayani said in an interview broadcast by the official Bahrain News Agency (BNA) yesterday.

He indicated that agenda of the GCC summit, due on Tuesday, includes various files related to political, economic, security and social cooperation, as well as examining reports filed by the Ministerial Council, committees and the General Secretariat.

Challenges

Current economic conditions constitute some of the major challenges facing the GCC states, he said. The GCC countries had already taken steps at this level, endorsing the joint economic treaty, setting up the common market and the customs union.

Elaborating, Zayani re-affirmed the GCC states' resolve to face security threats. "They will not hesitate to take all necessary measures to safeguard their security, stability and defend their sovereignty and interests," he stressed.

The GCC countries have taken an unwavering approach for upgrading their security and military potentials for defense purposes and safeguarding achievements that have been made throughout the years, Al-Zayani added.

He rejected, anew, foreign intervention in the regional countries' affairs for such meddling contradicts with international laws and threatens

GCC states along with other countries had pledged more than \$7 billion to aid the Syrians. Kuwait had hosted three international conferences grouping countries pledging support for the Syrians affected by the war. A fourth one was held in London.

Regarding Yemen, Al-Zayani said the GCC countries had given substantial financial support for the legitimate government to help it deliver relief supplies to those in need in the war-stricken nation. For its part, Saudi Arabia had established King Salman Center for Relief and Humanitarian Aid to coordinate humanitarian operations in Yemen, with a special budget estimated at one billion Saudi riyals.

Integration

Bahrain's Foreign Minister Sheikh Khalid bin Ahmed Al Khalifah yesterday expressed confidence that the summit will come up with resolutions to promote the pan-GCC integration, and joint action. These will be topped with carrying on with implementation of Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud's 'Vision 2030' for accelerating the pace of cooperation among the member states, and enhancing the bloc's joint action, Sheikh Khalid Al Khalifah said in a press statement.

He noted that the GCC Ministerial Council in 2016 approved measures for the completion of the Monarch's wise vision, and the leaders endorsed the formation of a joint commission to reactivate economic and development.

The Bahraini chief diplomat pointed to the pivotal role the GCC member states play on the regional and international scenes. The 37th Summit will be a good chance to consolidate this role, and further boost security and stability in the region, to maintain unity, development, and prosperity in the region.

Concluding the statement, Sheikh Khalid Al Khalifah praised the Saudi King's presidency of

Tension

In the meantime, MPs of the Bahraini Council of Representatives have affirmed the importance of the upcoming GCC Summit in facing the rising political, security and economic tension in the region. The MPs agreed in various statements that the current unstable conditions in the Arab World, mainly the escalation of terrorism and the economic situation in the Gulf countries due to the drop in oil prices, require the GCC states to unite.

Creating unity between the GCC countries will prevent any outer intervention in the Gulf's own issues, said MP Nasser Al-Qaseer. The Gulf states have the ability to become one of the top economic powers, as they possess huge financial abilities, strong infrastructure and opportunities for attracting foreign investments, he added.

MP Mohammad Al-Amadi said meanwhile that the GCC citizens are looking forward for the outcome of the 37th summit, hoping the leaders would take measures to create a Gulf union to face the growing challenges and threats in the region. Sharing one language is a key factor to create a strong economic union, he said.

On this matter, he mentioned the successful experience of the European Union (EU), despite countries of different languages and backgrounds. Meanwhile, MP Jamal Dawoud noted the importance of discussing means of resolving the unemployment issues among youth through executing joint-GCC economic projects.

Unity

In the meantime, Bahraini Ambassador to Saudi Arabia Sheikh Humoud bin Abdullah Al Khalifa said that the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries are heading towards a level of unity and further development. He further stressed the importance of the 37th GCC Summit to be held in Riyadh tomorrow, amidst the rising political, economic and security tension in the region. The ambassador hoped the summit will result in establishing the sought and the long-awaited Gulf union to face the challenges and threats and boost economy among the GCC states. —KUNA

ing foreign trade policies for the GCC

countries so as to enable them deal

with the outside world as a single

Council approved a law on GCC trade-

marks regulating trade relations and

their registration measures.

Riyadh Summit in 2006: The

Doha Summit in 2007: The council

expressed its satisfaction over the

launch of the Gulf Common Market,

with effect from January 1, 2008. The

council approved the development of

retail and wholesale in line with the

requirements of the joint Gulf market. Muscat Summit in 2008: The GCC

leaders welcomed the coordinative

council between Saudi Arabia and

Qatar on cementing and upgrading

cil approved the principle of equality amongst GCC citizens in vocational

Kuwait Summit in 2009: The coun-

the bilateral relations.

economic bloc.

TRIBAL CHIEF OPTIMISTIC ABOUT GCC SUMMIT RESULTS

KUWAIT: The Amir of the Ajman tribe Sheikh Sultan bin Salman bin Hethleen stressed the importance of the 37th GCC Summit to be held in Manama, Bahrain today. The summit takes place after Donald Trump's election as US President, which gives us new issues to be discussed, he indicated.

"There are pressing issues waiting on the agenda, such as the political and security developments in Yemen and GCC countries' efforts to reach a political solution there, in addition to the security situation in other parts of the Arab region including Syria, Iraq and Libya, as well as the efforts to fight terrorism and the Palestinian cause," he added.

Meanwhile, Bin Hethleen said that all necessary measures should be taken in light of the 'escalating Iranian threats' against GCC countries, and called for boosting the joint policy in facing these joint risks "and to keep any external threats away through unity and by giving the Peninsula



Sheikh Sultan bin Hethleen Shield a bigger role in the future."

Bin Hethleen said the coincides with calls from our Gulf people towards boosting the GCC joint action "as the confederate unity between GCC states has become urgent to face challenges and dangers in the region." He urged GCC leaders to make the Gulf confederation a reality in order to protect "our Arabian Gulf from surrounding dangers." He further expressed high optimism that the summit would yield positive results.

ECONOMY TO FEATURE HIGH ON GCC SUMMIT AGENDA

MANAMA: Economy is highly anticipated to be given a priority on the agenda of the 37th GCC Summit in Manama, Bahrain, which kicks off today amid the economic challenges the member states have been facing due to the fall in oil prices.

Through the GCC history, the bloc has realized a multitude of economic and social achievements, but the sharp drops in crude prices on the world markets since 2014, have forced the members to adopt rationalization, or rather austerity measures to withstand the ensued repercussions. They have been hard at work developing measures to counter any potential deficit in their budgets, and avoid borrowing.

Approaches to achieve the aspired goals mainly focus on diversifying production and services, encouraging the private sector and supporting youth to have their own enterprises. Over the years, the GCC leaders have adopted several resolutions and taken many steps to push ahead the wheel of economy, industry, trade and development, to achieve pan-GGC integration.

A major element of economic cooperation among the GCC states has been the Unified Economic Agreement of 1981 that contributed a lot to the advanced stages of economic integration among GCC countries. In the meantime, the GCC has demonstrated eagerness to promote ties with trade and economic partners, through numerous framework agreements and trade and technical cooperation pacts.

Macroeconomic policies

In order to secure success for economic diversification, there is need for activating a host of macroeconomic policies with the aim of correcting the economic huge public sector with low efficiency in some GCC countries, Malallah noted. He said there is dire need to reform, and apply governance, to the public sector, as well as developing the private sector to attract national labor.

Since the GCC was established, the member state have focused on building their capabilities with openness and a vision that set them among the advanced countries that mainly hold citizens' rights and interests, he said.

This is the reason they concentrated most efforts on offering, and promoting, various services to people, besides building the human capital, and so they have come to achieve remarkable progress in education, health and social services, the APIU chief said. He referred to the GCC agreements, bilateral or multi-party ones, mainly aiming to enhance economic and social development.

But successful implementation usually needs changes in the structure of the economies of the Gulf countries, including legislative and long-term economic policies. Malallah, in the meantime, called for encouraging the creative and innovative youth, offering financial and institutional support to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

Reform initiatives

Amid the regional and international developments and escalating challenges, one has to commend the 'wave of reform initiatives' that has been worked out by the GCC members in the aftermath of the severe falls in oil prices, Kuwait Economic Society (KES) Secretary General Muhanad Al-Sane said.

The downtrend of oil prices over the past months has been the major challenge for the Gulf area, producing pressing need to diversify the sources of national income to lessen the impact on their deficits, Sane added. He underlined the necessity to focus investments in infrastructure, education, health and economy, and in the meantime, cut unnecessary spending. Sane called for identifying the state's priorities to meet housing demands till 2013 as a first phase, then till 2050 in a second one. He stressed the momentousness empowering youth, and luring foreign investors through incentive legislations and programs. —KUNA

the Gulf security and stability, noting the UN prime role in this regard.

On the Syrian refugees' plight, he underscored the GCC countries' efforts at the public and private levels to help them, noting that the

the 36th Summit held in Riyadh in December 2015, which has helped achieve remarkable steps for the GCC march, to continue with strong resolute in the Manama summit till the bloc realizes the aspired integration and unity.

path, Director General of the Arab Planning Institute (API) Dr Bader Othman Malallah said.

He urged restructuring the economies of the member states, so that the private sector could become a major partner in production and employment; the government will no longer be the sole employer, consequently lessening the financial burden on state budget. More investments, both state and private, can be thus directed to the infrastructure, or the various sectors of production.

The challenge of economic diversification is closely related to the volume of government expenditure, which involves a





BAHRAIN'S STREETS DECORATED WITH GCC STATES' FLAGS AHEAD OF SUMMIT

MANAMA: The Kingdom of Bahrain has decorated streets across the country with national flags of the six countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) in preparation for the 37th GCC summit

slated for today. These flags have given a spectacular scene to Bahrain's streets, in addition to the GCC's flag which embodies the deep-rooted ties among the GCC states. —KUNA

KEY RESOLUTIONS OF GCC SUMMITS SINCE 1981

KUWAIT: Bahrain's capital, Manama, will host the GCC Summit on December 6-7 to discuss several issues and relevant dossiers on the promotion of the GCC march and developments in the region. In this regard, the resolution taken in 1981 to form the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) member states was a quantum leap and a real representation of several bonds amongst member states. The resolution was also a key step to upgrade GCC relations and address several challenges.

This report reviews the key resolutions taken by GCC summits between 1981-2015:

Abu Dhabi Summit in 1981: The Gulf leaders announced officially the formation of Gulf Cooperation Council and stressed that guaranteeing stability in the region is related to achieving peace in the Middle East through finding a "fair' solution to the Palestinian cause.

Riyadh Summit in 1981: GCC leaders agreed the economic agreement with the aim of removing obstacles amongst member states and strengthening bonds amongst the region's nations.

Manama Summit in 1982: The Gulf council agreed on establishing the Gulf Investment Corporation with a capital of USD 2.2 billion and transferring the Saudi Arabian Standards Organization into a Gulf body tasked with specifications and standards in the GCC countries.

Kuwait Summit in 1984: The Gulf council approved the formula governing the right of citizens' possession in GCC member states.

Muscat Summit in 1985: GCC leaders agreed to set a deadline to implement GCC economic activities and approved the unified agricultural and strategical policy of industrial development.

Abu Dhabi Summit in 1986: GCC approved recommendations on military cooperation and allowing GCC citizens to get loans from industrial development banks and funds.

Riyadh Summit in 1987: The Supreme Council of GCC states endorsed the lending oil system amongst member states and the council authorized ministers to start official negotiations with the economic group.

Manama Summit 1988: The Supreme Council agreed on allowing GCC citizens to own shares at jointstock companies operating in economic activities in accordance with equality and the proposed rules.

Doha Summit in 1990: The Supreme Council condemned the Iraqi occupation of

Kuwait and stressed the absolute support and solidarity of GCC governments and nations with Kuwaitis to liberate their territories

The council lauded steadfastness of Kuwaitis and their rejection to the occupation as well as the abidance by their legal government under the must be complied with when moving hazardous waste across the borders of member states.

Muscat Summit in 2001: The Supreme Council okayed the GCC economic agreement as a replacement of the unified economic one endorsed in 1981. The council endorsed the implementation of the customs union on January 1, 2003, and the reduction of the unified customs tariff.

Doha Summit in 2002: The leaders approved a document, which contains the petroleum strategy for the GCC states and ratified the Regional Emergency Plan for Petroleum Products of the member states. The Gulf Customs Union becomes reality;

leadership of the His Highness late Amir Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

The council reiterated its call for Iraq to respect international conventions, charters and norms signed with Kuwait, calling on it to withdraw from all Kuwaiti territories.

Abu Dhabi in 1992: The Supreme Council extolled the UN Security Council Resolution 773 that stressed the need to respect the Kuwaiti-Iraqi borders, welcoming the steps taken by the UN on the demarcation of borders between Kuwait and Iraq.

Kuwait Summit 1997: The Supreme Council approved three systems for the preservation and promotion of natural habitat, handling of radioactive materials and waste management, including the measures that under the union, which was to take effect in January 2003, the GCC would become a "single customs zone" in which a unified 5 per cent tariff is applied.

Kuwait Summit in 2003: The war on Iraq was the top of the summit's agenda. The Council stressed its sympathy and solidarity with Iraqis in their distress because of security situations there.

Manama Summit in 2004: The council called on the UN to cooperate with the interim Iraqi government so as to return the Kuwaiti possessions and the national archive controlled by the former Iraqi regime during the occupation.

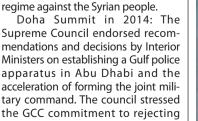
Abu Dhabi Summit in 2005: The council endorsed a document on standard trade policy, aimed at unify-

tary command and asked the Joint Defence Council to take the required measures for this purpose. They condemned strongly the continued genocides committed by Syria's

> Doha Summit in 2014: The Supreme Council endorsed recommendations and decisions by Interior Ministers on establishing a Gulf police apparatus in Abu Dhabi and the acceleration of forming the joint military command. The council stressed the GCC commitment to rejecting extremist though.

Riyadh Summit in 2015: The GCC leaders affirmed their support for finding political solutions to the Syrian crisis in accordance with the Geneva-1, and to Yemen's crisis based on the Gulf initiative. They called for accelerating the steps of military and security cooperation amongst GCC states. —KUNA

Kuwait Summit in 2013: The GCC leaders decided to form a joint mili-



education and the GCC defense strategy as well as the development of the Peninsula Shield Forces. Abu Dhabi Summit in 2010: The GCC allowed Gulf companies to inaugurate branches in GCC states.

Manama 2012: The GCC approved the decision taken by the Joint Defence Council and the establishment of a joint military command.

LOCAL



KUWAIT: His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Head of the Board of Trustees of the Arabian Horse Center Alaa Al-Roumi and members of the Board. —KUNA

CROWN PRINCE MEETS ARABIAN HORSE CENTER MEMBERS

KUWAIT: His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received yesterday at Bayan Palace Head of the Board of Trustees of the Arabian Horse Center Alaa Hamad Al-Roumi and members of the Board on the occasion of Kuwait National Arabian Horse Festival which was held last November 18-19. The meeting was attended by Chief of Protocol of His Highness the Crown Prince's Diwan Sheikh Mubarak Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah. —KUNA

JORDAN ICT MINISTER INAUGURATES ZAIN TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE

AMMAN/KUWAIT: Zain Group, a leading mobile telecom innovator across eight markets in the Middle East and Africa, announces the successful commencement of its sixth annual Zain Technology Conference (ZTC) yesterday at Le Royal hotel in Amman, Jordan.

Held under the patronage of the Prime Minister of Jordan, Dr Hani Al-Mulki, the conference was inaugurated by the Minister of Information and Communication Technology, and Minister of Public Sector Development, Majd Shweikeh who made an inspiring keynote address that was appreciated



leading technology solution providers. Also in attendance was the President of the Jordan Telecommunications Regulatory Commission, Dr Ghazi Jbour; Zain Group CEO, Scott Gegenheimer; Zain Jordan CEO, Ahmad Al-Hanandeh; and Zain Group CTO, Hisham Allam.

In her opening keynote address, Majd Shweikeh said, "The holding of this important conference in Jordan by Zain Group, a regional telecom pioneer, reflects the Kingdom's success in the global digital arena and its ever-increasing attraction as a regional hub for digital innovation. Jordan recognizes the importance of the ICT sector as a key driver of economic activity, and this conference's ability to showcase the latest digital innovations will support our strategy and transition to become a knowledge-based, digital economy."

She continued, "Over the last decade, Zain has played an instrumental role in bringing the latest technologies to Jordan and across the region, enabling environment in which we are able to continue deploying cutting edge technology."

Gegenheimer concluded, "We operate in a highly competitive industry, where the margin between success and failure is very thin. We are required to push ourselves constantly, and together with trusted partners we devise new operating models to deliver the best quality service to customers. This is why events such as ZTC are so important in aligning Zain's ambitions to become a digital lifestyle provider of choice with our technology partners' technology roadmaps and expectations."

Tailored solutions

Zain is utilizing the latest technologies in the development of tailored solutions in areas such as Machine to Machine (M2M) communications, Enterprise (B2B) offerings, and Smart City connectivity, in attracting and offering its customers unique and business

ALGHANIM INDUSTRIES CONCLUDES ACTIVITIES IN THE 33RD ANNUAL NUKS - USA CONFERENCE

KUWAIT: Alghanim Industries, one of the largest private companies in the region, concluded its sponsorship for the 33rd annual conference of the National Union of Kuwaiti Students (NUKS) USA branch, which took place from 24 to 27 of November in San Francisco, California, under the slogan 'Youth Awareness for a Lasting Nation'.

The conference was conducted under the patronage of the Minister of Education and Higher Education, Dr Bader Al-Essa, and was attended by the Ambassador of Kuwait in the United States, Sheikh Salem Al-Sabah, as well as a number of prominent media figures and representatives from several private sector companies.

Alghanim Industries participated in the career fair, where representatives of the company hosted a workshop to help students build a strong resume. They were also present at the company's booth during the fair to answer students' questions about the company and available job opportunities. With the conclusion of the conference's activities, Alghanim Industries held a draw as part of the "Night Show", and presented the winners with valuable gifts from X-cite.

Regarding Alghanim Industries' sponsorship of this year's NUKS con-

ference, Head of the Corporate Communications Department at Alghanim Industries, Abdullateef Abdulazeez Al-Sharikh, said: "We participate in this conference every year because it is the largest gathering of Kuwaiti students in the United States, and it gives us an opportunity to interact directly with these exceptional students. We at Alghanim Industries recognize the importance of education, and that is why we dedicate many of our Corporate Social Responsibility initiatives towards it. We also continuously train and develop our employees through our inhouse learning and development department. We wish all of our students in the United States the best of luck during their studies and wish them success in their professional careers. Our youth have huge potential, and we would be happy to have them as Alghanim Industries interns or employees in the near future." The company has been actively

working to increase its Kuwaiti workforce through a variety of initiatives. One example is the Alghanim Future Leaders Program, which is a special program to develop the professional skills of talented Kuwaitis who have recently graduated from college. In addition, the Kuwaiti Mentoring Program gives Kuwaiti employees the opportunity to develop their leadership capabilities through the engagement and counsel of the company's senior leaders. Building a strong Kuwait workforce is a strategic priority for the company, and its participation in the NUKS conference is an important part of these efforts.

The sponsorship of the annual NUKS conference in the United States comes as part of Alghanim Industries' Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) program, which is committed to empowering the underprivileged, supporting education and encouraging entrepreneurship. It is worth noting that the company was the Strategic Sponsor for the fifth annual Tmkeen Youth Symposium, an initiative that provides youth with valuable insights about entrepreneurship from industry leaders, academics and experts, and was held under the patronage of the Emir, H.H. Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah. The company is also the largest supporter for INJAZ-Kuwait, as it encourages its employees to volunteer regularly in INJAZ's different programs. In addition to being a platinum sponsor of "ArabNet Conference" and providing free event tickets to 100 university students in Kuwait.



Alghanim Industries' team is pictured with Ambassador of Kuwait in the US Sheikh Salem Al-Sabah.

Zain Group CEO Scott Gegenheimer speaks during the ZTC 2016 conference.



Jordan's ICT Minister Majd Shweikeh delivers her speech.

by all present. The theme of ZTC 2016 is 'Moving Forward', and will focus on Zain's strategy execution as it continues to transform into a digital lifestyle provider of the highest caliber, investing extensively in network and technology upgrades to ensure its individual and enterprise customers receive the best and simplest digital mobile experience.

The event saw the attendance of over 700 telecom professionals made up of Zain technology, innovation and product development personnel from across its eight operations as well as representatives from 60 of the world's and we recognize the importance of both the public and private sector working closely together to fully exploit the potential of digitization for the benefit of society at large."

The opening session also saw keynote presentations made by Zain's primary technology partners, Ericsson, Huawei, and Nokia, each of which showcased their strategic technology offerings in support of Zain's digital transformation aspirations. In addition, renowned consulting firms Detecon and Strategy and made presentations focusing on the experiences of global operators in their digital transformation journey. The keynote address presented by Fadi Ghandour, the Co-Founder of courier company Aramex and Executive Chairman of WAMDA Capital was well received and set the tone for the rest of the conference.

Innovation

Highlighting the significance of the event being held in Jordan and the importance of innovation to the company's overall strategy, Zain Group CEO, Scott Gegenheimer said, "Jordan is an appropriate backdrop in which to host ZTC 2016, given the emphasis on innovation that is driven from the Zain operation in the country, notably the Zain Innovation Campus (ZINC), and from which digital ideas are being injected into the Group in order to deliver unique digital mobile experiences for our customers."

The CEO continued, "I would like to extend a special thank you to the Prime Minister's Office, as well as the Office of Information and Communication Technology, and of Public Sector Development for their unwavering support of our efforts and the creation of an enhancing mobile solutions.

"I would like to welcome all delegates to ZTC 2016 and to Jordan. There are numerous groundbreaking developments taking place in this market and over the coming days we look forward to detailing some of them with you. We hope you take this opportunity to network and exchange knowledge, and the desire is for you to leave the event reinvigorated by the prospects that lie ahead," said Ahmad Al-Hanandeh, Zain Jordan CEO.

Hisham Allam, Zain Group CTO said, "We are always enthusiastic to bring our community of technology partners together to discuss industry developments in the context of Zain's plans, strategy, and ambitions, and we are excited about this year's event. The converged communications space is an environment in constant flux, and the ability to take stock as well as peer ahead is crucial to succeeding now and into the future. I hope all participants grasp this opportunity."

ZTC 2016 will comprise seven streams, which extend to Smart Networks; Core Evolution; BSS and OSS; Digital Future; IT Evolution; Quality of Experience; Service Innovation; and Energy Efficiency and Site Optimization, with Zain's three main technical partners - Huawei, Ericsson, and Nokia offering technical sessions at the ZINC.

A live stream of the opening and major presentations of the event is being provided to 7,000 staff across all Zain Group country operations. The conference is being comprehensively covered live on Zain's social media channels covering many aspects of the event and a dedicated website https://event.zain.com has been established.



Alghanim Industries' team is pictured with the conference's organizers.

KUWAIT AIRWAYS NETWORK INCREASES TO 37 DESTINATIONS

New routes demonstrate demand for expansion

KUWAIT: Kuwait Airways, the national carrier of the State of Kuwait, announced yesterday that two new routes have been added to its network of international destinations, with the Munich route having already started (30th of October) and Najaf, Iraq, to be added from 1st December 2016.

As part of the national carrier's fiveyear transformation plan, Kuwait Airways recently announced that it had introduced a new "Winter Schedule", which saw a revision to its departure and arrival timings across its network, increased frequencies on key routes, and is now seeing the addition of new destinations.

The addition of Munich has added to Kuwait Airways' existing network into Germany, served through Frankfurt, and is now operating three flights per week to the Bavarian capital. Including Frankfurt, this brings the total number of flights to the EU's most populous and largest economy to sev-



en flights per week. Flights to Najaf, Iraq, will start from December 1 and offer a twice-weekly service, every Sunday and Thursday.

"While we have stated that some of the immediate priorities, within Kuwait Airways' five-year transformation plan, are to consolidate and enhance our existing network; a profitable airline must always be in tune with the commercial demands of our passengers," said Rasha Al-Roumi, Chairperson and CEO, of Kuwait Airways.

"The addition of these new routes are part of a growth strategy towards a profitable and sustainable business model, as well as contributing to positioning the national carrier as the preferred airline linking Kuwait to the world," Roumi concluded.



A gift is presented to Jordan's ICT Minister Majd Shweikeh.



KUWAIT: (From left) Proffesors Redha Al-Hasan, Faiza Al-Kharafi, Mubarak Alobeidi, Ali Alshamlan, and Jassim Al-Hasan. — Photos by Athoob Al-Shuaibi

Professor Osman El-Desouqi, who has been teaching since the 1960s.

Actor Jamal Al-Radhan (left) and film producer Rashid Al-Mutawa.





KU SCIENCE FACULTY CELEBRATES 50 YEARS

By Athoob Al-Shuaibi

KUWAIT: Kuwait University's Faculty of Science celebrated its golden jubilee at the Sheikh Sabah Al-Salem Theatre in Khaldiya yesterday. The celebration was held under the patronage of KU President Prof Hussain Ahmed Al-Ansari and the current Dean of the Faculty of Science Prof Abdulhadi Bu-Olayan.

The ceremony began with a documentary depicting the journey of the faculty since its inception, and how it was restored after the liberation of Kuwait, followed by its vision of the future and the aspiration to work at the new campus of Kuwait University in Shadadiya. This was followed by a speech about early pioneers presented by Dr Mustafa Marafi, who made the audience laugh with a poem

through which expressed the special connection he has with the Faculty of Science. "The pioneers of science in the Arab world are in fact the reason why we sustain a passion for science - we learned it from them. I see this passion through the love and respect the students give us," he added. Boy scouts of Qais bin Abi Alas School then performed, and the audience cheered them by waving flags. Later, member of the higher committee and media committee Dr Arafat Al-Shuaibi gave a vote of thanks. He gave special thanks to Kuwaiti veteran actor Jamal Al-Radhan and theater and film producer Rashid Al-Mutawa for their outstanding voluntary work for the documentary. The ceremony ended with exhibitions of photography and student activities, followed by lunch.



Professor Mustafa Marafi delivers a speech.

Professors Abdul Hadi Buolayan, Bader Alomar, and Mubarak Alobeidi.





Professor Faiza Al-Kharafi is honored.

Professor Jassim Al-Hasan is honored.

Professor Ali Alshamlan is honored.



The boy scouts of Qais Ibn Abi Alas School.



Professor Fikry Khalaf, who has been teaching since the establishment of the faculty in 1966.



KUWAIT: First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah meets with the outgoing Peruvian Ambassador to Kuwait Heli Castro. — KUNA

FM RECEIVES OUTGOING Peruvian envoy

KUWAIT: First Deputy Prime Minister and Latin American nation. The meeting was Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah received yesterday the outgoing Peruvian Ambassador to the country Heli Castro. Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled heaped praise on Castro for his efforts to enhance Kuwait's ties with the

attended by Assistant Foreign Minister for the First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister's Office Affairs Ambassador Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah and other senior Foreign Ministry officials. — KUNA

FIRST DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER PRAISES ROLE OF KFH IN SUPPORTING SOCIETY

KUWAIT: First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah praised Kuwait Finance House (KFH) in recognition of its significant role in supporting the society.

The praise came on the sidelines of the bank's participation in the golden jubilee of College of Business Administration, Kuwait University in presence of former and current deans and professors, not to mention a huge number of students. KFH was accessible through its own booth in this carnival, in addition to a team of Public Relations department. Jubilee celebration is a carnival where numerous booths were set up to display stellar academic achievements of the university.

KFH's participation affirms its ongoing contributions in serving the society, yet reflects the continuing cooperation between the university and KFH as part of the latter's interest in improving the educational process.

Meanwhile, Kuwait University President Dr Hussein Al-Ansari, Dean of College of Business Administration Dr Meshari Al Hajri and officials at the university expressed their appreciation to

KFH for its pivotal role in supporting the stu- ing KFH is an example for other private institudents and the activities of the university, indicat- tions to follow suit.



KUWAIT: First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah honors KFH.



KUWAIT: This photo released by the Interior Ministry yesterday shows two suspects arrested for kidnap and rape yesterday, as well as drugs and 'sorcery material' found with them.

DUO ARRESTED FOR KIDNAP, RAPE

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: Hawally detectives arrested two citizens who kidnapped and raped a girl in Jabriya. The girl had reported earlier to police about the kidnapping that took place near her house in Salmiya, saying that she was raped in Jabriya. Both suspects had drugs on them along with material used in sorcery, the Interior Ministry said in a statement. The suspects were sent to concerned authorities.

Municipality inspections

campaigns on stores to check their date of license. A total of 1,225 stores were inspected while 123 tickets were issued. They include 52 violations commencing work before receiving a license, 44 for failure to renew the license, 15 for placing a sign without proper licenses, as well as two violations for practicing work on the roof without a prior license, said Faleh Al-Otaibi, director of inspections and municipality services follow up in Hawally.

Hawally Municipality branch carried out

for the annual development plan have finalized the fourth annual development plan (2018-2019) as a part of the second five-year plan of 2015-2016/2019-2020. After attending the annual meeting with UN organizations operating in Kuwait, Mahdi explained that the projects listed in the third annual plan 2017-2018 will be the same in the fourth annual plan 2018-2019, with the exception of projects that are already completed.

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

By A Saleh

At the UN organizations' annual meeting, Mahdi gave a presentation on the harmony between Kuwait's development plans and the UN's sustainable development goals. Mahdi also disclosed the council's secretariat general's suggestion to work on a methodology which will oblige the private sector to include its achievements in the field of sustainable development goals within the annual reports.

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DISCLOSURE STATEMENT SO FAR

positions and within six months for those

already in service when the authority's charter

60 days at the end of three years in the same

position and within 90 days after leaving any

position. Officials who delay filing their statements will be subjected to penal measures

including a KD 500-3,000 fine for delaying the

first statement. In case the delay exceeds 90

days following a warning, the official will be

dismissed from office. On the other hand, delay in filing a statement update will subject

the concerned official to a maximum KD 3,000

The statement should be updated within

Session adjourned

Municipal Council Chairman Muhalhel Al-Khaled adjourned the council's session yesterday due to lack of quorum after five members resigned to run in the parliamentary elections.

Diplomats acquitted

The court of appeals acquitted two Kuwaiti diplomats at a Kuwaiti embassy on charges of embezzling KD 299,422 yesterday. One of the diplomats had been sentenced to seven years in jail and dismissal from office, while the other had been sentenced to five years in jail and dismissal from office, along with paying back the embezzled sum and twice the amount in fines.

New airport

The Ministry of Public Works' (MPW) Assistant Undersecretary for Construction dismissal. New students Kuwait University Rector Dr Hussein Al-

delay beyond 90 days will subject an official

to a KD 3,000-10,000 fine and a possibility of

Ansary announced that the university will accept 756 new students for the second semester after it already accepted 5,913 students in the first semester for the academic year 2016-2017. Ansary justified the lower number accepted for the second semester to the university's limited capacity due to limited space and being understaffed.

Projects Ghaleb Al-Shemmari said Kuwait's new airport will be one of the world's best air-

ports and will have outstanding facilities gual-

ifying it as a pioneer in design, conserving

energy and protecting the environment. He added that MPW is keen on using new ele-

ments in the project such as modern air-con-

of the airport's electricity.

2018-2019 DEVELOPMENT PLAN FINALIZED

KUWAIT: Secretary General of the Supreme

was passed.

For the second time since Nov 21,

ditioning systems, using natural light, recycling water and reusing it in irrigation as well as using solar power to generate 10 percent

maximum of 60 days after assuming new fine and up to one year in prison, while a

Shemmari said that being a gigantic project, it needs time for preconstruction measures, which includes setting up temporary offices, topographic surveys and building the project's perimeter. In addition, Shemmari said MPW has signed a contract to build a new maternity hospital and that the project will start soon. He also noted that a tender will be offered for building a police hospital. "The ministry is also working on building a hospital for children and one for correctional facilities," he explained.

38 PERCENT EARLY DETECTION OF COLORECTAL CANCER CASES HEALED

KUWAIT: Head of the National Program for Early Detection of Colorectal Cancer Dr Fahad Al-Ibrahim announced yesterday putting the final touches on the research project dedicated to identify the rates of benign and cancerous colorectal tumors in Kuwait. He added in remarks yesterday that this project will offer a comprehensive analysis of the cancer cases that underwent early inspection in all of the country's governorates.

The rate of benign colorectal cancer cases who underwent early inspection reached 38 percent, as the cases were healed following lumpectomy through the colonoscopy. He pointed to the high turnout in early inspection of colorectal cancer since the beginning of the program till now, as a total of 70,000 nationals were admitted for the detection from various governorates.

inere are plans for establishing a special

Better health

In other news, an official at Dasman Diabetes Institute (DDI), a branch of Kuwait Foundation for Advancement of Science (KFAS), reiterated DDI's keenness on establishing partnerships with various Kuwaiti sectors to attain better societal health.

DDI holds various events in cooperation with state and private sectors, and schools in order to raise public awareness in the Kuwaiti society on the importance of healthy lifestyles and diabetes prevention ways, said Dr Ebaa Al-Ozairi, executive chairman for health sector in DDI. Ozairi made her remarks on the sidelines of the "Diabetes and Middle Eastern Diet" conference, held in cooperation with the Italian embassy to mark the Italian cultural week in Kuwait, and in presence of Italian Ambassador Giuseppe Scognamiglio.

Medical physicians and health specialists





KUWAIT: The Public Anti-Corruption

Authority received financial disclosure state-

ments from various state officials on Nov 21 and remarked that the statements so far sub-

mitted are still less than 10, said informed

sources. The sources added that after the par-

liamentary elections, 50 new lawmakers

assumed office, but only one statement was

submitted by MP Abdul Kareem Al-Kandari.

The sources highlighted that the deadline for

all officials to submit their statements is May

14, 2017, but newly-elected MPs and public

servants have to file their statements within a

Planning And Development Council Khaled

Mahdi said the secretariat teams responsible

ized center to detect colorectal cancer with the capacity of 200,000 patients which is still under study in order to achieve total protection from such a disease. The aim of this national program is to early detect the cancerous tumors and come up with a remedy before it spreads all over the patient's body, he said. Ibrahim stressed the importance of introducing colorectal cancer risk factors and disease symptoms, along with the importance of the early detection of this illness in its early stages, which gives a great hope in total cure. He appreciated the continuous cooperation and coordination between the primary health doctors and digestive tract and endoscopy units' doctors in the hospital as well as the programs' policies of spreading awareness over such a disease in the society, he said.

cannot change societies' health habits as much as the people themselves could, she said, noting that investing time and efforts in raising public awareness on such health issues as diabetes by related organizations would, eventually, result in positive and promising outcomes.

DDI is keen on continued communication with various embassies in the country to bolster mutual cooperation, Al-Ozairi said, recalling one of the Institute's special programs on growing healthy kids that was funded by the US embassy. Meanwhile, the Italian Ambassador stated that his country aims, through the ongoing Italian week, to promote ways of cultural, health, environmental, and technological cooperation with various Kuwaiti sectors. — KUNA

KUWAIT: Interior Ministry's Undersecretary Lt Gen Suleiman Al-Fahad meets with Head of Iraqi Border Forces Command Hamid Ibrahim and his accompanying delegation. — Interior Ministry photo

MOI COMMENDS SECURITY COOPERATION WITH IRAQ

KUWAIT: Interior Ministry's Undersecretary Lt Gen Suleiman Al-Fahad praised yesterday the joint security cooperation between Kuwait and Iraq under deep and solid bilateral ties. Fahad made his remarks after meeting with the visiting Head of Iraqi Border Forces Command Hamid Ibrahim and his accompanying delegation, stressing the importance of joint and regular meetings in boosting mutual

coordination, Mol said in a statement.

Such meetings also aim at overcoming obstacles and difficulties that hinder ways of cooperation between the two sides, in addition to enhancing the security readiness levels in both countries in light of current security developments in the region, he said.

Fahad conveyed to the visiting Iraqi delegation greetings of Deputy Prime Minister and

Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, pointing out the distinctive Kuwaiti-Iraqi relations. Meanwhile, Ibrahim expressed his gratitude and appreciation of Kuwait for the generosity and wellreception they received while in the country, and the friendly-cooperation atmosphere that Kuwaiti officials provided for the visiting guests. — KUNA

WB SEEKS KUWAIT'S AID TO MOLD ADEPT GENERATION

KUWAIT: It is imperative to cooperate with Kuwait to revamp educational curriculums to create a new generation capable of contributing to the development of a robust economy, the World Bank (WB) said yesterday.

These remarks were made by WB Senior Education Specialist Dr Ayesha Vawda in a statement to the press after a workshop organized by the Ministry of Education, in collaboration with the WB and a national center for the development of education.

Moreover, Vawda noted that the pros and cons of an educational reform program have been pinpointed in this workshop, in addition to potential challenges that could encumber this plan.

On Kuwait's approach to educational reforms, she said that the country has developed solid curriculums on the elementary and middle school level, which have been formed with skill and efficiency.

The WB Education Specialist also heaped praise on local school administrations for their efforts to usher in a series of educational reforms, as she noted that these schools belong to some of the world's most preeminent educational systems.

Speaking on potential challenges encountered by teachers, Vawda said some of them have not incorporated new teaching methods in order to ensure a solid education, adding that teachers should be given firm support as they help bring this new curriculum to fruition. "I hope that this new educational reforms program will help pave the way for a vibrant job market and produce students that can meet the needs of the job market," she said.

The educational reforms program is a national project that aims to ameliorate education in the country, part of a broad development plan undertaken by the Ministry of Education. With a timeframe of five years, the project is at a total cost of KD 10.6 million, with an annual KD 2.12 million budget earmarked for educational courses and workshops. — KUNA



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GOING PLACES TOGETHER

Kuwait 🗠 Times 🎫

FROM THE ARABIC PRESS

Al-Jarida

Crime

Report

CAMERA LENSES' THIEVES CAUGHT

KUWAIT: Three Egyptians who stole camera lenses worth KD 50,000 were busted by criminal detectives when they sold the lenses at low prices. A Ukrainian told police about the missing lenses, and detectives found the store was opened by a key and not broken into. They investigated other stores selling similar lenses, which led them to the accused.

Muggers arrested

A bedoon and an Iraqi who attacked expats and stole their money and phones in Hawally and Salwa were arrested in Salmiya following extensive investigations. The victims identified the suspects in a lineup. They will be sent to concerned authorities for further legal action.

Harasser beaten

A citizen beat a man who was harassing his wife in a Jahra mall, until police arrived. Both men were taken to the police station where two cases were lodged - one against the harasser, and another against the two for fighting.

Drugs

The odor of drugs exposed a drug user wanted over a rape case. Ahmadi police noticed a car parked near a checkpoint, and on approaching it, the smell wafted through the open window. The suspect was arrested and taken to the proper authorities to face charges.

Indecent acts

Police arrested a couple in the parking lot of a mall after security men noticed a car shaking in an unusual way. They called the police, who found a man and his girlfriend inside, who were arrested for indecent acts.

KD 40 theft

A Bangladeshi man was attacked with a metal pipe by his compatriot, who caught him stealing KD 40 from him. The injured was taken to Mubarak Hospital while the attacker was taken to Salmiya police station. —Al-Rai and Al-Anbaa





الأنباء

NO RIGHTS TO ABUSE

So what if you are my father. That does not mean you can rob me", that was a famous line said by the iconic Egyptian comedian Adel Imam to his father, Nazeem Sha'rawi in the famous 1970s 'School Rioters' play. Such a remark might sound totally strange to the Arab world whereas in America even inside their homes people are subjected to law. For example, a Muslim husband is held accountable if he assaults his wife even after producing one thousand religious fatwas allowing Muslim husbands to beat their wives.

A while ago, news flew around about celebrity Angelina Jolie's child abuse accusations against her ex-husband Brad Pitt, and claimed that he had beaten up his son as a result of a fight between them on a flight. So, the FBI, the highest investigation authority of that great country, got involved and stated that it was gathering information about the alleged incident. The child and family authority in Los Angeles interrogated the famous Hollywood star until he was proven innocent. It was almost like the US was on the verge of mobilizing a flight carrier to prevent a father from beating his rebellious kid.

A friend once shared a story with me, saying that when he was young, and whenever he committed a mistake, news about it would reach his neighbors and he would receive double of the penalty he received from his father. This happened because the neighboring parents believed that they were responsible for disciplining all the children in the neighborhood. This meant that, as a child, you had to put up with your parents' double measures and accept child abuse, which, according to WHO, has lifelong physical and psychological impact on children and can act as barriers to socio-economic development in any country.

—Translated by Kuwait Times

A message to those I know

الجريدة

By Ali Mahmoud Khajah

When the provided and t

Relating to them is easier because I went to the same school as they did in the same period. I might have even studied with them at university or met them on a football pitch or a park when we were young. We might have even sat a table apart in some restaurant during the 1990s. We might have even shopped from same stores. We share a lot in common which makes it lot easier to address them today.

Willingly or unwillingly, you now represent our thoughts, aspirations and vision of our imminent country. Just like us, you expressed dissatisfaction with the current situations. We shared ups and downs together. That is why I expect a different performance from you. Many people will try to twist your stances to their own interests. They will treat you in ways you might surrender to them turning you into losers.

You will be intellectually intimidated on social media networks in attempts to direct your opinions in favor of theirs. They will try to keep you busy with pettty issues concerning tumults, prevention and conflicts that you have nothing to do with. Lead the country in the best possible way because people preferred you to many veteran iconic politicians, so that you could bring some change. You will probably err and make decisions that won't appeal to us, but only if you are not followers or directed in such stances even if they were wrong, you will be respected.

Kuwait will never face any regional threats if you manage to unite the society instead of dividing it. No one will ever succeed in creating a ruckus, if you face such attempts firmly. Work with unity. Think and make decisions together. Your first priority should be our country's future. You can make these dreams come true. Finally, I would like to point that the so-called boycotters have gone leaving no trace. The only remains were a few loyal individuals who still believe it is the only way of salvation, while the others only boycotted showing up at polling centers but worked as campaign members for whoever.

—Translated by Kuwait Times



Al-Anbaa

By Salah Al-Sayer

GULF BANK WELCOMES RED ACCOUNT'S DRAW WINNER

KUWAIT: Gulf Bank welcomed Mohammad Faisal Mofarej Al-Hajeri, the 9th winner of the monthly cash draw for the Red Account 2016, at the head office at Gulf bank. Manal Barakat, Manager, Consumer Banking at Gulf Bank congratulated him on winning the KD1,000. Commenting on his win, Hajeri stated that "the draw took place on my birthday and I was pleasantly surprised to win the draw."

New Red Account customers who open or transfer their student allowance will be eligible to enter the monthly cash draws for a chance to also win up to KD 1,000. In addition, the quarterly car draw will be for 1 lucky winner who will have a chance to win a new Escalade Cadillac. For further information about Gulf Bank's red 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.

MODERN HOME 2016 KICKS OFF DECEMBER 21

KUWAIT: Kuwait International Fair Company (KIFCO) started preparations for a new edition of its 'Modern Home



Mariam

Al-Doussery

2016' exhibition, which is due to be held in the period of December 21-30, 2016 at the Kuwait International Fairground in Mishref.

Speaking on the occasion, the exhibition's manager Mariam Al-Doussery stressed that modern household items including furniture, bedrooms, beds, mattresses, blankets, kitchens, kitchen accessories, security systems against theft and fires, smoke detectors and surveillance cameras will be displayed during the exhibition.

"The exhibition will be a good chance for companies to compete in displaying their products including furniture, kitchen equipment, gardening gear, aluminum shutters and windows, carpets, curtains, decoration materials, paintings, metal works, swimming pools and illumination from all over the world at very competitive prices," Doussery added. She announced that registration to take part in the exhibition is still open, adding that a huge publicity campaign is planned to promote the event in various media outlets and social media networks.

BURGAN BANK SUPPORTS INT'L Day of People with Disabilities

KUWAIT: Burgan Bank proudly announces its second sponsorship of 'The International Day of People with Disabilities', which is being organized by the "Ideal Education School" for students with special needs. This is an annual event being held with an aim to provide a frame for considering how people with disabilities are included in the society by promoting the removal of all types of barriers.

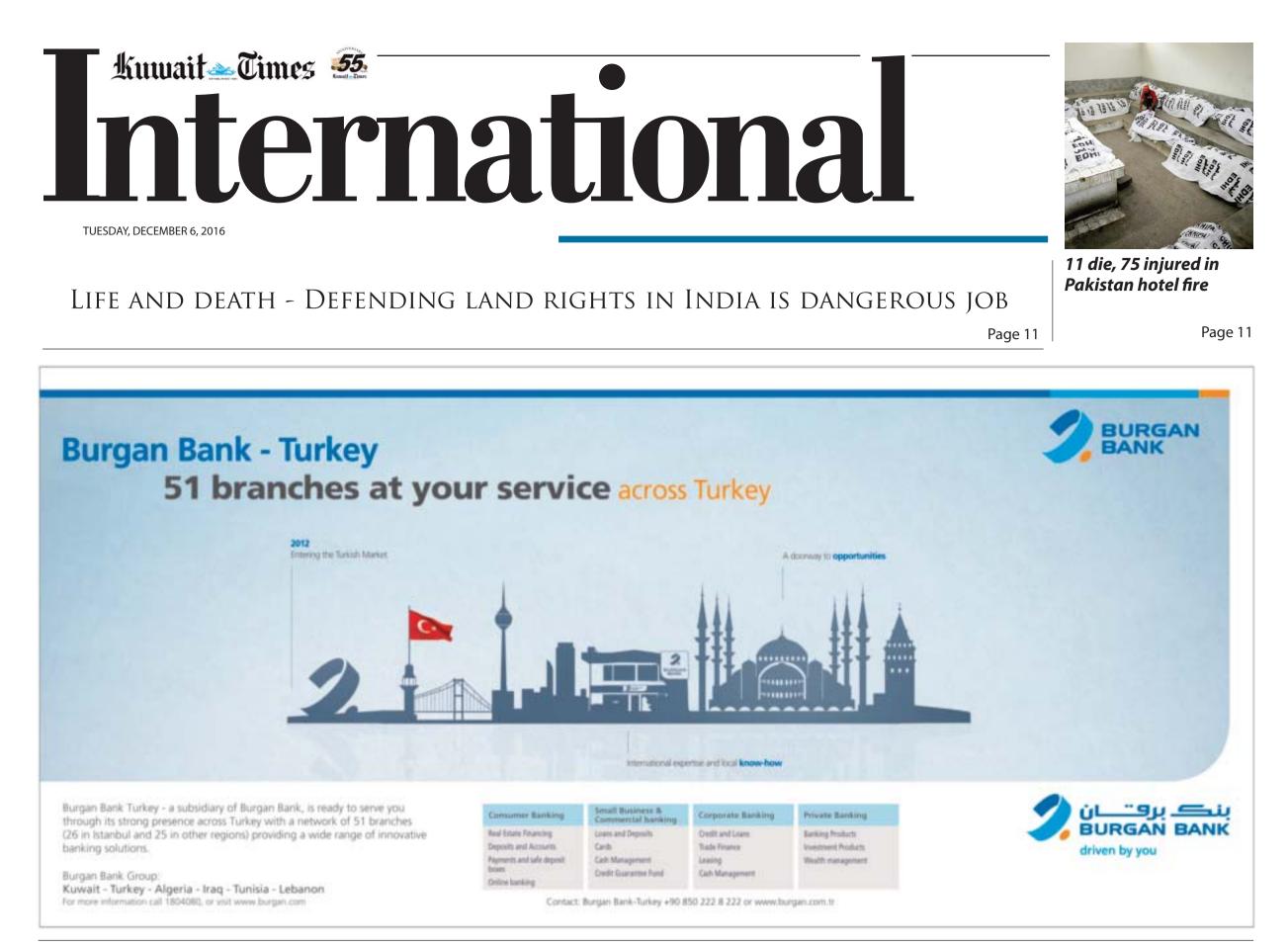
The event involved the participation of students and their parents in a series of programs and entertainment activities,

while the bank was there to show its solidarity and support for people with special needs in Kuwait. The event included displaying the special needs students' handmade arts and crafts which they have been working on during the year. Additionally, the event will be presenting an opportunity to people with disabilities to ensure that their rights, concerns and contributions are fully taken into consideration; this is in addition to helping in removing barriers to create an inclusive and accessible society for all.

It is worth mentioning that Burgan Bank's support to this initiative falls under its recently launched full-fledged community program entitled 'ENGAGE' - Together to be the change. This program sheds light on important aspects affecting every segment of the society by promoting social welfare through educational, cultural, social and health initiatives. Burgan Bank's approach to 'ENGAGE' begins with a vital principle that as a Kuwaiti financial institution, its conduct and policies should be aligned with the needs and interests of the Kuwaiti society.



KUWAIT: Ahmadi Governor Sheikh Fawaz Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah honored Ahmadi rescue police department officers yesterday for their efforts in serving the governorate's residents.



ISLAMIC STATE LOSES LIBYA BASTION

TRIPOLI: Forces loyal to Libya's UN-backed government said yesterday they had seized full control of Sirte from the Islamic State group, in a major blow to the jihadists who battled for months to retain their bastion. The battle for the coastal city, which was the last significant territory held by IS in Libya, cost the lives of hundreds of loyalist troops as well as an unknown number of IS fighters. "Our

SIRTE - FROM GADDAFI TO IS AND NOW TO GOVT FORCES

TRIPOLI: Sirte, where Libyan pro-government forces said yesterday they seized full control after more than six months of

attempt to seize the fields to fund its North Africa operations. The United States on August 1 carried out its first air

parliament there, but eventually gave up on his plans. Gaddafi was captured and killed in the town on October 20, 2011.

belong to four major tribes including the Kadhadfa tribe of Gaddafi. IS ouster The forces of Libya's internationally backed Government of National Accord (GNA) launched an offensive to retake Sirte on May 12 and were able to enter the city on June 9. On August 11, progovernment forces captured IS's headquarters at the Ouagadougou conference centre, which Gaddafi erected to host international and African summits and serve his pan-African policy. It was the birthplace of the African Union with the signing of the Sirte Declaration in 1999. Loyalist forces pushed the jihadists into a handful of residential areas, gradually taking them one by one in the face of

fierce resistance including a wave of sui-

cide bombings. — AFP

forces have total control of Sirte," Reda Issa, a spokesman for pro-government forces said. "Our forces saw Daesh (IS) totally collapse."

Forces allied with the country's unity government launched an offensive to retake the city on May 12, quickly seizing large areas of the city and cornering the jihadists. But IS put up fierce resistance with suicide car bombings, snipers and improvised explosive devices. "Daesh has totally collapsed and dozens of them have given themselves up to our forces," said a statement on the loyalist forces' official Facebook page. The capture of Sirte boosts the authority of the UN-backed Government of National Accord (GNA), which was launched in Tripoli last March but whose legitimacy is contested by a rival administration based in eastern Libya.

The United States started a bombing campaign in August at the request of the GNA to help local forces recapture the city, seized by jihadists in June 2015. As of December 1, US warplanes, drones and helicopters had conducted 470 strikes. Libya descended into chaos following the NATO-backed ousting of longtime dictator Muammar Gaddafi in 2011, with rival administrations emerging and well-armed militias vying for control of the country's vast oil wealth. The infighting and lawlessness allowed extremist groups such as IS to seize several coastal regions, giving the jihadists a toehold on Europe's doorstep.

Far longer than planned

The fall of Sirte-Gaddafi's hometown located 450 kilometers east of Tripoli-represents a major setback for IS, which has also faced a series of military defeats in Syria and Iraq. Iraqi forces are advancing on the IS stronghold of Mosul, while a US-backed Kurdish-Arab alliance last month launched an offensive to retake Raqa, the Syrian capital of the "caliphate" the jihadists proclaimed in 2014. "Losing it (Sirte) could cause a momentary loss of traction, but a lot will depend on what happens in Syria and Iraq and whether the ungoverned spaces in Libya will remain such," said Mattia Toaldo, a Libya expert with the European Council of Foreign Relations.

Toaldo said IS's failure to hold Sirte was due in part to the group's lack of resources in Libya. "They didn't manage to seize any considerable source of revenue," he said. "What they found in the banks in Sirte was not comparable to what they found in Mosul, nor was there an equivalent weapons stockpile." The fight for Sirte took far longer than originally planned, but signs emerged in recent days that IS fighters were about to capitulate. The Pentagon last week said that IS holdouts were staging a "last stand" in their former stronghold. Pro-GNA forces on Sunday said they had even arrested several jihadists attempting to swim to safety.

Almost seven months of fighting left nearly 700 GNA fighters dead and 3,000 wounded. Issa said in November that the final assault was held up mainly because it would "result in very intense street fighting and Daesh is determined to defend its positions right down to the last square metre." Claudia Gazzini, an analyst with the International Crisis Group think-tank, said that jihadists who escaped from Sirte had likely moved south to Sebha, closer to Libya's borders with Algeria and Niger. Others from the group are believed to be operating in Benghazi and possibly in and around Tripoli. "Despite the demise of IS in Sirte we cannot rule out that they will continue to have cells in other parts of the country," Gazzini said. — AFP fighting, had been in the hands of Islamic State group jihadists since 2015. Here is background on the city:

Strategic importance

Sirte is on the Mediterranean coast roughly half-way between Libya's capital Tripoli in the west and second city Benghazi in the east. A major port city, it lies just 350 kilometers from the Italian coast. It is also a mere 150 kilometers west of Libya's main oil-producing area and export terminals. Oil is a vital source of income for Libya, and several groups have fought to control its wells and pipelines since the fall of dictator Muammar Gaddafi in 2011. The presence of IS in Sirte had raised fears it would

strikes on the town, at the Libyan unity government's request, with President Barack Obama saying defeating IS there was in America's national interest. US warplanes, drones and helicopters conducted more than 460 strikes.

Gaddafi's birthplace

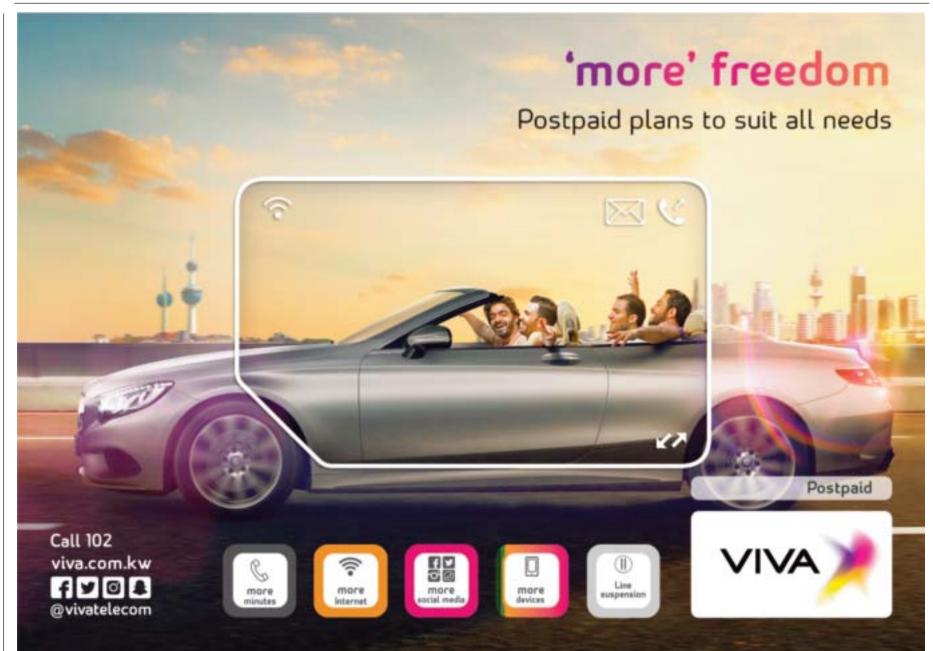
Gaddafi, who was born in Sirte in 1942, made great efforts to turn his birthplace into the capital of his "Jamahiriya"-a "state of the masses" run by local committees. He created a new province around the town in addition to the three existing regions of Cyrenaica in the east, Fezzan in the southwest, and Tripolitania in the north. In the 1990s, he ordered ministries to be created in Sirte, and even set up a

Black flags

After Gaddafi's ouster, Sirte was largely left to its own devices until it fell into the hands of IS jihadists in June 2015. The black flag of IS was raised over public buildings and jihadists roamed the streets in pickup trucks to check that people were praying at the correct times and women were not venturing out of the home without a male minder.

Population

Sirte used to have about 120,000 residents, most of them in the centre or spread along the coast. Loyalist forces said most had managed to flee following the IS takeover. Most people in Sirte



<u>Kuwait Times 55</u>______ INTERNATIONAL _____

AS KURDS EYE STATEHOOD, A BORDER TAKES SHAPE

trenches that snake across northern Iraq stretch toward Syria, some accompanied by newly paved roads lit by street lamps and sprawling checkpoints decked with Kurdish flags. The fighters here insist it isn't the border of a newly independent state - but in the chaos of Iraq that could change. Construction began in 2014, when this marked the front line between USbacked Kurdish forces, known as the peshmerga, and the Islamic State group, which had swept across northern Iraq that summer, routing the army and threatening the Kurdish autonomous region. Since then, a more permanent boundary has taken shape as Kurdish aspirations for outright independence have grown.

Fault-line of new conflict

The frontier could mark the faultline of a new conflict in Iraq once the extremists are defeated. A similar process is underway in Syria, where Syrian Kurdish forces have seized large swathes of land from IS. "It was our front line, now it's our border, and we will stay forever," said peshmerga commander and business magnate Sirwan Barzani. He's among a growing number of Kurdish leaders, including his uncle, the Kurdish region's President Massoud Barzani, who say that lands taken from IS will remain in Kurdish hands.

The Kurds have been at loggerheads with the Baghdad government over the so-called disputed territories -

MAKHMUR: The sand berms and lands stretching across northern and eastern Iraq - since the 2003 US-led invasion. Article 140 of the Iraqi constitution says their fate should be decided by a referendum, but such a vote has yet to be held, and as the Iraqi army collapsed in 2014, the Kurds moved in. They took control of the long-disputed northern city of Kirkuk that summer, ostensibly to protect it from IS. Since then, with the aid of USled airstrikes, the Kurds have taken territory equivalent to 50 percent of their recognized autonomous region.

> "After the defeat of IS, Sunnis will dispute the Kurdish claims, the Shiites in Baghdad will dispute both the Sunni claims and the Kurdish claims, and the possibility of conflict there is real," said Anwar Anaid, dean of social sciences at the University of Kurdistan Hewler. "What happens on the ground depends on the circumstances. There is a real Kurdish wish to go for independence." Peshmerga commander Aref Taymour said that once IS is driven from the northern city of Mosul, the Kurds will negotiate a new border with Baghdad.

Liberated by blood

But he added that "lands that have been liberated by blood, we have no intention to give them back to the federal government." Another Kurdish official, Dishad Mawlod, was even more direct, describing the fortifications as the "future borders of Kurdistan." "We're not violating any



MOSUL: Iraqis who fled fighting between Iraqi forces and Islamic State militants wait next of their pickups to cross to the Kurdish areas through a sand barrier created by Kurdish forces to demarcate their border, in the Nineveh plain, northeast of Mosul, Iraq. — AP

international laws, nor are we occupying anyone's land," he said. Barzani, the regional president's nephew, said the Kurds no longer trust the Iraqi

lost nearly a third of it to IS two and a half years ago. "Of course there will be another Daesh," he said, referring to IS

army to defend the country, after it by its Arabic acronym. "None of the internal Iraqi issues have been resolved," he added, saying the Kurds "will be ready." In the meantime, he

hopes for talks on independence as early as next year. "It's a bad marriage, let's get a divorce," he said. The Baghdad government is staunchly opposed to Kurdish independence, and Prime Minister Haider Al-Abadi savs he expects the Kurds to abide by an agreement that they withdraw from areas captured since the start of the Mosul operation in October.

"Some Kurdish politicians are saying otherwise. But they are not responsible people and they are not controlling events on the ground," Al-Abadi said in an interview with The Associated Press last week. The two sides have set the dispute aside as they work together to drive IS from Mosul, Iraq's second largest city, but the construction along the frontier is continuing. On one road south of Mosul, peshmerga fighters were building cinderblock stairways leading to offices in trailers, as guard posts were being set up further along the line.

Aware of the sensitivities, Iraqi soldiers and Kurdish fighters stationed along the frontier are reluctant to speak about the matter. "You can't take pictures, and whatever you do, don't call this a border!" a peshmerga fighter said as he came sauntering out of a checkpoint complex along the frontier. He refused to give his name. At a nearby army position, Iraqi soldier Hussein Jassem acknowledged that "there is a border between us and the peshmerga." He declined to comment further. — AP

FLEEING THE FIGHTING, SYRIANS **DESCRIBE TERRIFYING CHOICES**

CIVILIANS FEAR BOMBS IN REBEL ENCLAVE, ARREST IF THEY FLEE

BEIRUT: As Syrian government forces advanced into Aleppo's rebel-held Al-Sakhour district, Hasan al-Ali said he faced the choice of staying put and being caught by the army, or fleeing into a shrinking rebel enclave under relentless bombardment. A father of three children, he opted for the latter, though food, fuel, water and medicine are running critically low in rebel-held areas, such is his fear of the Syrian government that insurgents have been trying to unseat for more than five years.

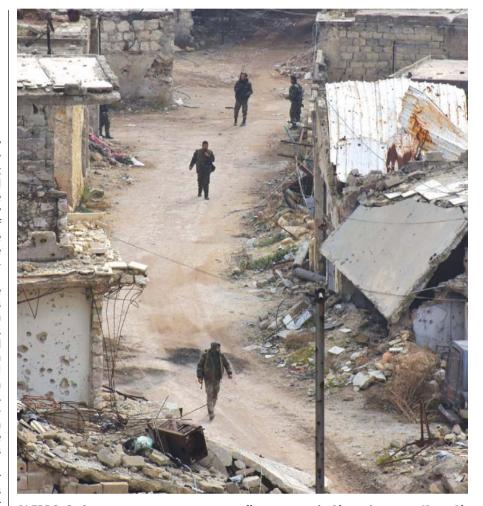
"I didn't take anything with me. I took the kids, ran to my car, and left... We took the decision at the final hour, because the army could have swooped in at any moment," the 33-yearold said, speaking in eastern Aleppo. For Ali and

crossed the front line. He spoke to Reuters TV at a disused cotton factory in Aleppo's Jibreen area, one of two former industrial facilities opened by the government to receive the displaced.

The divergent paths chosen by Ali and Ahmad illustrate the terrifying choices that have faced civilians fleeing one of the most ferocious battles of the Syrian war, with President Bashar al-Assad poised for his biggest triumph of the conflict so far. Both the rebels and the government have accused each other of manipulating Aleppo residents' fears to their own advantage. The military say rebels spread false reports of government abuses to deter people from leaving rebel areas. Rebels in turn say that people who speak of mistreatment by

For those remaining in districts held by rebels, conditions are worsening, aggravated by the shortage of basic goods and the constant danger of bombardment in civilian areas and fighting near the quickly shifting front lines. "We had a lot of starvation. They were giving us every day or two days a bag of bread, so five loaves of pitta bread," said a woman who gave the name of Um Ali, or 'Ali's mother', who had fled to the government sector from her home in Jeb Al-Qubba district.

After the army has finished checking the identity papers of her and her family, she hopes they can move in with her brother in a western district of Aleppo that is in government hands. Many of those who chose to remain in rebel areas believe that checks of identity papers are a prelude to mass arrests, torture and extrajudicial killing, citing previous media reports of such action - all dismissed by Damascus as fabricated. The Observatory said on Wednesday the government had detained hundreds of people. A Syrian military source denied that, and said that while





HOMS: An opposition fighter from the Sham brigade guards a position on the front line during clashes with government forces in the village of Teir Maalah in Syria's central Homs province yesterday. — AFP

thousands of others in the areas that fell to the army in recent days, the danger and deprivation of east Aleppo seem a safer bet than the imprisonment or enlistment into the military that they fear if they moved to government areas. But as some fled deeper into Aleppo's remaining rebel districts, others decided instead to risk a perilous crossing of the front lines into government-held parts of the city, seeing it as a safer option than staying with the outgunned rebels.

"I hope Syria will return to the way it was, and people get back security and peace like before," said Abed al-Salam Ahmad, who crossed to the government sector with his wife and six daughters after their house was hit by a shell. The former construction worker said conditions were so bad that even animals would not endure them, and that inhabitants were badly treated by east Aleppo's rebels - something the rebels deny. His family fled at dawn, braving gunfire as they

insurgents after fleeing their territory are acting out of fear of authorities.

Starvation

Since the army swept through the northern part of the rebel enclave a week ago, capturing several large, populous districts, at least 30,000 people have fled across the front lines from the rebel areas, the UN's relief coordinator OCHA said. Thousands of others - the numbers are more difficult to calculate because international bodies are not present in rebel-held east Aleppo retreated further into the insurgents' sector, including to the dense quarters of the Old City. OCHA estimates 5,000 had been displaced within eastern Aleppo. The UN envoy for Syria said on Saturday there may still be more than 100,000 people in rebel-held areas. The Britainbased Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said it could be as many as 200,000.

identities were being checked, nobody was being arrested.

Khalil Halabi, 35, a pharmacist from Al-Shaar district near the new front line, moved with his wife and children to the rebel-held Old City after what he described as 11 days of escalating bombardment. "The destruction is indescribable - the limbs, burnt limbs. Buildings collapsed and were burned down, mosques were destroyed completely," he said. "We lost a lot of people... through barrel bombs and rockets. Some of them died and some of them were permanently injured," he said. Others from his district fled in the other direction, seeking shelter in government areas.

Escape

For the people Reuters spoke to in Aleppo, the decision to leave home, even in the face of such deprivation and after a war that began in Syria in 2011 and arrived in their city in 2012, came as a wrench. Mahmoud Zakaria Rannan, a tailor from the city's Sheikh Najjar neighborhood who has six children and owned a small shop, said his family finally decided to leave after he was wounded when their house was shelled. "I had been in my home for 40 years, was I going to leave it in one day?" he said. The family went to the Sheikh Khudr district and then to the Old City. But as clashes continued, they decided to join his brother in government-held Adamiya.

"We have kids, and I'm injured... so we had to walk very slowly," he said. His journey included a two-hour trek through the city starting at 4 am. "There was a big group with us. They even fired on us at the airport highway." Some of those trapped inside the rebel sector may still be hoping to escape through a deal between rebels and the government, such as those that allowed thousands to leave Daraya near Damascus for insurgent-held Idlib after years of siege. "I will go to another area, I'll take my family and seek refuge in another area, a liberated area that doesn't have the regime. I have no trust at all in the regime to stay in its areas," said Ali. - Reuters



ALEPPO: Suspected Russian air strikes have killed at least 46 people in opposition-held parts of Syria, a monitor said, as the UN Security Council prepares to vote yesterday on a resolution demanding a temporary ceasefire in Aleppo. Syria's government is waging a fierce offensive to recapture all of second city Aleppo, and it has so far captured more than 60 percent of eastern districts that fell to rebels in 2012. In Idlib province, in northwest Syria, at least 26 civilians were killed in suspected Russian strikes on the town of Kafr Nabel, the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights monitor said.

An eyewitness told AFP warplanes hit several places in the town, including a market. The Observatory says it determines whose planes carry out raids according to their type, location, flight patterns and the munitions involved. The group said 18 people were also killed in suspected Russian strikes on the town of Maaret Al-Numan, where an AFP photographer saw rescue workers and residents trying to pull survivors from rubble at a market.

The monitor reported two additional deaths, one in an earlier strike on Maaret Al-Numan and another in Al-Naqir, also in Idlib. It said six civilians, four of them children, had been killed in a government barrel bomb attack on the town of Al-Tamanah in the same province. Russia, a staunch ally of President Bashar al-Assad's government, began a military intervention in support of Damascus in September 2015. Moscow says it is targeting "terrorists" and has dismissed reports of civilian casualties in its strikes.

Army advances in Aleppo

Following lengthy negotiations with a highly resistant Russia, the UN Security Council will vote on a text-drawn up by Egypt, New Zealand and Spain-calling for a truce of at least seven days in Aleppo and humanitarian access to residents trapped in the fighting. It remains uncertain whether Moscow will use its veto in the council to torpedo the measure after it proposed a renewable truce of only 24 hours, and for militant groups such as the Al-Nusra Front to be excluded.

In east Aleppo, government forces advanced against rebels, taking three neighborhoods and pushing into a fourth, state media and the Russian defense ministry said. The army and allied forces are nearly three weeks into an operation to recapture all of the city, divided between regime and rebel forces since 2012. Tens of thousands of civilians have fled the offensive, which has made steady gains and threatens to deal Syria's opposition its worst defeat in the five-year civil war. State television said late Sunday the army had captured the districts of Karm Al-Tahan and Myessar and advanced into the Qadi Askar neighborhood. — AFP

ALEPPO: Syrian pro-government troops walk on a street in Aleppo's eastern Karm Al-Jabal neighborhood as they advance towards Al-Shaar neighborhood yesterday during their offensive to retake Syria's second city. — AFP

IN ALEPPO, DREAMING OF HOME BUT FINDING ONLY THE RUBBLE

ALEPPO: Kafa Jawish hadn't slept in days, daydreaming of seeing her home in east Aleppo for the first time in four years, but when she arrived she found little more than rubble. The 36-year-old was among hundreds of Syrians returning to east Aleppo in recent days after the army recaptured large swathes of the city from rebels and encouraged residents to visit neighborhoods and homes they left years earlier.

She could barely contain her excitement as she sat on a government bus heading to her neighborhood of Haydariya in northeast Aleppo, recaptured by the army earlier in the week. "I left my house four years ago and I'm just so happy to be going to see it, I haven't slept for three days because I'm so excited," she said as the bus wound its way from western Aleppo. "I want to ululate with happiness when I see my house safe and sound," she said, dressed warmly in a black coat and headscarf that framed her smiling face.

Stuffed into a bus crowded with other passengers, she and her husband Tajeddin Ahmed discussed their plans to return home, after years living in the Syriac Quarter in central Aleppo. "I'm going to go back to living in my house no matter what condition it's in," she said firmly. "We're tired of paying rent, we miss our house and our families and our neighbors." The couple fled Haydariya in July 2012, when rebels entered the city, leaving at dawn one morning without any of their belongings and moving into the ancient Syriac Quarter. More than half of Syria's population has been displaced internally or abroad by the conflict that began with anti-government protests in March 2011 before spiraling into a war that has killed over 300,000 people.

Shocking destruction

"I want to go back to the house that I lived in with my family and go back to living together safely and happily," said Ahmed, 45. "I'm really hoping we'll find the house in good shape." His phone rang as they talked: An old neighbor who couldn't leave work asked Ahmed to check on his house too. As the bus set out, Jawish expressed hope that her neighborhood might be relatively untouched, reasoning it was far from the frontlines that saw the worst fighting. East Aleppo has seen some of the worst violence of the war, and has been pounded by the army since it begar an operation to recapture the city in mid-November. As the bus edged closer to Haydariya, Jawish's smile dropped away, and she and Ahmed fell silent. Along the road, buildings were partially or fully collapsed, windows long blown out and furnishings destroyed or looted.

The route itself was cratered in places, and the bus bounced as Ahmed stared grimly out of the window, murmuring prayers. Jawish tried to pick out places that held memories, spotting an area she used to picnic with her husband. Growing impatient with the bus's slow, careful progress, she tried in vain to convince her husband to get out and walk the rest of the way so she could get to her house quicker. But when they finally arrived, she burst into tears at the sight of their building, parts of the length of one side of it completely gone, leaving the inside exposed to the elements.

Old life 'a memory'

Most of the windows were blown out, along with their frames, the front door was missing and a stack of broken tiles was piled up in the doorway. Unable to enter the damaged building, the couple stood on tiptoes to peer in through a ground floor window at their old apartment. "We were so optimistic, I thought I was going to ululate when we arrived, but now we've found it like this, uninhabitable," she said tearfully. "We spent years working to make a home, buying things for it, bit by bit, until we had a washing machine and a fridge, and now there's nothing in it and the house is destroyed. Oh God."

She described the concerts that once took place at their house, with people playing the lute and singing. "When I look at the house I remember all those beautiful moments." Ahmed appeared stunned as he looked on, repeating over and over: "Thank God for our health and wellbeing." "We sacrificed so much to make this house our home, how will we start over again?" Jawish asked. "I know that our relatives will all be in the same situation as us, who will help us?" The couple left to walk through the neighborhood, checking on the homes of their neighbors, all similarly damaged and gutted. Their old life, Jawish said, "has become just a memory". — AFP

AFTER CASTRO DEATH, RAUL SUCCESSOR WAITS IN THE WINGS

Cuba is 15 months away from seeing his brother, Raul, give up the presidency. For the first time in almost 60 years, the president won't be named Castro. The man in line for the job is Vice President Miguel Diaz-Canel, who is relatively young at 56, outside the small circle of guerrilla war veterans and not a family member. The grey-haired Diaz-Canel, who favors jeans or more formal suits and ties, has been a discreet communist party operator who lacks Fidel Castro's charisma and Raul's military experience.

But he has been "a good soldier in the shadows," Christopher Sabatini, an international policy lecturer at New York's Columbia University said. President Raul Castro named Diaz-Canel as his deputy in 2013. While Raul Castro looks healthy at 85, he has vowed to step down in February 2018 during the next communist party congress, though he would likely remain the party's chief. His brother, who was buried on Sunday after dying on November 25 at age 90, clung to power from 1959 until an illness forced him to hand the presidency to Raul in 2006.

Tall and affable, Diaz-Canel lacks the oratory skills of Fidel Castro but Raul gave him a ringing endorsement when he named him vice president in 2013. "Comrade Diaz-Canel is neither a novice nor an improviser," Raul Castro said. The electronics engineer is an advocate of a

HAVANA: After burying Fidel Castro, more critical press and an opening of the internet on the island, where a tiny fraction of the population has web access. "Today with the development of social media ... and the internet, prohibiting something is almost an impossible pipe-dream. It doesn't make sense," the vice president once said.

> Diaz-Canel, who is from the central province of Villa Clara, gradually worked his way up the echelons of Cuba's single party. In 2003, he entered the influential 15-member politburo, a key step for any official with higher aspirations. Six years later, Raul Castro named the former university professor as his higher education minister. In March 2012, he became one of the eight vice presidents on the council of ministers. He rose to the more powerful post of first vice president on the council of state a year later, replacing veteran revolution fighter Jose Ramon Machado Ventura, 86. Since then, Diaz-Canel has often traveled abroad, either with Raul Castro or as the president's representative.

New generation

But he is not the only member of the younger generation to have risen in ranks in recent years. Foreign Minister Bruno Rodriguez, 58, was a key player in the diplomatic rapprochement with the United States and the European Union. In a sign of his growing influence, Rodriguez appeared with the Castro



HAVANA: Fidel Castro sits as he clasps hands with his brother, Cuban President Raul Castro (right) and second secretary of the Central Committee, Jose Ramon Machado Ventura, moments before the playing of the Communist party hymn during the closing ceremonies of the 7th Congress of the Cuban Communist Party, in Havana, Cuba, on April 19, 2016. — AP

family, top military officers and Diaz-Canel outside the armed forces ministry in Havana last week to watch Fidel's ashes depart on a cross-country trip to his burial place in eastern Cuba on Sunday. Rodriguez and Diaz-Canel were the

only members of the new generation of communist officials at the symbolic farewell. Another relatively young operator is Marino Murillo, 55, an economist who is in charge of the crucial but modest economic reforms that Raul Castro has implemented. Raul's only son, Colonel Alejandro Castro Espin, 51, is also gaining influence in the interior ministry. All of them are keeping a low profile. Others who appeared too ambitious in the past lost their jobs uncere-

moniously, such as former vice president Carlos Lage and former foreign minister Felipe Perez Roque.

Economy crucial

For Ted Piccone, a senior fellow at the Washington-based Brookings Institution think thank, Diaz-Canel is the natural political heir apparent. "I don't see any other rival. I don't see any other scenario, but we've also seen in the past younger leaders groomed for leadership and they've been eliminated or removed from power," he said. To help his successor, Raul Castro needs to speed up the reforms to fix the troubled economy, Piccone said. "The legitimacy of the post-Raul government will depend on a much better economic performance," he said.

Sabatini said Diaz-Canel faces "three competing pressures": The old guard in the politburo, the "younger generation of party apparatchiks who want change" and the military. But Raul Castro would be watching over him, as he would not be completely retired as party chief. "Raul's and Machado's support can prop him up" as president, said Arturo Lopez-Levy, a Cuba expert at the University of Texas. "Once he is in this position, it will be up to him to navigate successfully the task of building a consensus without humiliating any of the factions that form the Cuban leadership," he said. — AFP



DENVER: US Rep Keith Ellison (D-Minn), addresses a forum on the future of the Democratic Party featuring candidates running to be the next chair of the Democratic National committee in Denver. — AP

DEMOCRATS LOOKING TO RECLAIM MIDWEST

US DEMOCRATS TRYING TO REBUILD POLITICAL 'BLUE WALL'

DES MOINES: With the dust now settled from the election, Democrats are looking 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. Hillary Clinton's failure to hold key blocs of these voters helped seal Trump's stunning electoral victory and leaves Democrats with a gaping, perhaps long-term, hole in the party's national battle front.

Trump boasted of his accomplishment at a post-election rally in Ohio. The president-elect crowed: "We didn't break it, we shattered that sucker. We shattered it, man. That poor wall is busted up." Trump carried Michigan and Pennsylvania, where Democratic nominees had

won the previous six presidential elections. Trump also won Wisconsin, carried by Democrats in seven straight tries, and lowa, carried just once by a Republican over the same period. In each, Trump vastly outperformed 2012 GOP nominee Mitt Romney in rural areas, while also seizing more typically Democratic-voting small cities and working-class suburbs. Should Democratic voting continue to lag behind Republicans in midterm elections, as it did in 2014, the results could be devastating in two years when the party will defend Senate seats in Michigan, Wisconsin and Pennsylvania, and try to retake governorships in Iowa, Michigan and Wisconsin.

"Democrats suffered the consequences of apathy and selective amnesia over the past midterms and arrogance over the presidential electorate," said Haley Morris, a senior adviser to Democrat Gary Peters' Michigan Senate campaign, among the Democrats' few 2014 victories in the region. "We got walloped across the Midwest in 2010 and 2014. Democrats had a glimpse of what the results could look like without Barack Obama on the ticket and ignored it."

Mark Jefferson, the Republican National Committee's Midwest regional political director, said the GOP consistently focused on "blue-collar Reagan Democrats, who were heavily trending toward Trump." County-specific, unofficial national voting data tabulated by The Associated Press shows Clinton received fewer votes than Trump in places Democrats had banked on for consecutive elections, and even decades, such as Dubuque County, Iowa. — AFP

NO STATUES FOR FIDEL CASTRO, **BUT HIS IMAGE IS EVERYWHERE**



HAVANA: While Cuban President Raul Castro has promised that no monument will be erected in memory of Fidel, his brother's image has been plastered across state media since his death. Castro said the national assembly would fulfill the late communist leader's dying wish by passing a law to prohibit erecting statues or monuments in Fidel's name, or naming streets or parks after him."The leader of the revolution rejected any manifestation of a cult of personality," he told tens of thousands of people at a rally Saturday night before his brother was buried in the eastern city of Santiago de Cuba. "His attitude was consistent until the final hours of his life, insisting that once he died, his name and his image would never be used to denominate institutions, plazas, parks, avenues, streets or other public places." His ashes were entombed on Sunday inside a large, round stone with a simple plaque reading "Fidel" during a private funeral at a cemetery where other national icons are buried.

'Eternal comandante'

The sober funeral contrasted with the week-long tributes and the largerthan-life image Fidel Castro projected from the time he swept to power in the 1959 revolution until an illness

forced him to hand power to Raul in 2006. Generations of Cubans grew up watching him on television or in the flesh at the massive rallies he held across the island to deliver hours-long speeches. He was seen cutting sugarcane, showing off his pizza-making skills, playing baseball and monitoring emergency responses to hurricanes.

After he was forced to hand power to Raul following emergency intestinal surgery in 2006, he remained a presence through columns he wrote in the official newspapers. He sporadically appeared in public or in pictures alongside presidents visiting him at his house. But since his death at age 90 on November 25, his image has been ubiquitous. Cuban television has aired around-the-clock footage showing him during the various stages of his life from his bearded rebel days to his aging years, including his famous speeches.

Posters of the bearded revolutionary adorn balconies, windows and walls. A song titled "Riding with Fidel" by the popular singer Raul Torres constantly plays on television and the radio. The communist party newspaper, Granma, called him the "eternal comandante." Hundreds of thousands of people lined the streets of the island, holding his picture and chanting "I am Fidel!" as a convoy took the cedar urn containing his ashes on a four-day trip from Havana to Santiago's cemetery. Many call him a "father" of the Cuban people. "His memory will cast a shadow over Cuba for a long time," said Ted Piccone, senior fellow at the Washington-based Brookings Institution think-tank.

'I have him at home'

For his 90th birthday in August, the island's media launched a campaign called "Fidel among us" with articles, pictures, documentaries and interviews related to Castro. One university developed an eponymous smartphone app providing biographical information, quotes and famous anecdotes-on an island with very limited internet access. Although none of Cuba's 285 museums is solely dedicated to him, Castro features in several of them, including Havana's Revolution Museum, which contains a sculpture of the late comandante. One plaque in Havana with an image of Fidel Castro flanked by his comrades-in-arms adorns the corner of a building where he once gave a speech, but that's the closest thing to a statue of him. Many Cubans support their maximum leader's refusal to erect a statue of himself. "It was his wish because Fidel was a modest, humble person," said 61-year-old computer technician Tomasa Savatel. — AFP



CRUCES: A man with a tattoo of Cuba'a late leader Fidel Castro, waits for the arrival of the caravan carrying his ashes during a funeral procession that retraces the path of Castro's triumphant march into Havana nearly six decades ago, in Cruces, Cuba. — AP

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6

WHAT EU HAS PREPARED FOR BREXIT TALKS

INTERNATIONAL

BRUSSELS: British judges may upset later and stay in. The view in London is government plans to start Brexit talks no but in Brussels most think it can.. soon but whatever the Supreme Court decides after hearings this week, the EU has prepared its side of the unprecedented process.

Timeline and the waiting

Theresa May's formal notification of British withdrawal from the EU treaty under Article 50 is critical. EU counterparts rule out any negotiation before that. Article 50 sets a two-year countdown to Brexit. Without a deal Britain would be out of the EU but with many loose ends. The deadline can be extended, but only if there is mutual consent. May pledged two months ago to trigger Article 50 by late March. That would suit EU leaders who want a deal before an EU parliament election in May 2019. But London judges may upset the timetable, which could revive speculation May might use her power to delay notification to gain leverage in Brussels.

After getting May's letter, European Council President Donald Tusk would convene a summit of the other 27 national leaders within a month or two to deliver a response and agree a mandate for the executive European Commission to negotiate. One issue in arguments in Britain over how withdrawal can be triggered following the non-binding referendum in June is whether London could change its mind

The Brexit three-step

Divorce, transition, future. Barring a "cliff edge" falling out, Britain and the EU would agree withdrawal terms by 2019 and an interim deal to avoid needless disruption during negotiation of a new relationship that may take five more years. While there is a degree of consensus on what must be settled in the withdrawal treaty, which would need only majority backing among EU states, much beyond that is unclear, mainly because it is unclear what Britain will ask for. And any transition deal would depend on having some idea what it was a transition to- and it would probably have to be agreed by the 27 unanimously. Key parts of a future relationship will be terms of access to the EU single market for Britishbased firms and how far Britain will accept immigration from the continent, arbitration by EU judges and to pay into EU budgets in return for access.

The divorce

These are the EU's priorities for the withdrawal treaty: The house, bank accounts and pensions. The British state, businesses and citizens contribute to and receive from the EU budget. Negotiators need to divide the cash. After leaving, London may need to keep paying, for example to cover pensions of



LONDON: Anti-Brexit demonstrators protest outside the Supreme Court building in London yesterday on the first day of a four-day hearing. — AFP

EU staff or previously agreed but yet to be disbursed spending. The EU will resist Britain getting a share of the value of the EU's property-it didn't pay extra when it joined, they say.

The kids

More than 3 million non-British EU citizens live in Britain and more than a million Britons live elsewhere in the EU. Neither side thinks mass deportations are desirable or likely. However, EU leaders' hard line against a quick deal on this shows reluctance to give up a politically powerful card.

The borders

They need to settle customs measures for goods and probably special arrangements for the only UK-EU land border, on the island of Ireland. EU leaders fear upsetting the Irish peace settlement. But are wary lest favours for the Irish let the rest of the UK, or parts of it

like similarly anti-Brexit Scotland, end up better off out of the EU than in it.

Court cases

Among a host of lower-profile issues to be settled will be agreeing how to handle outstanding cases involving Britain at the European Court of Justice.

The negotiators

This is what in EU-speak is called Chefsache' - German for 'a matter for the bosses'. Theresa May and her 27 counterparts will take the final decisions. However, the details will first have to be worked on by legions of lesser officials. Council President Tusk, a conservative former prime minister of Poland, will hold the ring for the other 27 states, assuming his mandate is renewed in May. He is expected to set up a Brexit Working Group to keep national leaders in the loop. President Jean-Claude Juncker's European Commission will do the heavy lifting of detailed negotiation and legal drafting. Michel Barnier, a French former minister who irked London when financial services commissioner, runs the Commission's Brexit Task Force. His deputy is German trade expert Sabine Weyand. The European Parliament must approve any deal. It will be represented in talks by Guy Verhofstadt, a liberal former Belgian prime minister seen in London as an arch eurofederalist. — Reuters

SOME BRITISH COMMUNITIES 'WORRYINGLY' SEGREGATED

NEW STUDY EXPOSES 'UNCOMFORTABLE TRUTHS'



LONDON: Some UK communities are "worryingly" segregated and government failure to tackle social and economic isolation, particularly among Muslims, is playing into the hands of extremists, a government-commissioned report warned yesterday. Louise Casey, a senior civil servant, said her study exposed "uncomfortable truths" about the impact of large-scale immigration, in particular discrimination against women in some South Asian communities.

"Inequality within certain communities in these highly segregated areas is getting worse, not better," she told the BBC. Casey highlighted issues in areas which had high concentrations of Muslims of Pakistani and Bangladeshi heritage. She admitted her findings would put further pressure on Britain's 2.8 million Muslims, amid concerns about rising Islamophobia. But in a foreword to the report, she warned: "A failure to talk about all this only leaves the ground open for the far-right on one side and Islamist extremists on the other.

"Every person, in every community, in every part of Britain, should feel a part of our nation and have every opportunity to succeed in it. There can be no exceptions to that by gender, color or creed." Government officials had reportedly sought to water-down the study which was commissioned by former prime minister David Cameron last year, because of its controversial findings. Casey said that people of Pakistani and Bangladeshi origin were more likely to live in residentially segregated communities than other ethnic minority groups, pointing to areas where up to 85 percent of residents were Muslim. She warned that many people in those areas did not have the same opportunities as others across Britain, often because they did not speak English, and also because cultural and religious practices held them back. This was particularly true of women, and Casey warned that domestic abuse, female genital mutilation and forced marriage remained "all too prevalent" in some communities. "It is the misogyny and the patriarchy that has to come to an end. Leaders that are not Muslim and are Muslim need to unite around unity in this country," she told the BBC.



AUSTRIA, ITALY ELECTIONS - MIXED **BAGS OF EMOTIONS FOR POPULISTS**

VIENNA: Europe's populists greeted with like populists elsewhere, had stoked conglee yesterday the demise of Italy's premier cerns about immigration and globalization, but their enthusiasm was tempered by the vowing to "get rid of the dusty establishfailure of Austria's Norbert Hofer to become ment" and fight "Brussels centralizing power".

LONDON: British Prime Minister Theresa May leaves 10 Downing Street in London after attending a cabinet meeting there. — AP

GHANA'S CANDIDATES MAKE FINAL PUSH BEFORE ELECTION

ACCRA: With just 48 hours left before voters in Ghana head to the polls, presidential candidate Nana Akufo-Addo said the country's democracy was in a "critical space". Akufo-Addo accused the ruling party of fomenting violence as police turn a blind eye, casting doubt on the country's reputation as beacon of democracy in Africa. "We're certainly in a very critical space," Akufo-Addo told reporters at his house in Ghana's capital Accra after a rally. "It's important that these acts of violence being perpetrated by operatives of the ruling party are dealt with according to the rule of law," Akufo-Addo said. "We have definite reservations about the neutrality of the police." Fears about the erosion of Ghana's democracy have dominated the presidential campaign, with claims of voter intimidation and questions over independence of the Electoral Commission.

An exporter of gold, cocoa and oil, the West African country was once hailed as a regional growth model but has lost its lustre after taking on too much debt. During the bitter presidential campaign, New Patriotic Party (NPP) candidate Akufo-Addo criticized incumbent John Mahama for mismanaging the economy and allowing corruption to flourish. National Democratic Congress (NDC) leader Mahama has painted a radically different picture of Ghana, touting his government as an example of fiscal discipline and promising that tackling corruption will be one of his priorities if reelected.

'Winds of change'

If neither the NDC or NPP win more than 50 percent of votes, a presidential run-off will take place later in December. Elections in Ghana are often down to the wire-Akufo-Addo has lost narrowly twice before-but the economic crisis may swing voters his way. At a final NPP rally in Accra, there were echoes of Barack Obama's seminal 2008 campaign, with jubilant supporters waving huge blue "hope" flags and blowing plastic horns. Many in the crowd said they were "suffering" without jobs, describing Akufo-Addo as an "incorruptible" leader who could restore the economy and help Ghana compete with regional star lvory Coast.

"The winds of change are blowing the whole of Africa, all the corrupt leaders are being taken away," said 40-year-old Bernard Owusu."It happened in Gambia, it happened in Nigeria, and other parts of Africa, and it's time for Ghana." When Akufo-Addo took the stage, the crowd unleashed an earsplitting roar as fireworks popped overheard. "NDC is corrupt," said Margaret Darkwah, a 55-year-old decked out headto-toe in NPP paraphernalia. "So we are throwing them out." Mahama has worked to take the high road in the campaign, playing the part of statesman. "Let's continue to ignore all forms of provocation," Mahama said in a statement on Twitter over the weekend, urging Ghana to vote and peacefully "wait for the results." — AFP

'Inflammatory, divisive'

Communities minister Sajid Javid said the report was a "valuable contribution". "We need to take a serious look at the facts and must not shy away from the challenges we face," he said. But Mohammed Shafiq, chief executive of the Ramadhan Foundation, a Muslim lobby group, condemned it as "inflammatory and divisive". "Sadly in today's Britain, Muslims are seen as an easy target to attack by politicians, commentators and parts of the media without any regard for the impact this has on communities," he said. "There was no mention about the responsibility of the white community to help with integration, as many white families flee mixed areas as ethnic minorities move into a particular area."

He also noted that the government had cut funding for English language classes-one of Casey's recommendations to improve integration. The report also said immigrants should take an oath of integration with British values and society on arrival in the country, rather than waiting until their final citizenship test. Casey urged the promotion of British laws, history and values within the core school curriculum to build "integration, tolerance, citizenship and resilience". She also called for greater mixing among young people through activities such as sport, and efforts to raise employment levels among marginalized groups. — AFP

the EU's first far-right president. Topping off a 2016 that saw the shock election of Donald Trump as US president and Britain's decision to leave the EU, Matteo Renzi quit Sunday after a crushing referendum defeat.

"My experience of government finishes here," Renzi told a press conference. Many mainstream politicians were uneasy about Renzi's proposed constitutional reforms, while Italians fed up with the economy saw the vote as a chance to ditch him. But it was also a clear victory for Italy's xenophobic Northern League and the anti-establishment Five Star movement, whose leader Beppe Grillo hailed Trump's win as a "massive screw vou".

Grillo, who supports a referendum on Italy leaving the euro-zone-and therefore potentially the EU-on Sunday demanded that elections be called "within a week". Antiestablishment figures across Europe, both on the left and the right, hailed Renzi's demise. The result "adds another people to the list of those wanting to turn their backs on Europe's absurd policies (that are) plunging the continent into misery," said Marine Le Pen of the far-right National Front, who is expected to make it into the runoff in France's presidential election in May.

'Our time is coming'

Brexit figurehead Nigel Farage tweeted that the "vote looks to me to be more about the Euro than constitutional change". Farright Dutch MP Geert Wilders, topping polls ahead of national elections in March, tweeted "Congratulations Italia!" Centre-left German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier said that while Renzi "did the right thing", his topping is "not a positive message to Europe at a difficult time". Mainstream politicians reacted with relief to Austria's eurosceptic Norbert Hofer failing to become the EU's first far-right president. Hofer, Experts said the winner, ex-Greens chief Alexander Van der Bellen, exploited Hofer's ambivalent stance on Austria's EU membership in the wake of Brexit.

"Trump and Brexit had a reverse effect in Austria," Carnegie scholar Stefan Lehne said. 'The idea of Austria's possible EU exit scared them and made them choose a candidate who is not from the establishment per se but mainstream and much more pro-European." He said the election casts doubts on the "inevitability of the triumph of populism". European Parliament president Martin Schulz tweeted that the result was a "heavy defeat of nationalism and anti-European, backward-looking populism". French President Francois Hollande said Austrians "chose Europe and open-mindedness".

Impossible to deliver promises

But Hofer came close, winning 46.7 percent of the vote in the best ever national result for his Freedom Party (FPOe) after a bitter and polarizing 11-month race. Hofer called it a win for Austria's "political system". He said he would stand as an MP in the next elections and run again for the presidency-a largely ceremonial but highly coveted position-again in 2022. "Yesterday we wrote history!", said Freedom Party leader Heinz-Christian Strache, who has called German Chancellor Angela Merkel "the most dangerous woman in Europe" for her open-door refugees policy.

"2017 will be the Freedom Party's year! Our time is coming!" he said on Facebook. Le Pen congratulated Hofer for "fighting bravely" and said the FPOe would win the next general elections, due in 2018 or perhaps sooner. Frauke Petry from the right-wing populist Alternative for Germany (AfD), which has won opposition seats in 10 of Germany's 16 states ahead of federal elections in 2017, said the same. — AFP



ACCRA: A supporter rides a bicycle wearing outfit designed with colors of the opposition New Patriotic Party during the grand campaign rally of the party in Accra. — AFP

MLADIC A CENTRAL FIGURE IN GENOCIDE

THE HAGUE: Former Bosnian Serb military commander Ratko Mladic was a central figure in the 1995 massacre of thousands of Muslims from Srebrenica, prosecutors said yesterday in closing arguments in his genocide trial. Rather than the "marginalized figure" his defense attorney made him out to be, Mladic helped orchestrate the killings, prosecutor Alan Tieger told judges at the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY). "Mladic walked into Srebrenica and vowed that the time had come to take revenge on the Turks," Tieger said.

On July 11, 1995 Mladic promised to give the city to the Serbian people. In the following days, nearly 8,000 "Srebrenica men and boys, boys as young as 12 years old, had been systematically murdered," he said. Prosecutors were making their closing arguments in Mladic's trial, the last major war crimes case at the tribunal, which is winding down its work after more than 20 years. Mladic, 74, faces up to life imprisonment for two counts of genocide and nine counts of crimes against humanity and war crimes. The final hearings run through Dec 15 and a judgment is likely in 2017.

"If Mladic hadn't come to Srebrenica my son Nermin, whose birthday it is today, would still be alive, all of our families would be alive," Munira Subasic, a member of the Mothers of Srebrenica group, said outside the courtroom. Mladic was charged alongside former Bosnian Serb political leader Radovan Karadzic, who was sentenced to 40 years in prison in March. Prosecutors say they masterminded a conspiracy to "ethnically cleanse" large parts of Bosnia of Muslims and Croats and carve out a Serbian state during the violent breakup of federal Yugoslavia in the 1990s. According to the Karadzic judgment, Mladic shared a goal to "permanently remove Bosnian Muslims and Bosnian Croats from Bosnian-Serb claimed territory". Tieger quoted Mladic as telling the Bosnian Serb assembly in 1994 they had an historic opportunity to create "not any kind of state, but an all Serbian state with as few enemies as possible".

Karadzic and Mladic were indicted shortly before the end of Bosnia's war, which claimed up to 100,000 lives, but spent more than a decade on the run in Serbia before their arrest. When Mladic was caught in 2011 he was in poor health after a series of strokes, but the court found he was fit to stand trial. Established in 1993, the tribunal indicted 161 individuals from all sides of the conflict and 83 have been convicted. — Reuters

_____ INTERNATIONAL

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2016

11 DEAD, 75 INJURED IN PAKISTAN HOTEL FIRE

star hotel in Pakistan's Karachi killed 11 people yesterday and wounded 75, police said, with desperate guests jumping from windows and scrambling down knotted bedsheets to escape. The blaze at the Regent Plaza Hotel in the centre of the port megacity broke out when many guests were still asleep, with a lack of fire alarms and emergency exits leaving many trapped in their rooms. At least two Pakistani international cricketers were among the guests, one-dayers Sohaib Maqsood and Hammad Azam, though they were not believed to be seriously injured.

"The hotel had no fire safety system and no fire exit to evacuate people, they had no fire alarm," Karachi mayor Waseem Akhtar told reporters at the site. "Trapped people showed courage and made ropes of bed sheets and came out one by one, many people have been injured," hotel guest Saeed ur Rehman, himself wounded in the

KARACHI: A pre-dawn inferno at a four- fire said. Guests were left helpless, he said, for hours. Police have said it took up to three hours to bring the fire under control. "We have received 11 dead bodies and 75 injured, four women were among the dead," Semi Jamali, a doctor at Karachi's Jinnah hospital said.

Many of the victims had suffered from smoke inhalation or suffocated, Jamali said, but others had cuts or fractures suffered as they leapt from the eight-storey hotel's upper floors to safety. Some trapped by the spreading blaze had knotted bedsheets together in a desperate attempt to climb out from their rooms, with the makeshift ropes seen dangling from windows at the site.

Police Senior Superintendent Sagib Memon confirmed the death toll and said the cause of the fire was not clear, with an investigation launched. Building fires in Pakistan are often caused by faulty wiring or electrical short-circuits. — AFP



Combo photo shows (Left to right) Taiwan's President Tsai Ing-wen, US President-elect Donald Trump and China's President Xi Jinping. With Trump's latest tweets touching on sensitive issues, China must decide how to handle an incoming American president who relishes confrontation and whose online statements appear to foreshadow shifts in foreign policy. — AP

WHO COLLECTS COSTS FOR TRUMP'S TAIWAN CALL?

US-CHINA COOPERATION AT RISK

BEIJING: There are many pressure points China can push to express its anger at Donald Trump's call with Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen last week, including luring away more of Taiwan's diplomatic allies and ramping up military deployments in the Taiwan Strait. China's irritation with the call, the first by a US presidentelect or president since President Jimmy Carter switched diplomatic recognition from Taiwan to China in 1979, has mostly been directed at the self-ruled island China claims as its own.

But it could also make life difficult for the United States and its allies in the region. Shi Yinhong, head of the Centre for American Studies at Beijing's Renmin University, who has advised the government on diplomatic issues, said China was still in a wait-and-see period when it came to Trump, noting Beijing's reaction to the call had been guite restrained. But that would change if Trump continued like this in office, Shi said. "Without a doubt, if the Chinese government judges a president Trump wants to challenge the 'One China' principle followed since President Carter, China will definitely make a very strong response."

That could include policy towards North Korea, where China has been working with Washington to rein in Pyongyang's nuclear program, or in the disputed South China Sea. "Everything is possible," he said. Beijing could, for example, ease up on United Nations sanctions on North Korea, providing economic succor to a country developing missiles that could target the United States, or take a more aggressive stance to US freedom of navigation patrols in the South China Sea, where it has so far limited itself to verbal warnings.

Washington and Beijing have also cooperat-

nuclear program and on climate change, areas that Trump has said he wants to revisit to get a better deal for the US. The status of Taiwan is an unresolved issue from China's civil war, when defeated Nationalist forces fled there in 1949, posing a pointed challenge to the Communist Party's claim to rule all of China. Beijing has never renounced the use of force to bring what it calls a "renegade province" under its control, and Taiwan estimates that China has hundreds of missiles targeting the island over the narrow straits that separate them.

Punishing Taiwan

The Global Times, an outspoken and influential tabloid published by the ruling Communist Party's official People's Daily, said punishing Taiwan was the best way to convey a message to Trump. "The Chinese mainland can let Taiwan lose one or two diplomatic allies as a punishment as well as a warning. The mainland can also strengthen its military deployment," it said in editorials in its Chinese and English editions. The number of countries maintaining formal ties with Taiwan, which until 1971 held China's seat at the United Nations, has since been whittled away by China to just 22, mostly poor nations in Latin America and the Caribbean.

An unofficial diplomatic truce between China and Taiwan ended earlier this year after Tsai was elected in January, when China established ties with former Taiwan ally Gambia. Last week a large Chinese business delegation visited Panama, another Taiwan friend. Tsai says she wants peace and stability with China, but China fears she wants to push the island's formal independence, one of the core principles of her Democratic Progressive Party. China could also step up its

cians in Taiwan with trade and access deals, while excluding those from the ruling party.

'Terrible precedent'

The People's Daily overseas edition said the Trump-Tsai call set a "terrible precedent" for China-US ties and put a big question mark over a smooth transition in the relationship. Jia Qingguo, dean of the School of International Relations at Peking University and a government advisor, said the incident would help Chinese leaders get past initial uncertainty about Trump and better understand what his administration could mean for China, but "in a negative way".

"Donald Trump is hurting the relationship, and that will also hurt US interests. If he continues this when he is in office, I assume we will have more frictions - over trade, over Taiwan. This is bad for both countries." Beijing also has to bear in mind the opinion of a Chinese public brought up to insist on sovereignty over Taiwan. "Taiwan is simply a province of our China," said one user on Weibo, China's answer to Twitter. "Anywhere, anytime we can bring things to a conclusion. Have no worries about that."

China and Taiwan have nearly gone to war three times since 1949, most recently ahead of the 1996 Taiwan presidential election. Then, China carried out missile tests in waters close to the island, hoping to dissuade people voting for Lee Teng-hui, whom it suspected of harboring pro-independence views. Lee won by a landslide. In the intervening 20 years, Chinese wealth and power have grown. "China is much stronger now," said Jia, the academic and advisor. "Presumably a U.S.-China confrontation over Taiwan would have a much more negative impact on the international order and relations

KARACHI: Guests are gather outside a Regent Plaza Hotel following a fire in the Pakistan's port city of Karachi yesterday. — AFP

BEIJING FACES DECISION ON HOW TO RESPOND TO TRUMP'S TWEETS

BEIJING: Chinese leaders face a challenge: How to deal with Donald Trump. Weeks before taking office, the incoming American president is riling Beijing with confrontation and online statements that appear to foreshadow a tougher foreign policy toward China. China awoke yesterday to sharp criticism posted by Trump on Twitter, days after Beijing responded to his telephone conversation with Taiwan's president by accusing the Taiwanese of playing a "small trick" on Trump.

Trump wrote, "Did China ask us if it was OK to devalue their currency (making it hard for our companies to compete), heavily tax our products going into their country (the US doesn't tax them) or to build a masitary complex in the middl e of the

apparently prompted by China's response to Trump's talk Friday with Tsai Ing-wen, the first time an American president or president-elect is known to have spoken to a Taiwanese leader since the US broke off formal diplomatic relations in 1979.

Open hostility

So far, China has avoided responding with open hostility. Yesterday, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Lu Kang said China would have "no comment on what motivated the Trump team" to make the tweets, but said he believed both sides would continue to support a "sound and a stable bilateral relationship." "For us, for China, we do not comment on his personality," Lu said. "We focus on his p



FREIBURG: Flowers and candles sit in front of a tree close to the Dreisam river in Freiburg, Germany, where the body of a student was found. A 17year-old Afghan migrant, who entered Germany last year as an unaccompanied minor, has been arrested in connection with the killing. — AP

AFGHAN MURDER-RAPE ARREST REIGNITES THE REFUGEE DEBATE

BERLIN: The German government pleaded for calm yesterday after the arrest of a teenage Afghan asylum seeker for the alleged rape and murder of a German student triggered fresh criticism of the country's liberal refugee policy. The anti-migrant AfD party blamed the crime on the "uncontrolled" influx of foreigners, while the head of a police union warned of the "dangers that always go along with massive immigration".

But Vice Chancellor Sigmar Gabriel said the murder of the 19-year-old medical student should not be used to whip up hatred against all refugees. "Such horrible murders already happened before the first Afghan or Syrian refugee arrived here," Gabriel told the Bild newspaper. "We will not allow incitement after such violent crimes, no matter who commits them." The 17year-old suspect, who arrived in Germany in 2015

as an unaccompanied minor, was arrested in the southwestern town of Freiburg on Friday after his DNA was found at the crime scene and he was identified on CCTV. The victim was found dead on a river bank on October 16. An autopsy found that she had drowned. News of the arrest triggered strong reaction on social media with some people saying an ironic "thank you" to Chancellor Angela Merkel, whose open-door asylum policy brought a record number of migrants and refugees into Germany last year.

'Warnings written off'

The chairman of the DPoIG police union, Rainer Wendt, said the killing could have been prevented. "We wouldn't have this victim, and so many others, if our country had been better prepared for the dangers that always go along with massive immigration," he said. AfD co-chief Joerg Meuthen, whose party has made gains on rising discontent over the flood of refugees, said: "We are shocked by this crime and at the same time we see that our warnings about the uncontrolled arrival of hundreds of thousands of young men from Islamicpatriarchal cultures are written off as populist."

Germany received 890,000 asylum requests in 2015, although that rate slowed to 213,000 from January to September 2016 following a deal with Turkey and a series of border closures on the Balkan route. Public anger about the refugee arrivals has been stoked by some high-profile crimes involving migrants. During the last New Year's Eve celebrations, hundreds of women reported sexual assaults in Cologne and other German cities, with the attacks blamed largely on Arab and North African men. — AFP

LIFE AND DEATH - DEFENDING LAND **RIGHTS IN INDIA IS DANGEROUS IOB**

MUMBAI: Bhupendra Vira, an activist who tried to expose political links to illegal land dealings in Mumbai, was watching television at his suburban home one evening in October when he was shot dead. Vira, 61, had sought information under India's Right to Information Act on encroachments of public land and illegal land dealings in a city that has among the world's priciest real estate. The arrest of a former civic official and his son in connection with the killing shocked the city.

A couple of weeks later in another case, Nandini Sundar, a Delhi University professor, was charged in the killing of an indigenous villager in the restive Bastar region. Sundar had just written a book on indigenous people losing land to mining firms in eastern Chhattisgarh state. The ensuing outcry led the state to assure the Supreme Court that those charged would not be arrested before an investigation, and that it would give advance notice to them before proceeding.

The two cases highlight harassment and deadly violence against land rights activists in India, campaigners say. Land is increasingly sought in India for industrial use and development projects, as one of the world's fastest growing major economies expands. "More land is being acquired for industry by the government, sometimes forcefully, while per capita land available is declining," said E A S Sarma, an activist and former bureaucrat who has campaigned against several land-acquisition projects.

"Meanwhile, people are also more aware of their rights and civil society is more active, even as states introduce new laws to speed up acquisitions. So the conflict level has risen in recent years," he told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. Home ministry spokesman KS Dhatwalia said the ministry is aware of the incidents, including those involving Vira and Sundar, and "is taking all necessary actions as per procedure".

New battleground

In the fight for land and the environment, which UK-based watchdog Global Witness calls "a new battleground for human rights", communities worldwide are locked in deadly struggles against governments, companies and criminal gangs exploiting land for products including timber, minerals and palm oil. In 2015, more than three people a week were killed defending land, forests and rivers against industries in the deadliest year on record, according to Global Witness.

Of the 185 murders documented in 16 countries, India was among the top 10, with six deaths last year. The cases involving Vira and Sundar are just the better known ones, say campaigners. "Crimes against city-based activists receive more attention, so we have heard more of the professor and the Mumbai activist," said Colin Gonsalves, founder of the Human Rights Law Network. "But every day, many more are risking their lives in villages, in forests. They are fighting against the state and powerful corporations, and it is only going to get worse as our demand for land grows," he said. India is home to more than 104 million indigenous people, the largest such population in the world. Its fast-growing economy has led to increased demand for land for infrastructure and development, as well as for resources to feed its industry.

Conflicts related to land and resources are the main reason behind stalled industrial and development projects in India, affecting millions of people and putting billions of dollars of investment at risk, a report by the Tata Institute of Social Sciences said last month. "Unfortunately, the government believes that activists who speak for land rights or defend tribal communities are obstructing development," said Meenakshi Ganguly, South Asia director at Human Rights Watch. "Instead of addressing concerns and providing proper rehabilitation and sustainable livelihoods to affected people, the state treats human rights defenders as irritants ... (and) deems any criticism as anti-national," she said.

Atmosphere of fear

Sundar's book, 'The Burning Forest: India's War in Bastar', published earlier this year, details the decade-long conflict between the state and Maoist rebels who claim to fight for the rights of poor farmers and landless indigenous people. Sundar was also a petitioner in an earlier suit that led the Supreme Court in 2011 to order the disbanding of state-backed vigilante group Salwa Judum, which had been accused of human rights violations against indigenous people in Chhattisgarh. This year, lawyers with a local legal aid group and journalists were harassed into leaving Chhattisgarh, while chemicals were flung at activist Soni Sori's face, campaigners said. "An atmosphere of fear has prevailed for many years ... now, there's an impunity that has emboldened police and politicians," said Supriya Sharma, who has reported on the region for more than a decade. — Reuters

ABE TO MAKE HISTORIC TRIP TO PEARL HARBOR

FIRST JAPANESE LEADER TO VISIT PEARL HARBOR

TOKYO: Prime Minister Shinzo Abe is to become the first Japanese leader to visit Pearl Harbor, announcing yesterday a trip to Hawaii this month for talks with US President Barack Obama. Abe, who will be in Hawaii on December 26 and 27, will visit the site of the surprise Japanese attack on December 7, 1941, that began World War II in the Pacific. The Hawaii visit comes after Obama in May journeyed to Hiroshima, the Japanese city where a US plane dropped the world's first atom bomb in the closing chapter of the war. Nagasaki was bombed several days later. In Hiroshima 140,000 people died in the immediate blast on August 6, 1945, or later from radiation exposure. The Nagasaki bomb, dropped on August 9, killed more than 70,000 people.

Obama gave a soaring speech in Hiroshima that, while it offered no apology, was generally well received in Japan as it focused on the suffering of the atomic bomb victims. "We come to ponder a terrible force unleashed in the not-so-distant past," Obama said in his speech at a cenotaph in the now thriving city, as a handful of surviving victims looked on. "We come to mourn the dead." Obama had insisted before the trip that he would not revisit decisions made by then-president Harry Truman at the close of the brutal war, thus



TOKYO: Local television news displays Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe speaking to reporters at his official residence in Tokyo yesterday. — AFP

quashing any possibility of an apology. But as a flame flickered behind him, he said leaders had an obligation to "pursue a world without" nuclear weapons.

'Reconciliation'

Abe on Monday hailed Obama's May speech. His "message towards a nuclearfree world during his visit to Hiroshima remains etched into Japanese hearts," Abe said. "I'd like to make it (meeting with Obama) an opportunity to send a message to the world that we will further strengthen and maintain our alliance towards the future," he said. "And at the same time, I want to make it an opportunity to signal the value of Japan-US reconciliation."

Obama's trip had sparked speculation that Abe could visit Pearl Harbor in response, though the government previously denied that was under consideration. Abe's wife Akie visited Pearl Harbor in August and said on Facebook that she offered flowers and prayers at the USS Arizona Memorial. On the day of the attack 75 years ago, Japanese planes swept low over the US naval base, killing more than 2,400 American troops and civilians, a date which then-president Franklin Roosevelt declared would live in "infamy".

The two-hour bombardment of the US Pacific Fleet at anchor sank or damaged some 20 ships and destroyed 164 planes. Abe's planned visit to Pearl Harbor was the top item on public broadcaster NHK's evening news bulletin, with social media in Japan reacting positively to the premier's announcement. "I think it's a good thing," said @CNBLUE_6569 on Twitter. "After seeing President Obama's visit to Hiroshima, I felt strongly that I wanted a Japanese prime minister to visit" Pearl Harbor. "President Obama came to Hiroshima so Prime Minister Abe should go to Pearl Harbor," Twitter user @chikazoemakoto said. "I think Abe made a really good decision." — AFP

News

in brief

Spain smashes fake police ring that robbed tourists

MADRID: Spanish police said yesterday they had smashed a criminal gang who preyed on tourists in Madrid by posing as police officers. Eight suspected members of the gang, all of them Iranian and Pakistani nationals, were arrested on November 22, police said, describing a grab-and-game game to take cash, jewelry and smartphones. The gang would approach tourists and ask to see their documents and wallets "with the pretext of checking to see it they had drugs or counterfeit money," police said in a statement. "Once they had the wallet in their possession, they would remove the cash or would yank any object of value and flee at great speed." Police suspect the ring is behind at least 21 robberies carried out in the Madrid region in recent months but say the number is likely higher many victims, visiting Spain briefly, did not file complaints. Among the loot recovered during the arrests in three suburban Madrid homes, included 10 high-end watches, 15 smartphones, jewelry as well as 1,000 euros (\$1,070) in cash.

Sri Lanka to make heroes out of British-era 'traitors'

COLOMBO: Sri Lanka announced plans yesterday to rescind a list of 19 nationals described as "traitors" for leading an insurrection against colonial rule nearly 200 years ago. Keppetipola Disawe, a local leader, and his men were declared traitors over the 1817 rebellion against British rule. "A recommendation was made to President Maithripala Sirisena to rescind the January 1818 gazette which declared 19 nationals, including Keppetipola Disawe, as traitors and make a fresh proclamation making them national heroes," Justice Minister Wijeyadasa Rajapakshe said in a statement. The announcement came after the minister met hardline nationalists from the majority Sinhalese community, who have pressed for the scrapping of colonial-era decrees against those who resisted British rule. Sri Lanka, then known as Ceylon, won freedom in 1948, a year after Britain quit neighboring India.



OSAKA: Japanese Kuniyoshi Takimoto, who was a Japan Navy aircraft mechanic during Pearl Harbor attack on December 7, 1941, looks on at the doorway of his home in Osaka. — AFP

JAPANESE VETERAN RECALLS **PEARL HARBOR 75 YEARS ON**

SCANDAL HEARINGS PUT SOUTH Korean tycoons in hot seat

SEOUL: South Korea lawmakers yesterday kicked off an unprecedented series of hearings that will see the country's business elite grilled over a corruption scandal engulfing impeachment-threatened President Park Geun-Hye. The powerful heads of family-run conglomerates, or "chaebols," such as Samsung and Hyundai will be among those testifying before a parliamentary investigation ahead of an impeachment vote to remove the president on Friday.

The hearings opened on the back of a series of mass anti-Park demonstrations in Seoul that have seen millions of people take to the streets. Park is accused of colluding with her long-time friend, Choi Soon-Sil, to strong-arm giant corporations into "donating" nearly \$70 million to two dubious nonprofit foundations. Choi has been indicted for coercion and abuse of power, and is accused of syphoning some of the donated funds for personal use. She denies all criminal charges.

Choi had been summoned for questioning at the televised hearings, but made it clear yesterday she would absent herself, ounds. Lawmakers said she faced jail time for contempt if she failed to appear. Tuesday's testimony will be devoted to interrogating the corporate tycoons, including Samsung group scion Lee Jae-Yong, Hyundai chairman Chung Mong-Koo and seven heads of other conglomerates like LG, Lotte, Hanjin and CJ. They are among the wealthiest and most powerful people in the country, but the "Choi-gate" scandal has taken the lid off simmering public resentment over their influence and perceived sense of privilege at a time of slowing economic growth.

public humiliation, holding mock question and answer sessions with aides and memorizing responses to sensitive issues. Some researched subway and bus fares in case they are asked to prove their commontouch credentials, while others sent managers on recces to the national assemblytiming the walk to the hearing room and working out routes to avoid the press, Chosun said.

Chaebol heads are unused to being questioned or held accountable-even to their shareholders. "It is part of the deeprooted, twisted corporate culture in South Korea to treat founding family members as if they are royalty," said Shim Jung-Taik, an author of several books on Samsung and its corporate culture including a biography of its ailing chairman, Lee Kun-Hee."None of them would have attended these hearings in normal times. But the public fury shown at recent mass rallies was too much to ignore even for these royals," Shim said.

Samsung woes

Samsung-the South's largest business he biggest contributions of 20



DHAKA: Bangladeshi activists from an Islamic organization protest against the treatment of Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar, in Dhaka. — AFP

Dozens of Rohingyas missing as boat sinks

DHAKA: Dozens are missing and feared drowned after a boat packed with Rohingya fleeing violence in Myanmar and trying to reach Bangladesh sank in a border river yes-

OSAKA: Navy aircraft mechanic Kuniyoshi Takimoto watched as Japanese planes roared off the aircraft carrier Hiryu to attack Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. The shock assault 75 years ago Wednesday in Hawaii sparked patriotic celebration in Japan but left Takimoto feeling uneasy. "I wondered if such a poor country would be all right fighting such a big one," the former realestate agent, now 95 and one of the few Japanese participants still alive said at his home in Osaka.

This attack brought America into World War II-though it was already well underway for Europe, and China. This year's anniversarv comes after President Barack Obama's visit in May to Hiroshima, the Japanese city pulverized by a US atom bomb in the closing days of the conflict. Japan's Pearl Harbor blitz fired up resolve in the US, with president Franklin Roosevelt declaring the day would "live in infamy."

"It was just a start... and more or less a deceptive attack," Takimoto said, stressing that given its surprise nature some success was virtually guaranteed. He and other crew members were stunned when first informed of the mission after their flotilla departed towards Hawaii. Reaching an area 460 kilometers from target, the first wave of some 180 planes, including nimble Zero fighters, roared off the Hiryu and other carriers, followed later by a second swarm.

'Rolling the dice'

Pilots and mechanics were phlegmatic throughout, as aircraft took off one by one minus any special rituals or even "banzai" cheers. "What you see in kamikaze movies never happened on aircraft carriers," Takimoto said firmly. "We had to do our jobs, rolling the dice against death." Despite his misgivings about the risks of attacking the US, Takimoto was proud to support the pilots. "We built relations of trust that went beyond words," he said. Japan also attacked the Philippines, Hong Kong, Guam, Singapore, Malaya, Burma and the Dutch East Indies, in one fell swoop overturning what had seemed an eternal Western colonial order. But despite such initial success, the tide was fated to quickly turn-confirming Takimoto's fears. In June 1942 at the epic Battle of Midway a US aerial blitz engulfed the Hiryu in massive flames. A thousand crew members died, while 500 survivors, including Takimoto, were barely rescued by nearby Japanese ships, a scene he described as "hell."

Tunnel vision

After Midway, US-led forces began to reconquer the Pacific, island by island on battlefields in Guadalcanal, Saipan, the Philippines, Iwo Jima and Okinawa. Japan finally surrendered but only after the US dropped two atomic bombs-the second on Nagasaki-and the Soviet Union declared war. Takimoto has no plans to personally commemorate Pearl Harbor this year, calling it just one of many momentous episodes in the war. For himself, he calls Midway "much more important." Indeed, Pearl Harbor draws little attention compared with annual events marking the atomic bombings, solemn, nationally televised memorials attended by the prime minister. Among the few instances of remembrance are brief fireworks in Nagaoka, the hometown of Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto, who masterminded the attack but was killed after the US targeted his plane in 1943. In the US, meanwhile, every December 7 is National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day, while the atomic bombing anniversaries are not officially commemorated. — AFP

Tycoon tutorials

According to company sources cited by the largest-circulation newspaper, Chosun Ilbo, many of them have been going through frantic preparations to avoid any

billion won (\$17 million) to Choi's foundations, followed by Hyundai, SK, LG and Lotte. Prosecutors have raided the headquarters of Samsung and other groups for any evidence that they received policy favors in exchange for their contributions. Samsung is separately accused of funneling millions of euros to Choi to bankroll her daughter's equestrian training in Germany. As part of the widening probe, prosecutors are also investigating whether Samsung lobbied officials at the state pension fund for their support over a contested merger deal last year. Park has not been summoned for questioning by lawmakers. Yesterday's session involved several presidential aides who were grilled over some of the more lurid elements uncovered by the case-including the mass purchase by Park's office of Viagra pills. — AFP



SEOUL: National Security Office chief Kim Kwan-Jin (left) and other presidential aides take an oath during a hearing on South Korean President Park Geun-Hye's corrup tion scandal at the National Assembly in Seoul. - AFP

terday, reports and a Bangladeshi fisherman said. Thousands of Rohingya, a stateless ethnic minority, have arrived in Bangladesh after an outbreak of violence in western Myanmar, where the military is alleged to have committed mass rape and murder and burned villages. A Bangladeshi fisherman said he had rescued one woman who told him her "overcrowded" boat had sunk in the Naf river after it was chased by a Myanmar army speedboat. "We heard a woman's desperate cry for help in the morning while we were fishing in the Naf. We guickly paddled to the spot and saw she was fighting to stay afloat," fisherman Suman Das said by phone. "The woman told us that their boat was overcrowded with Rohingva villagers who tried to cross the river to enter Bangladesh." The woman did not know what had happened to the others and Das could not say how many people were on the boat.

Man fires rifle inside Washington's eatery

WASHINGTON: A man has been arrested after firing an assault rifle inside a popular pizzeria in Washington that was the target of a fake news story during the presidential election campaign, police said. No one was injured in the incident on Sunday at the Comet Ping Pong restaurant in the upmarket Chevy Chase neighborhood. A 28-year-old man from North Carolina was taken into police custody. The pizzeria was the subject of a bogus report published in October that alleged it was at the center of a child sex ring organized by Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton. As the story spread online, fanned by right-leaning conspiracy theorists on discussion sites 4chan and Reddit, the restaurant owner received hundreds of threatening messages on his Instagram account. The eatery's Facebook page also was flooded with negative comments. It was one of a number of fake news stories that emerged ahead of the November 8 poll. The man arrested on Sunday told police he went to the eatery to "self-investigate" the conspiracy theory dubbed "pizzagate".

POPULAR NEW ZEALAND PM JOHN KEY RESIGNS

WELLINGTON: Popular New Zealand Prime Minister John Key announced his shock resignation yesterday, saying he was never a career politician and it was the right time to go after eight years in the job. The former Merrill Lynch currency trader called it "the hardest decision I've ever made", with no plans on what to do next other than spend more time with his family. "Being leader of both the party and the country has been an incredible experience," he told a regular weekly news conference. "But despite the amazing career I have had in politics, I have never seen myself as a career politician." Key recently marked his eighth anniversary as prime minister and 10th year as leader of the centre-right National Party, which is set to meet next week to elect his successor.

His deputy Bill English, who led the party to its worst result in the 2002 election, is widely seen as favorite to take over and was endorsed by Key, although he did not immediately confirm he wanted the role. "Certainly, I wouldn't stand if there wasn't strong caucus support for me standing," he said, adding that since the 2002 flop he had received "a masterclass every day from John Key about how to do politics". As discussion about Key's decision to walk away swirled around social media, the down-to-earth politician-once voted the leader most New Zealanders would love to have a beer with-insisted he was "not the kind of guy that has to hang on to power for power's sake".

Opinion polls had consistently pointed to him becoming the first political leader in New Zealand history to win four consecutive elections when the country votes next year, but he said records were not a consideration. "If you're staying for the record of the time you're staying for the wrong reason," he said. "It's been an incredible experience and it's been a real privilege and I'm going to die happy-l hope that's a long time in the future-but I'm going to feel really proud of what we've done," he said.

'Say it ain't so bro'

Key came into politics relatively late, entering parliament in 2002 and assuming leadership of the National Party four years later. By 2008 he had ended nine years of Labor Party rule, ousting thenprime minister Helen Clark. He won plaudits for his leadership during a string of crises in his first term, including a devastating earthquake in Christchurch in February 2011 which claimed 185 lives.

The 55-year-old also steadied the economy after the global financial crisis without resorting to hard-line spending cuts, instead taking a steady, pragmatic approach that saw the budget return to surplus in the 2015-16 financial year for the first time since 2008. When he heard the news, Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull sent him a brief text message: "Say it ain't so bro", telling reporters in Melbourne he considered his close friend "one of the most outstanding national leaders in the world today". New Zealand opposition Labor Party leader Andrew Little acknowledged Key's popularity but said he understood why he was walking away. "Politics requires much sacrifice. We may all be politicians, but not all

our lives are politics," Little tweeted. Former Prime Minister Clark, now the head of the UN Development Program, praised Key for working "tirelessly to promote New Zealand and its interests". Key felt he was "going out on top", and wanted to spend more time with his wife Bronagh and children Stephanie and Max. "It would be easy to say I have made this decision solely to rediscover the personal and family life I once had, and that is a factor, but it is one among many," he said. "Over the years I have observed many leaders who, in a similar position, fail to take this step.

I can understand why. It is a hard job to leave." The New Zealand dollar dipped slightly but economists expected it to be a shortterm blip as Key's endorsement of English as his replacement meant there would be little change to economic policy. — AFP



Continued from Page1

Several of her supporters resorted to self-harm when she was briefly jailed in 2014 on charges of corruption.

Jayalalithaa earned the loyalty of many voters in Tamil Nadu with a series of highly populist schemes, including an "Amma canteen" that provides lunch for just three rupees (five cents). In 2014 she was briefly forced to step down as chief minister after she was jailed on corruption charges. Her conviction, later overturned on appeal, sparked mass protests and even some reported suicides. Thousands of directors, actors and producers in the successful Tamil language film industry went on hunger strike to demand her release.

The AIADMK and its bitter rival, the DMK, are the main parties in Tamil Nadu, and both are built around a personality cult of their leaders who are drawn from the Tamil film industry. India's two national parties, the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party and the opposition Congress have little political presence in the state, despite decades of efforts. The death of Ramachandran, or MGR as Jayalalithaa's mentor was known, sparked looting and rioting across Tamil Nadu by his grief-stricken supporters in 1987. — Agencies

RENZI PACKS HIS BAGS AFTER REFERENDUM ROUT

Continued from Page 1

Mattarella will then be charged with brokering the appointment of a new government or, if he is unable to do that, ordering early elections.

Initial market reaction was subdued. The euro briefly sank to a 20-month low as investors fretted that political instability could scupper efforts to resolve a long-running banking crisis, and over the possibility of an election that could see anti-EU parties challenge for power. Italy's FTSE MIB stock index fell 2.0 percent at the opening before clawing back some ground, underperforming other European markets. Italian bond yields rose slightly, having already edged up prior to Sunday's vote.

Traders were reassured in part by the result of Europe's other crucial vote this weekend, which saw Austria reject a far-right candidate for president. "The next steps are far from clear for Italy and traders are not panicking yet", said Craig Erlam, senior market analyst at Oanda. Some analysts said the referendum could come to be seen as a landmark moment. Holger Schmieding, at the Berenberg private bank, said the risk that Italy could choose to leave the euro, while still remote, had increased. Capital Economics said: "Italy has taken the first step along a path that could lead it out of the eurozone."

Populists across Europe rejoiced at Renzi's downfall, with the founder of Italy's own anti-establishment Five Star movement Beppe Grillo calling for an election "within a week". Grillo said a snap election should be held on the basis of a recently adopted electoral law designed to ensure the leading party has a majority in the Chamber of Deputies, despite having previously called for this to be changed.

Observers varied widely in their interpretation of the vote. Britian's eurosceptic Nigel Farage, who spearheaded

the "Brexit" campaign, said it looked "more about the euro than constitutional change". But former Bank of Italy economist Lorenzo Codgno insisted: "The outcome of the referendum is much more complex and nuanced than 'just another wave of protest across the globe".

Giovanni Orsina, Professor of Politics at Rome's Luiss university, said four out of five voters had cast their vote politically rather than on the merits of the reform. "The vote has broad similarities with the Brexit and Trump phenomena," he said. "The electorate voted against the establishment, against Brussels. They didn't get into the subtleties."

Poll data showed the No vote was strongest in areas with high unemployment, in the relatively poor south of the country and amongst youth, pointing to a correlation with levels of disaffection. Most analysts see immediate elections as unlikely, partly because all the main political parties have already begun discussions on revising the country's electoral laws. As things stand the two houses of parliament would be elected by two different systems, which is seen as a recipe for a post-vote stalemate nobody wants.

The most probable scenario is a caretaker administration dominated by Renzi's Democratic Party taking over to complete the electoral reform before an election that has to take place by March 2018. The new administration's most pressing priority will be finalizing the country's 2017 budget, which the European Commission has threatened to reject as too expansionary given Italy's debt levels. Finance Minister Pier Carlo Padoan is the favorite to succeed Renzi as prime minister and the outgoing leader may stay on as head of his party - which would leave him well-placed for a potential comeback to frontline politics at the next election, whenever it is. Padoan cancelled a trip to Brussels yesterday. — AFP

KUWAIT FOOTBALL REELS AS CHIEF RESIGNS...

Continued from Page 1

suspended player during a match between the two sides as part of the VIVA Football League. Kuwait won 2-1. Kuwait's defender Fahd Al-Hairi had received a red card during a Nov 2 match between Kuwait and Kazma Sports Club, held as part of the Crown Prince Cup. Red cards result in an automatic one-game suspension, but because he argued with the referees, he was suspended for an additional game.

The automatic suspension was handed out according to the KFA's competition regulations. But the second-game suspension came from the KFA's disciplinary committee, and was announced on Nov 6. The disciplinary committee can choose from at least two different clauses regarding the additional game suspension. One such clause bars Hajri from playing a second game in any tournament. But another clause bars him only from a second game in the same tournament. So a problem arose when Hajri played in the VIVA tournament. Arabi argued that Hajri was officially suspended and therefore they should be awarded the match as a walkover 3-0 win. But Kuwait argued that the suspension was only applicable to the Crown Prince Cup and doesn't apply to the VIVA League. The KFA's disciplinary committee supported Kuwait's position and agreed that the suspension is only applicable to the Crown Prince Cup.

be followed. As a result, the disciplinary committee rejected Arabi's claim, the committee's chief Saad Al-Bughaili explained to the press. Salmiya Sports Club also filed a very similar complaint against Jahra Sports Club for fielding what it claimed were two 'suspended players'. The disciplinary committee rejected Salmiya's complaint for the same reasons.

After losing the appeal, Arabi announced on Sunday that it was officially withdrawing from the VIVA League. 'We are convinced that honorable people in Kuwait's sports scene have become fewer, and therefore we officially announce withdrawing from the VIVA League," said Abdulaziz Ashour, Arabi's Vice President, who posted the withdrawal decision on the club's official Twitter account. Salmiya is also expected to withdraw

TRUMP NAMES CARSON AS HOUSING SECRETARY

MOGUL MEETS FORMER VP GORE

WASHINGTON: US President-elect Donald Trump yesterday chose Ben Carson, the mild-mannered retired neurosurgeon who challenged him for the Republican nomination, to turn around troubled US inner cities as secretary of housing and urban development. Carson, an African American who is a religious conservative, has no background in housing policy but has cited his poor childhood in Detroit as a qualification for the job. He is the first black selected by Trump for his team.

"Ben Carson has a brilliant mind and is passionate about strengthening communities and families within those communities," Trump said in a statement. "We have talked at length about my urban renewal agenda and our message of economic revival, very much including our inner cities." Carson said: "I feel that I can make a significant contribution particularly by strengthening communities that are most in need. We have much work to do in enhancing every aspect of our nation and ensuring that our nation's housing needs are met."

Trump also met former Vice President Al Gore, an environmental activist who has devoted years to fighting climate change. "I had a lengthy and very productive session with the president-elect," said Gore, who met earlier with Trump's daughter, Ivanka Trump, but said he had spent the bulk of his time with Trump. "It was a sincere search for areas of common ground. ... I found it an extremely interesting conversation and, to be continued."

"I grew up in the inner city," Carson told Fox News last month. "And have spent a lot of time there. And have dealt with a lot of patients from that area." Carson briefly led the Republican presidential pack during the primaries, offering voters an unruffled, slow-talking persona that contrasted sharply with high-decibel slugfest around him. His bid, which initially gained support among Christian conservatives, ultimately fizzled as he stumbled presenting concrete policies and

answering questions about key issues. The Seventh Day Adventist had presented himself as an alternative to the bombastic Trump, preaching tolerance and compromise but sometimes unleashing blunt rhetoric. These included many references to Nazi Germany, such as his suggestion that Jews would have fared better in the Holocaust had they been armed. Trump mercilessly mocked him on the campaign trail, accusing Carson of having a "pathological" temper.

Carson nevertheless endorsed the real estate billionaire after withdrawing from the race in March, describing his former rival as "a very intelligent man who cares deeply about America". He took Trump on a neighborhood tour of his Detroit hometown in September at a time when the nominee was looking to boost his image with African-American voters. And he came to Trump's defense following the release of a 2005 audiotape in which he bragged about groping women. — Agencies

NO SURVEILLANCE OF PRIVATE SOCIAL MEDIA...

Ben Carson

Continued from Page 1

He denied allegations that the new law aims at tightening the noose on the freedom of Twitter users and those with personal accounts on digital networks.

It is rather intended to complete the regulations of the media, the press and the publishing professions,

Awwash said. On July 20, 2016, the ministry of information issued ministerial resolution 100/2016 stipulating executive legislations of law 8/2016 regulating electronic media. The law, endorsed and published in the official gazette in February, stipulates freedoms of expression and access to information according to constitutional norms. — KUNA

OPPOSITION ISSUES MORE WARNINGS...

Continued from Page 1

Faraj Al-Arbeed, who came in the 11th place, saying that the votes he received should have placed him things, he said on his Twitter account.

ANTI-AUSTERITY MPS THREATEN REFORM PLANS

Continued from Page 1

"The Assembly wants the government to rationalize unnecessary expenditures before heading to the citizen," investment fund Kuwait Farabi's CEO, Fouad Al-Hadlag, said. "The MPs were saying in their campaign 'we have no problem to pay money but we are not first in the line... We want to see a rationalization from the highest (levels of officials)'

the economy, increasing the role of the private sector, trying to get citizens to invest in public projects and reforming the labor market.

among the 10 winners. Former MP Mubarak Al-Waalan, who failed to win a seat last month, is planning to file a

petition to challenge the counting of votes and other

"Theoretically, the document is positive. ... But, practically, the acceptance of it by the representatives of the Kuwaiti people is difficult, because there is waste in other things," Al Joman Center for Economic Consultancy general manager Naser Al-Nafisi said, calling the amount spent on foreign medical treatment "an astronomical figure". "How the government saves 150 million dinars from raising fuel prices that impacts every citizen ... and keeps quiet about the waste of 600 million dinars? This is not reasonable. The government is contradicting itself," he said. The impasse has implications for parliament too, however. The constitution gives HH the Amir the right to dissolve the parliament. During the past 10 years, since Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah came to power, none of the parliaments has completed its constitutional 4-year term. "It is impossible for the government to move ahead with the austerity program. And if the government insisted and wanted to face (parliament), this will only bring about the destruction of Kuwait," Kuwaiti Murabahat Investment's Executive Vice President, Asset Management, Muhannad Uthman Al-Mesbah said. — Reuters

KFA's disciplinary committee said it has the sole authority to determine the type, duration and other effects of a suspension. It also pointed out that in case of a conflict, the disciplinary committee's decision is to

"Justice and equal opportunities do not exist in your federation," Arabi also wrote on its Twitter account addressing Hasawi. "Your presence in the temporary committee tarnishes your sportive history." Hasawi later announced his resignation. Other KFA officials also resigned, including the vice president of the competition's committee Abbas Dashti, as well as temporary management committee members Hussein Al-Khadri and Saleh Al-Enezi.

The turmoil comes just months after the dissolution of KFA's previous board of directors. On Aug 28, the Public Authority for Sports dissolved the board and appointed a temporary management committee led by Hasawi. FIFA suspended KFA and all Kuwaiti teams from international competitions on Oct 16, 2015, claiming government intervention in the association and sports clubs' affairs.

Health Minister Ali Al-Obaidi has denied accusations that government officials siphoned off public money through contracts related to overseas medical treatment. He says a number of medical offices are to blame for "reported irregularities", according to a statement carried last month by state news agency KUNA. Kuwait spends KD 2.9 billion on subsidies, or about 15 percent of 2016/2017 public spending, down from KD 3.78 billion last year, according to the finance minister in January.

The National Assembly has the right to grill government ministers, including the prime minister and block legislation and is frequently at loggerheads with the Cabinet. The government has had a rare smooth ride since 2012, and has been trying for years to approve a new strategy aimed at diversifying the economy away from oil. The strategy - known as "The Economic Reform Document", is an attempt to redraw the state's role in



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TRUMP ADVISORS AIM TO PRIVATIZE INDIAN RESERVES

Focus

Native American reservations cover just 2 percent of the United States, but they may contain about a fifth of the nation's oil and gas, along with vast coal reserves. Now, a group of advisors to President-elect Donald Trump on Native American issues wants to free those resources from what they call a suffocating federal bureaucracy that holds title to 56 million acres of tribal lands, two chairmen of the coalition told Reuters in exclusive interviews.

The group proposes to put those lands into private ownership - a politically explosive idea that could upend more than century of policy designed to preserve Indian tribes on US-owned reservations, which are governed by tribal leaders as sovereign nations. The tribes have rights to use the land, but they do not own it. They can drill it and reap the profits, but only under regulations that are far more burdensome than those applied to private property.

"We should take tribal land away from public treatment," said Markwayne Mullin, a Republican US Representative from Oklahoma and a Cherokee tribe member who is co-chairing Trump's Native American Affairs Coalition. "As long as we can do it without unintended consequences, I think we will have broad support around Indian country." Trump's transition team did not respond to multiple requests for comment.

The plan dovetails with Trump's larger aim of slashing regulation to boost energy production. It could deeply divide Native American leaders, who hold a range of opinions on the proper balance between development and conservation. The proposed path to deregulated drilling - privatizing reservations - could prove even more divisive. Many Native Americans view such efforts as a violation of tribal self-determination and culture.

"Our spiritual leaders are opposed to the privatization of our lands, which means the commoditization of the nature, water, air we hold sacred," said Tom Goldtooth, a member of both the Navajo and the Dakota tribes who runs the Indigenous Environmental ANALYSIS



EU SUFFERS ITALIAN BLOW, BIGGER TESTS LOOM

The resounding "no" from Italian voters to Prime Minister Matteo Renzi's referendum on constitutional reform was not a rejection of the European Union and its single currency, as jubilant populists from across the bloc claimed yesterday. But the vote, which pushes Renzi out of office, does represent a significant setback for Europe at a time when its leaders are scrambling to mount a credible response to Brexit, the election of Donald Trump in the United States and their stubborn economic woes at home.

In one fell swoop, it adds another country to the list of EU members that are likely to be pre-occupied by domestic politics in 2017, a year in which the Dutch, French, Germans, and possibly the British, will go to the polls. And it sends a warning to other European reformers like Francois Fillon, the conservative frontrunner for the French presidency, who has promised no less than five referendums to push through his domestic agenda if he is elected next spring.

More immediately, despite the relatively calm reaction of financial markets yesterday, the vote will deepen concerns about Italy's under-funded banking sector and the economic prospects of the euro zone's third biggest member state. That, in turn, could complicate the calculus for the European Central Bank, which meets on Thursday to decide on the future of its controversial bond purchase They were encouraged to vote "no" by all of the major parties in Italy outside of Renzi's Partito Democratico (PD). His defeat therefore, which came on the same day that Austrian voters sent a far-right candidate to defeat in a presidential run-off, looks less like a rejection of Europe and the political establishment, and more like a serious miscalculation on the part of Renzi.

"When a prime minister who will always be remembered for taking office through an old-style party coup calls a national referendum in a country that's still struggling to emerge from a triple-dip recession, he can expect an unfavorable result," said Nicholas Spiro of Lauressa Advisory.

Crunch time

That won't cushion the impact for Europe, whose leaders have promised to unveil their post-Brexit vision for the EU in the Italian capital next March, the 60th anniversary of the bloc's founding Rome treaty. Who will host that summit is now an open question. The same month, Dutch voters will go to the polls and British Prime Minister Theresa May is expected to invoke Article 50 of the EU treaty, triggering a tight two-

year countdown to Brexit - a timeline made all the more challenging by Europe's heavy election calendar.

Only a month later, the first round of the French election will take place. Polls suggest that will produce a showdown between Le Pen and Fillon, the hardline conservative who is advocating a radical overhaul of the French economy through deep cuts in public sector jobs and the scrapping of the 35hour workweek. Fillon has proposed a total of five referendums: one to enshrine a balanced budget law in the constitution, a second to overhaul French territorial authorities, a third to unwind France's generous pension regimes, a fourth on immigration quotas and a fifth - in an echo of Renzi's own referendum - to reduce the number of parliamentarians.

Far more than the Italian referendum, the French vote is shaping up as a make-or-break moment for Europe and its political mainstream. Fillon, no doubt, will be watching what is now unfolding in France's southern neighbor as he girds for battle. "The French election will be the crucial test for Europe," said Dominique Moisi of the Institut Montaigne. "To counter Le Pen, Fillon may have to move to the center. He will have to put quite a bit of water in his traditionalist wine." — Reuters

Network. "Privatization has been the goal since colonization - to strip Native Nations of their sovereignty."

Reservations governed by the US Bureau of Indian Affairs are intended in part to keep Native American lands off the private real estate market, preventing sales to non-Indians. An official at the Bureau of Indian Affairs did not respond to a request for comment. The legal underpinnings for reservations date to treaties made between 1778 and 1871 to end wars between indigenous Indians and European settlers. Tribal governments decide how land and resources are allotted among tribe members.

Leaders of Trump's coalition did not provide details of how they propose to allocate ownership of the land or mineral rights - or to ensure they remained under Indian control. One idea is to limit sales to non-Indian buyers, said Ross Swimmer, a co-chair on Trump's advisory coalition and an ex-chief of the Cherokee nation who worked on Indian affairs in the Reagan administration. "It has to be done with an eye toward protecting sovereignty," he said.

\$1.5 trillion in reserves

The Trump-appointed coalition's proposal comes against a backdrop of broader environmental tensions on Indian reservations, including protests against a petroleum pipeline by the Standing Rock Sioux tribe and their supporters in North Dakota. On Sunday, amid rising opposition, the US Army Corps of Engineers on Sunday said it had denied a permit for the Dakota Access Pipeline project, citing a need to explore alternate routes. The Trump transition team has expressed support for the pipeline, however, and his administration could revisit the decision once it takes office in January.

Tribes and their members could potentially reap vast wealth from more easily tapping resources beneath reservations. The Council of Energy Resource Tribes, a tribal energy consortium, estimated in 2009 that Indian energy resources are worth about \$1.5 trillion. In 2008, the Bureau of Indian Affairs testified before Congress that reservations contained about 20 percent of untapped oil and gas reserves in the US.

Deregulation could also benefit private oil drillers including Devon Energy Corp, Occidental Petroleum, BP and others that have sought to develop leases on reservations through deals with tribal governments. Those companies did not immediately respond to requests for comment. — Reuters

All articles appearing on these pages are the personal opinion of the writers. Kuwait Times takes no responsibility for views expressed therein. Kuwait Times invites readers to voice their opinions. Please send submissions via email to: opinion@kuwaittimes.net or via snail mail to PO Box 1301 Safat, Kuwait. The editor reserves the right to edit any submission as necessary. program. "This won't push Italy back into crisis for now," said Marcel Fratzscher, head of the DIW economic institute in Berlin and a former top official at the European Central Bank. "But it means lost time for a country that faces huge problems with its banks, its enormous public debt levels and high unemployment. There is a significant danger that the reform course will now slow."

Brexit parallel

Renzi, seen by his European partners as an anchor of stability in a country where political upheaval has been the norm for decades, won just over 40 percent of the vote in the referendum, a far worse result than polls had predicted. His defeat comes only days after deeply unpopular French President Francois Hollande, also a leftist, bowed to political realities and announced he would not seek a second term.

Renzi's departure could lead to early elections in Italy next year. It increases the risks of the anti-euro 5-Star Movement gaining power, although the prospect of that remains slim. After the Brexit vote went bad for David Cameron in June, it is the second time in half a year that the leader of a major EU member state tied his future to a referendum and lost, a development that was seized upon by the region's anti-EU firebrands. "The Italians rejected Renzi and the EU," Marine Le Pen of France's far-right National Front said on Twitter. "This vote looks to me to be more about the euro than constitutional change," added Nigel Farage of the UK Independence Party (UKIP).

But unlike Britain, polls show that a solid majority of Italian voters are in favour of both the EU and the euro.

BITTER AUSTRIA ELECTION

Relief and anger after

fter an ugly and deeply polarizing presidential campaign in normally tranquil Austria, whooping and relief on one side Sunday night was matched by disdain and anger on the other. Independent candidate Alexander Van der Bellen had already won the contest once, back in May - the election had to be held again because of procedural problems - so in theory the 72year-old could do it again.

But a lot has happened since May to boost the confidence of populists like his far-right rival Norbert Hofer, not least Britain's shock decision in June to leave the EU and Donald Trump's US election victory last month. "Today I was totally surprised because after Trump and Brexit I was really not sure what this meant for Austria," diplomat Wolfgang Pietrisch, 69, said at Van der Bellen's election party. "I was hugely surprised and my confidence, which was rather low in the past couple of days, went up - skyrocketed," Pietrisch told AFP.

At the same event, artist Natalia Nadasma, 21, said that Brexit and Trump had motivated many activists to make sure that the Austrian election wasn't yet another political shock. "A lot of people from civil society decided to be active, to go onto the streets in order to convince people to vote for liberalism, to vote for openness, to vote for diversity," Nadasma said. Student David Sheata, 20, said he had been worried that after being asked to vote no fewer than three times this year - and for what is a largely ceremonial job - voter fatigue would set in. But not a bit of it. The result was "a big surprise because we all thought that Hofer will win because Austrians lost their trust in the election process. But now, after the first result, we are very happy."

In fact, according to Van der Bellen, turnout was around 75-76 percent - higher than in May. Political analyst Peter Hajek said that Van der Bellen's supporters did a good job in the past few weeks getting people out to vote. Campaigners used Brexit and Trump to say to people "if you don't want to end up also wondering what happened, then go out and vote, and vote Van der Bellen," Hajek said.

Sandra Edelmann, 30, a corporate consultant waving a rainbow flag and wearing a "Fan der Bellen" T-shirt, said she had never given up hope. "I believed and hoped that Austria would be clever enough to vote Van der Bellen, and they were," she told AFP. "In the last 11 months I have been very active in the campaign. Last night I was in the pubs til 2:00 am, talking to people, motivating them," said social worker Christoph Krottmayer, 35. "I am very relieved. It was all worth it. Later I think I might cry out of relief." — AFP

5 THINGS WE LEARNED FROM RETURN OF WOODS

ive things we learned from the return of Tiger Woods to competitive golf at the Hero World Challenge invitational event at par-72 Albany Golf Club in the Bahamas:

Tiger Woods isn't ready to win yet

There were moments you wanted to fit him for another green jacket. There were moments you wanted him to give it up for good. Woods flashed brilliance and horror and finished on four-under par 284. He shot the worst round of anyone at 76. He led in birdies with 24. He fired a bogeyfree 65 in round two that was his best round since the last time he won at the WGC event in Akron back in 2013.

He needs more work. He will put in more work. He needs to find consistency. He needs more events to be tournament fit and avoid fading late in rounds. He was able to make great starts. That could put him ahead in some ways if he can solve other issues. He's older Tiger, not the Tiger of old. And Albany is not the typical US PGA Tour stop. It's not going to offer the tension of a Sunday in a major. It's 18 guys not a full field. It's not many of those players that Tiger inspired that now block his path to a triumphant return.

Tiger had more friends than he knew

"It blew me away." That's what Woods said about so many fellow pros offering their support, advice and even just company for a night out. After nearly 20 years of focus and grinding, wins and an intimidating aura, Tiger has learned the man behind the 14 majors and 79 career wins has earned more respect and admiration from his rivals than he ever imagined. Players gave their time to be in his charity events that benefit his foundation. Beyond 'Tiger Inc', beyond those who can make money with him, Woods has inspired friendship and admiration for who he is as a person. For someone who wondered a year ago if he might never get out of bed easily again, it's nice to know you have friends.

Tiger is a Trump-esque tweetmeister

Woods fired off lots of tweets in his role as Ryder Cup assistant captain. One story told by a rival spoke of how players began tweet-comparing trophy cases and Tiger chimed in with the all-time winner, only to be told he didn't count. There was a camaraderie built among players and Woods was big on tweeting his thoughts. He even got a supportive tweet from US President-elect Donald Trump.

It helped that he was unable to play at the Ryder Cup, so he could focus on players and holes and strategy to help the US victory. But as Tiger becomes an elder statesman - he turns 41 on Dec 30 - he has a role on the Ryder Cup committee and a new way to channel his competitive golf nature. Beware Europe and you Presidents Cup Internationals as well. Tiger might be more dangerous behind the scenes than as a player in the team events.

Tiger has a solid foundation

His foundation does wonders giving kids opportunities who otherwise would not have them. Education. Dreams. His business world is united under the TGR umbrella, and one venture was showcased this week. He's a partner in Albany, the exclusive Bahamas area that is remote but growing. Ernie Els helped start it. Justin Rose lives there. Joe Lewis, whose Tavistock Group owns English football side Tottenham Hotspur, helped start it. And it just had a week of free global advertising on golf telecasts of Tiger's comeback. He's not worried about lunch money.

Tiger's body needs extra care

He's taking cold baths. He's not running so much or lifting weights so much - all those things he did when he was younger that forced rivals to do the same to keep up with him. He's going to face guys who can do those lifts and runs and can recover faster between rounds. And he wants to win four more majors to catch Jack's record. He will have to figure out new ways of winning. You could see the process start this week as he played up at times, trying new ways to negotiate the course and be successful. — AFP



STEVE COOK ELATED AT LIVERPOOL REDEMPTION

LONDON: Bournemouth's Steve Cook believes he has redeemed himself with a stellar performance in Sunday's seven-goal thriller against Liverpool following his error against Arsenal last week. Bournemouth came from behind twice and scored four second-half goals to edge past Liverpool 4-3 in the Premier League contest against the Reds. Cook's right-footed volley from the centre of the box levelled the score 3-3 in the 79th minute before Liverpool goalkeeper Loris Karius spilled another Cook shot, allowing Nathan Ake to score the injury-time winner. "It's nice for me because I made a mistake last week so I've been dreaming about having an impact... and fortunately I have done," Cook told the club website (www.afcb.com). The 25-year-old made a defensive error against Arsenal, allowing Alexis Sanchez to score the first goal in Bournemouth's 3-1 away loss. "We were poor in the first-half but it shows how far we've come. We feel that we can mix it with the best and we can keep pushing," Cook said of Sunday's match. "We want to finish in the top half this year and these sort of results are definitely going to help that." Tenth-placed Bournemouth travel to Burnley for their next league game on Sunday. — Reuters

BILIC SET FOR TALKS WITH OWNERS: REPORTS

LONDON: West Ham United manager Slaven Bilic will meet club officials and owners following their 5-1 home drubbing by Arsenal, British media reported vesterday. The loss left West Ham 17th in the Premier League table and Bilic questioned the "intensity and dedication" of his squad. Striker Andy Carroll, however, said the players had faith in their Croatian manager to steer them away from the relegation zone. "Everyone has stood by the manager and he is a great manager," Carroll told the club website (www.whufc.com). "We are in this as a team together and all the lads are disappointed with the result and the way things are going. I am very confident that we are going to pull ourselves out of this." West Ham, who finished seventh last season, have gone five league games without a win and have not settled in their new home ground, London Stadium. Bilic joined West Ham from Besiktas in 2015, replacing Sam Allardyce. He has also coached Croatia, with whom he reached the 1998 World Cup final as a player. West Ham travel to third-placed Liverpool on Sunday. — Reuters

GUDJOHNSEN OFFERS TO PLAY FOR CHAPECOENSE

SAO PAULO: Former Chelsea and Barcelona striker Eidur Gudjohnsen has offered to play for Brazilian team Chapecoense following the air crash in Colombia last week in which most of their players died. The 38-year-old Iceland international is a free agent after being released by Norwegian club Molde in August. "Out of respect i would play for @ChapecoenseReal if they have a place for me! If not just to play with @10Ronaldinho again," Gudjohnsen said on Twitter. Ronaldinho, Gudjohnsen's former team mate at Barcelona, also wants to help the stricken club, Brazil's Globo Esporte news reported last week. Only three of the Chapecoense players who flew north from Brazil for the Copa Sudamericana final against Atletico Nacional survived the crash outside Medellin, Colombia, which killed 71 passengers and crew members. Brazil's top-flight soccer teams have offered to loan players to the small southern club for next season and have asked the Brazilian Football Confederation (CBF) to give Chapecoense a threeyear exemption from relegation. Chapecoense have been told they will be named Copa Sudamericana champions by South American football's governing body CONMEBOL, the TV Globo website (http://globoesporte.globo.com) reported on Saturday. —Reuters



RENAULT AL BABTAIN MAIN SPONSOR OF 2016 NBK WALKATHON

KUWAIT: Abdulmohsen Abdulaziz Al Babtain Co., the exclusive agent of Renault in the state of Kuwait was the main sponsor of the 22nd NBK walkathon titled, 'We Are Stronger With each Step'. Organized by National Bank of Kuwait and sponsored by Renault Al Babtain for the second consecutive year, Renault Al Babtain took part in this initiative showing support of the organization's passion for life, healthy living and sports.

NBK's Walkathon spreads excitement and encourages a healthy lifestyle. Al Babtain has always proudly worked with key local partners, who like them; share the responsibility of spreading awareness on the importance of a healthy lifestyle. Al Babtain was thrilled to support the Walkathon, which is by far the most popular and awaited walkathon in the country, that continues to grow year after year. Participants entered a draw for three exciting prizes three 2016 Renault Captur vehicles. The three lucky winners that won the 3 Renault Capturs offered are: Amira Noran Al Qina, Ofzar Yamaboa, and Engy Ahmed. The Renault models were displayed at the finish line with many valuable gifts that were given to the participants and their kids during the ceremony. The participants reached record numbers as over 8,000 people participated this year. Isam Al Sager, NBK Group CEO, Ms Shaikha Al Bahar, NBK Deputy Group CEO, Emad Ahmed Al Ablani, NBK General Manager, Human Resources Group, and Mohammed Al Othman, NBK's Deputy General Manager, Consumer Banking Group attended the event from NBK's management. On the other hand Saleh Abdul Mohsen Al Babtain, Al Babtain Group CEO, Mohammad Shalabi Al Babtain Group COO and Makram Khater Group General Manager Marketing from Al Babtain group. The sponsorship continues Al Babtain's longstanding tradition of contributing to a wide variety of local sporting activities. Thousands viewed the event through Renault's social media accounts which you can follow through Facebook and Instagram : @renaultkwt





HIDEKI MATSUYAMA ENDS HIS YEAR ON A BIG ROLL

NASSAU: It started with a victory at home in the Japan Open. It ended with another trophy in the Bahamas against a short but strong field. Five tournaments. Four victories. The

way Hideki Matsuyama is playing, he might wish the Masters started next week. Or maybe not. "I'm kind of glad it's not," he said with a broad smile, "because I don't think I



NASSAU: Hideki Matsuyama, right, of Japan, poses with Tiger Woods and the trophy after winning the Hero World Challenge golf tournament Sunday, in Nassau, Bahamas. — AP

could win next week." Winning must be exhausting for the 24-year-old Japanese star, and no one has been more proficient at it over the last two months. Even more alarming is that Matsuyama is making it look easy, although getting through the final nine holes at the Hero World Challenge felt as heavy as walking through the beach sand of the Bahamas. Coming off seven-shot victories in the HSBC Champions and the Taiheiyo Masters, he had a seven-shot lead over Henrik Stenson going into the final round at Albany Golf Club. Matsuyama didn't make another birdie after the ninth hole, and his lead was reduced to two shots with two holes to play when he closed with two pars for a 1-over 73 and a two-shot victory.

"I can't say that I played well today," he said. "But I did win Tiger's tournament, and what a great honor it is."

Matsuyama said Tiger Woods has been his golfing idol as long as he can remember, and as much as he enjoyed winning, he was just as happy to see Woods back in competition. Woods led the field with 24 birdies, but six

double bogeys contributed to a 15th-place finish in the 17-man field.

The first time he heard of Woods was when Matsuyama was 5 and watched video -"over and over and over again," he said - of Woods winning the 1997 Masters. Three years later, Woods won 10 times around the world, including the final three majors in what is considered his best season.

"Unfortunately, I wasn't able to see all those wins because they didn't have the broadcast in Japan," Matsuyama said. "But I knew Tiger was winning, and I knew he was very good. And I almost expected him to win every tournament." Perhaps he is starting to appreciate what it's like to get on a roll.

"I'm not even close to being mentioned in the same sentence as Tiger," he said. "But I am working hard, and hopefully, little by little, I'll get better and better." Matsuyama isn't the first player to get on a hot streak. Last year, Jason Day won four out of six tournaments against the strongest competition in the world, including the PGA Championship and a pair of FedEx Cup playoff events.—AP





FORMULA ONE RETURNS TO FRANCE AFTER 10-YEAR ABSENCE

Prix will return in 2018 after a 10-year absence with the race scheduled to take place at the Circuit Paul Ricard in southern France, regional politician Christian Estrosi said yesterday. "We and those who are with me are very proud...it's a great victory," Estrosi told reporters.

Named after the local pastis alcohol magnate who financed it, and also known as Le Castellet, the track last hosted a grand prix in 1990. The counat Magny-Cours, in central France, in 2008. France hosted the first recognised grand prix near Le Mans in 1906, and was also part of the first world championship season in 1950 with a race at Reims. The five-year deal was agreed with the Provence-Alpes-Cote d'Azur (PACA) region in association with the city of Toulon, department of Var and the French motorsport association (FFSA).

PACA president Estrosi, an ex-mayor

PARIS: The French Formula One Grand try's most recent Formula One race was of Nice and a former car and motorcycle 2017 calendar for financial reasons, racer who finished fourth in the 1978 French 500cc Grand Prix at Nogaro, said the event was likely to happen in the European summer. He declined to say how much it had cost to bring back motor racing's elite competition, but said the contract was in the normal price range for a grand prix in Europe.

"Losing the grand prix left a real scar on the country," Estrosi said.

Germany has been axed from the

despite the country having world champions in dominant Mercedes, but Hockenheim still has a contract to host the loss-making race in 2018.

Le Castellet, which features the long Mistral straight, has been fully renovated and is now owned by Formula One supremo Bernie Ecclestone's family trust.

The Briton told Reuters last week that the trust was not involved in the race and would be leasing the facility to "the

people that are going to be the promoters." France currently has two drivers on the starting grid, Romain Grosjean and Esteban Ocon, while French manufacturer Renault has its own team and provides engines to former champions Red Bull and Toro Rosso.

The showcase Monaco Grand Prix, a few hours' drive from Le Castellet, has been a fixture on the calendar since 1950 and the closest thing to a home race for French drivers in recent years. —Reuters

DOPING INCREASES OLYMPIC THREAT

LAUSANNE: Weightlifting is buckling under the burden of a drug-taking culture that has made it one of the most notorious Olympic events. The sport that first appeared at the Olympics in 1896 accounted for 48 of the 104 positive tests detected in new analyses on samples from the 2008 Beijing Games and 2012 in London.

It could get worse as not all the results of the 1,243 samples have been revealed. Top of the sorry list was Kazakhstan's Ilya Ilvin, a four-time weightlifter of the year who was stripped of his Beijing and London 94kg titles. The London 94kg podium has been devastated by doping. Russia's Alexandr Ivanov has had to hand in his silver medal and Anatoly Ciricu of Moldova his bronze.

The doping merry-go-round is now so farcical that Saeid Mohammadpour of Iran, who came fifth, is now in line for gold. The bronze medal could go to Tomasz Zielinksi of Poland who came ninth on the day. "Weightlifting is clearly a sport at high risk of doping," said Olivier Niggli, director general of the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA). "This was clearly proved by the number of cases detected by the International Weightlifting Federation with WADA at the 2015 world championships in Houston and by the retesting of analyses by the International Olympic Committee."

The IWF barred serial performanceenhancing offenders Russia and Bulgaria from competing at the Rio Games. The IWF said that Russia's test results were "shocking". It adopted a resolution in June that said any country which returns three or more positive drugs tests from the reanalysis of samples from the last two Olympics would be suspended for a year.

But the IOC is keeping a close eye on the sport, according to experts close to the Olympic movement.

"Weightlifting's problems are nothing

new," said Jean-Loup Chappelet, a professor at the IDHEAP Swiss Graduate School of Public Administration at the University of Lausanne. He said Richard Pound, first president of WADA, had spoken of excluding weightlifting from the Olympics before the agency was created in 1999. Chappelet, a specialist on the Olympic movement, said it would be possible if the IOC wanted to send a "strong signal" against doping. But it would be difficult as weightlifting is so popular in Eastern Europe. "There are always people who would like to see weightlifting and some other sports expelled," IWF director general Attila Adamfi told AFP. "Yes weightlifting is in danger but I believe that weightlifting is in danger just like every other sport."

But Adamfi said every sport is in danger because the IOC's Agenda 2020 recommends a bigger rotation of the sports, disciplines or events. "We know some sports where manipulation and corruption is an issue, so I think there are many issues in many sports federations." The IOC is to carry out a review from 2017 of sports that will be included in the 2024 Games. Events at the Rio Games this year, as well as previous Olympics, will be considered.

The IWF anti-doping policies are bound to be studied. Marc Andrieux, head of the French weightlifting federation, said several national chiefs had been worried about the sport's Olympic status four years ago when Tamas Ayan was elected IWF president. Andrieux savs that the Hungarian Ayan took many of the criticisms on board.

"A lot of work has been done over the past four years. "At every world or European championships, busloads of cheaters are kicked out."

Niggli said that the IWF has a "solid" anti-doping programme. "But it still has lessons to learn from the many recent doping cases," he added. — AFP



OKLAHOMA: Oklahoma City Thunder guard Victor Oladipo, left, and New Orleans Pelicans guard Jrue Holiday (11) go after a loose ball during the second half of an NBA basketball game in Oklahoma City, Sunday. Oklahoma City won 101-92. —AP

WESTBROOK'S FIFTH STRAIGHT TRIPLE-DOUBLE LIFTS THUNDER

OKLAHOMA: Russell Westbrook collected his fifth consecutive triple-double in leading the Oklahoma City Thunder to a 101-92 victory over the New Orleans Pelicans on Sunday at the Chesapeake Energy Arena. Westbrook posted 28 points, 17 rebounds, 12 assists and 10 turnovers in his 10th triple-double streak of the season. His streak of five in a row is the longest of his career and the longest in the NBA since Michael Jordan posted seven straight in



GUT STORMS TO LAKE LOUISE SUPER-G WIN

LAKE LOUISE: World Cup overall champion Lara Gut claimed the season opening women's super-G race at Lake Louise on Sunday, one day after finishing runner-up in the downhill. Gut, who won the bronze medal in the downhill at the 2014 Sochi Olympics, clocked a time of one minute, 02.68 seconds, finishing 0.10 seconds ahead of Tina Weirather of Liechtenstein. Italy's Sofia Goggia was third in 1:03.27. Overnight snow flurries and poor visibility delayed the start of the race 75 minutes so organizers could make sure the track was safe to ski on. Gut had to plough through some thick snow for her win but it turned out to be the perfect storm for the 25-year-old from Lugano, Switzerland. She not only took advantage of the organizers' decision to shorten the super-G course because of the bad weather, but the flat terrain-that makes Lake Louise one of the less demanding speed courses on the circuit-suited her game plan.

"I am finally leaving Lake Louise with a full smile," Gut wrote on her Twitter account. "And the slope didn't get any steeper, hehehe." Gut showed steady improvement as the first speed races of the 2016-17 FIS Ski World Cup season kicked off in the Canadian Rocky

Mountains with a pair of downhills followed by the super-G.

In the back-to-back downhills she finished fourth on Friday and second on Saturday behind Ilka Stuhec.

"Yesterday and the last days, I had the feeling I was finally starting to build something," Gut said.

"I wasn't skiing really well at the top. So I understood that I should change something, and from the middle on I tried to keep a really straight line and be aggressive. I'm happy it paid off."

Weirather skied from the fifth starting position and set the early pace. She said her first podium finish of the young season has given her a confidence boost.

"I was pretty angry after yesterday, so I tried to put that anger into skiing today," she said of her ninth place finish in Saturday's downhill. "That helped me for sure and now the confidence is up and I hope to keep it going."

Slovenia's Stuhec, who also won Friday's downhill race, finished fifth in the super-G with a time of 1:03.42.

Sweden's Kajsa Kling was fourth with a time of 1:03.38. Kling placed a surprise third in Friday's downhill. The ladies now head to Sestriere, Italy, for a giant slalom on Saturday. — AFP



LAKE LOUISE: Switzerland's Lara Gut stands in the finish area following her win at the women's World Cup super-G ski race in Lake Louise, Alberta, Sunday. — AP

1989 with the Chicago Bulls. Thunder center Enes Kanter recorded 17 points and 10 boards. Victor Oladipo added 15 points for Oklahoma City (13-8). Anthony Davis led the Pelicans (7-14) with 37 points, 15 rebounds and four blocked shots. Rookie Buddy Hield broke out of a slump with 16 points, all in the second half. Jrue Holiday and E'Twaun Moore each scored 10 points for New Orleans.

MAGIC 98, PISTONS 92

Serge Ibaka piled up 21 points, seven rebounds, four assists, four blocks and three steals, and Orlando ended a seven-game losing streak to Detroit. Nikola Vucevic supplied 16 points and eight rebounds off the bench for the Magic, who hadn't defeated Detroit since Nov. 17, 2014. Jeff Green added 14 points, five rebounds and three, assists and D.J. Augustin contributed 12 points and three assists for Orlando. Marcus Morris scored 16 of his team-high 21 points in the first half for the Pistons, who saw their three-game winning streak snapped. Detroit point guard Reggie Jackson had 18 points and four assists in 23 minutes in his season debut. He had been sidelined since training camp with left knee tendinitis. Andre Drummond added 10 points and 10 rebounds.

KNICKS 106, KINGS 98

Derrick Rose and Carmelo Anthony scored 20 points apiece to lead New York past Sacramento. Rose hit the 20-point mark for the third time in his past four games. Brandon Jennings scored a seasonhigh 19 points, and Kristaps Porzingis contributed 15 points, 14 rebounds and four blocked shots for the Knicks, who are 9-3 at the Garden. Sacramento lost its third straight, all on the road. DeMarcus Cousins paced the Kings with 36 points, 12 rebounds and three blocked shots. It marked the 10th time Cousins has poured in at least 30 points this season. He was 14 of 16 from the foul line, and he picked up his league-leading seventh technical foul. Rudy Gay added 22 points and nine rebounds for Sacramento.

PACERS 111, CLIPPERS 102

Thaddeus Young scored 17 points, and Paul George and Rodney Stuckey contributed 16 apiece, helping Indiana beat Los Angeles. George, who missed six of the previous seven games with an ankle injury, also collected seven rebounds and five assists. Jeff Teague added 15 points and Monta Ellis chipped in 14 for Indiana, which won for the third time in four games. All five Pacers starters and two reserves reached double figures. Blake Griffin scored 24 points and grabbed 16 rebounds for the Clippers, who fell for the fourth time in six games. Chris Paul had 18 points and 11 assists for Los Angeles, while J.J. Redick scored 15 points on five first-half 3-pointers. — Reuters

LOS ANGELES: Indiana Pacers' Myles Turner, top, defends Los Angeles Clippers' Chris Paul during the second half of an NBA basketball game Sunday, in Los Angeles. The Pacers won 111-102. — AP

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA MEETS PENN STATE IN 103RD ROSE BOWL

PASADENA: Southern California and Penn State followed two difficult paths to reach a remarkable reunion eight years later in the Rose Bowl. The Trojans will face the Big Ten champions on Jan. 2 in the 103rd edition of the Granddaddy of Them All. The rematch of the 2009 game showcases two venerable football programs that have emerged from bad times since their last trip to this traditional postseason destination for their conferences.

"I can't think of a better reward for our football team after this season," USC coach Clay Helton said. "These are the things you dream about as a little kid." USC (9-3) will meet Penn State (11-2) in a rematch of the Trojans' 38-24 victory eight years ago - the last trip to the Rose Bowl for either team. Since then, both programs were rocked to their foundations by scandals and NCAA sanctions. But both capped years of progress with breakthroughs this fall, recovering from similarly slow starts to become two of the nation's top teams. Coach James Franklin's Nittany Lions have won nine straight games, culminating in a 38-31 victory over Wisconsin on Saturday night in the Big Ten championship game. Penn State finished fifth in the final

College Football Playoff rankings, just ahead of Michigan. "How humbled and honored we are to have this opportunity," Franklin said. "I think this is a game and a bowl that players and coaches grow up dreaming about having an opportunity to play in and be a part of one day."

Helton's Trojans have won eight games in a row, capped by back-to-back victories over top rivals UCLA and Notre Dame. The Trojans barely missed out on the Pac-12 title game between Washington and Colorado - who were both beaten convincingly by USC - but overtook the Buffaloes in the final playoff rankings to snag their record 34th Rose Bowl berth. Penn State will make its fourth appearance in the Rose Bowl, including three against USC. The Rose Bowl berth is another milestone in the program's revival after the scandal surrounding former defensive coordinator Jerry Sandusky, who was indicted on 40 counts of sex crimes in 2011.

USC has played in far more Rose Bowls than any other team. The Trojans' downtown campus is 15 miles from the stadium, which became the program's second home during the dominant years of coach Pete Carroll.—AP



JORGE MENDES: FROM DISCO SUPREMO TO TOP SOCCER AGENT

PARIS: Two decades ago, he was a simple entrepreneur making a living from managing a video club and discotheques. That was then. Today, at the age of 50, Jorge Mendes operates in the rarified upper stratosphere of the hyper-moneyed world inhabited by top sportsmen as agent to the stars-including Cristiano Ronaldo. That status has placed him at the eye of the storm of the "Football Leaks" media investigation into alleged soccer corruption in the highest echelons of the world game.

Nicknamed "the shark" by rival agents, the diminutive Mendes has a penchant on the whole for being discreet-he rarely gives interviews.

When he does surface he is generally seen phone in hand or clamped to his ear wheeling and dealing for his stable of some 100 players or coaches whose interests he manages.

Yet Mendes has been front page news since an international consortium

of media organisations highlighted a huge data leak purporting to show that Ronaldo and others, including Jose Mourinho, kept millions of earnings out of the taxman's reach in havens.

Mendes, whose company, Gestifute International, is registered in Ireland, has vigorously denied any wrongdoing. Yet his methods have raised eyebrows in the past and are being questioned again after the data dump as reported by the European Investigative Collaborations (EIC) media consortium. He was one of the first to exploit player rights through third parties such as investment funds-a practice FIFA has now made illegal.

Mendes Quality Sports Investments, based in the tax haven of Jersey, offered rich investors the chance to buy a percentage of players' "economic rights" with a view to making a killing when they were eventually sold on for a hefty transfer fee in jurisdictions operating ultra-low corporation tax. Such a practice has long been common notably in South America although the English Premier League and also UEFA leagues have officially condemned it.

SELF-MADE MAN

Mendes appears to be an archetypal 'self-made man.' Born to an oil industry worker in Lisbon he left the Portuguese capital aged 19 to enter the business world in the northern provincial town of Viana do Castelo.

A video club which he opened became a successful venture and soon he would meet Portugal keeper Nuno Espirito Santo in a disco he was also running. A former semi-professional footballer himself, Mendes set about cultivating close links to players, creating his own network and starting to look afer their interests. He branched out beyond Portugal as he progressively established contacts with representatives of foreign sides. "Having established good contacts, it is obvious now that the priority is to preserve rapport of confidence with major European clubs," he told Expresso newspaper in 2011 - ironically, one of the papers in the leak consortium.

"He works hard with players and looks after them constantly," Real Madrid president Florentino Perez once said of Mendes in allusion to his dealing with Ronaldo's 94 million euro move from Manchester United.

"I have every confidence in him. He is like a big brother for me a father figure in the world of football and godfather to my son," said Ronaldo in a 2012 documentary which coincided with 15 years of Mendes' agency work.

MOURINHO A FAN

"Jorge Mendes is for me a great friend, more than an agent," Jose Mourinho said of their relationship.

"Our careers started at the same time and happily things have gone well for both of us," said the man now in the Old Trafford dugout who after leading Porto to the 2004 Champions League took several Portuguese stars with him to Chelsea. Another Gestifute client is Monaco's Colombian star Radamel Falcao. Mendes' links with the Principality side go back to his working on the transfer to the French top flight club of Portuguese international Costinha in 1997. Asked about his style of doing business Mendes once said: "I am not one of these agents who races after players making promises...." adding that he represents players interests and intervenes when clubs would prefer to do deals behind their backs.

Sometimes their (transfer) situation is almost sealed and they themselves know nothing of it," which is where he comes in. As the controversy has gathered pace since last Friday, Gestifute has rejected allegations of facilitating tax evasion.—AFP

BLATTER SUFFERS ONE LAST DEFEAT OVER FIFA MISCONDUCT

LAUSANNE: Sport's highest court yesterday rejected the appeal of former FIFA president Sepp Blatter against a six year ban signalling the end of his efforts to clear his name. The 80-year-old former football powerbroker was ousted over a two million Swiss franc (\$2 million/1.8 million euro) payment to UEFA boss Michel Platini which the Court of Arbitration for Sport called an "undue gift" that could not be justified.

Blatter called the verdict "incomprehensible" but also acknowledged that he has come to the end of the road in his fight to clear his name. "I will not be appealing in a Swiss court," he told AFP, turning his back on what would have been his last legal recourse.

Earlier, however, he maintained that guilt had not been proven. "It is difficult to follow it, because the principle of jurisdiction-culpability has to be proven by prosecution-was not applied," Blatter said in a statement.

"Nevertheless I look back with gratitude to all the years, in which I was able to realise my ideals for football and serve FIFA," added the Swiss official widely condemned by critics during his 18 years as head of the world football body. The payment made to Platini in 2011 for work carried out a decade earlier without any contract led to the downfall of both men. Platini had been expected to take over from Blatter, but has also seen multiple appeals rejected by tribunals and courts. Blatter could face more trouble as he remains under investigation by Swiss prosecutors over the payment and for the way in which the 2018 and 2022 World Cups were awarded to Russia and Qatar, respectively.

'UNDUE GIFT'

Blatter and Platini said they had an "oral contract" for the payment. This was firmly dismissed by the CAS which also said Blatter year salary. "Accordingly, by approving a payment of two million Swiss francs to Mr Platini in 2011 for the balance of work carried out under the alleged oral agreement, Mr Blatter breached the FIFA code of ethics."

It said "the payment amounted to an undue gift as it had no contractual basis. "The panel further found that Mr Blatter unlawfully awarded contributions to Mr Platini under the FIFA executive committee retirement scheme which also amounted to an undue gift."

Blatter, who still uses his FIFA limousine, and Platini have now both had all appeals rejected by FIFA's ethics court and CAS. Blatter's suspension has been reduced from eight years to six and Platini from eight to four years.

French football legend Platini has taken a case to the Swiss courts and Blatter could have done the same. But the civil courts are reluctant to get involved in international disputes, according to experts, and Blatter has decided against that option.

FIFA and UEFA meanwhile have launched campaigns to cleanse their tainted images under new leaders who have promised reform. FIFA is now led by Gianni Infantino who has embarked on major changes at the world football body including replacing many staff employed in the Blatter era.

FIFA said only that it had "taken note" of the CAS verdict. Aleksander Ceferin has taken over at UEFA also promising a new era of transparency.

The air of corruption has not completely cleared however. More details of the commercial underbelly of sport are expected when US courts start sentencing 39 football and marketing officials accused of involvement in more than \$200 million of bribes for television and other commercial contracts.

Blatter's air of invincibility ended when



LOS ANGELES: Montreal Canadiens center Andrew Shaw dives for the puck during the second period of an NHL hockey game against the Los Angeles Kings, Sunday, in Los Angeles. — AP

PACIORETTY PROPELS CANADIENS TO **5-4 SHOOTOUT WIN OVER LA KINGS**

LOS ANGELES: Paul Byron scored the clinching

goal in the fourth round of the shootout, and the Montreal Canadiens avoided a winless swing through California with a 5-4 victory over the Los season 1:26 into overtime, giving Carolina a win 2:09 to make it 1-0. Sixth in the NHL in scoring Angeles Kings on Sunday. Max Pacioretty had over Tampa Bay. Viktor Stalberg assisted on Di last season, Gaudreau started off slowly this seatwo goals and an assist for the Canadiens, who won for just the second time in seven road games. Montreal had only one win in its previous 11 games in California before scoring three times in the four-round shootout. Alexander Radulov and Andrew Shaw also scored and Carey Price made 27 saves for the Atlantic Division-leading Canadiens. Jeff Carter and Drew Doughty had a goal and an assist apiece for the Kings, who lost for only the second time in eight games. Peter Budaj stopped 26 shots.

HURRICANES 1, LIGHTNING 0, OT

Phillip Di Giuseppe scored his first goal of the

him out four to six weeks. On the first shot of his first shift, he took a drop pass from Sam Bennett and whipped a shot past Jonathan Bernier at

must pay a 50,000 Swiss franc fine.

The tribunal ruled that a written employment contract established between Platini and FIFA in 1999 voided any oral agreement concluded between Blatter and Platini in 1998 allowing for a one million Swiss franc a

Swiss police raided a Zurich hotel in May 2015 to detain seven FIFA officials who are now among the defendants in the United States. The arrests came on the eve of his reelection as FIFA president and he was suspended months later.— AFP



LAUSANNE: Matthieu Reeb, Secretary General of the Court of Arbitration for Sport, CAS, speaks to journalists during the release of the decision in the case between Sepp Blatter and the FIFA in front of the CAS in Lausanne, Switzerland, yesterday. Blatter has lost his CAS appeal against a 6-year ban by FIFA. — AP

TRUST URGES CLUBS TO BACK FIGHT FOR JUSTICE OVER ABUSE CLAIMS

MANCHESTER: The men behind an independent body launched yesterday in the wake of football's abuse scandal urged the clubs involved to apologise and support the fight for justice. The Offside Trust was launched to help victims of abuse and will work separately from the English Football Association and Professional Footballers' Association.

The trust has been created by Andy Woodward, Steve Walters and Chris Unsworth, who were all the victims of historic child abuse. Two weeks ago Woodward waived his anonymity to reveal he was the victim of sexual abuse while a youth player at Crewe in the 1980s. Since Woodward came forward there have been 18 police forces involved in investigations concerning 450 alleged victims.

"An apology would be a start. At least we have that and can move forward." Woodward told reporters in Manchester at the launch. "The sheer size and scale of the problem is illustrated by the fact that over 860 victims have come forward in the last few days. "It is clear that abuse has existed on a major scale for many years. This trust will support all of those who are victims of abuse to include their families and children.

"We also hope that those who benefit from sport to include the FA, the PFA, the Premier League and other stakeholders support and donate to the trust. "We want to fight for justice. We want reform and be able to move forward to protect children in all walks of life because we went through it. We just want to help people."

Walters revealed that neither he nor Woodward have been contacted by Crewe since they decided to come forward.

APOLOGY

"From Crewe there is nothing. They have let us suffer all of our lives. You would not believe how many there are to come out. "The clubs have to take responsibility. To me to get an apology would make a hell of a difference.

"Surely a football club who looked after children surely it's their responsibility? A little statement, a bit of dignity. They have to take their head out of the sand. Apologise."

The Trust, which will be administered by the Manchester legal firm Prosperity Law LLP, have asked for donations from the FA, Football League and the PFA, as well as urging players and other commercial organisations and stakeholders to support victims.

Walters added: "We need more help and publicity, support from high profile sportsman. There is thousands of footballers, there are lots of people who can support us." — AFP

FLYERS 4, PREDATORS 2

Wayne Simmonds scored two power-play goals and Philadelphia beat Nashville to win its fifth consecutive game. Playing in front of a sellout crowd in Nashville, the Flyers earned their second road victory in two days against a Central Division team. They defeated the Chicago Blackhawks 3-1 on Saturday. The Predators lost in regulation for only the second time in 12 home games this season. Simmonds, who leads the Flyers with 13 goals, scored twice against what had been a stingy Nashville penalty-killing unit at home. The Predators did not allow a power-play goal in their first 10 home games, but have given up three in their last two games.

JETS 2, BLACKHAWKS 1

Andrew Copp scored the tiebreaking goal with 4:45 left, Bryan Little got his third goal in three games and Winnipeg edged Chicago. Copp beat Scott Darling on the stick side with a shot from the right circle that slipped just inside the left post. Chicago's Artemi Panarin scored with 6:54 remaining to tie it at 1, moments after Copp hit the post, to spoil Connor Hellebuyck's bid for a second shutout against Chicago in less than a month. Panarin completed a give-and-go with Patrick Kane, beating Hellebuyck to the glove side. Hellebuyck finished with 25 saves and outdueled Darling, who started his second straight game for the Blackhawks in place of No. 1 goalie Corey Crawford. Darling made 30 saves, including three on breakaways. Little's powerplay goal with 43.4 seconds left in the second period was his fourth point in four games since missing 23 with a lower-body injury.

RED WINGS 4, ISLANDERS 3, OT

Danny DeKeyser scored 1:02 into overtime to give Detroit a victory over New York. Mike Green scored twice and Henrik Zetterberg had a goal and assist for Detroit, which improved to 4-1-2 in its last seven games. Peter Mrazek stopped 32 shots to improve to 3-0-2 in his past five starts. Anders Lee, Johnny Boychuk and Josh Bailey scored for New York, which had won a seasonhigh three straight. Jaroslav Halak finished with 30 saves. Detroit's Frans Nielsen had an assist while facing his former team for the first time since leaving the Islanders for a six-year, \$31.5 million deal with the Red Wings last summer. The 32-year-old Danish center was selected by the Islanders in the third round of the 2002 draft and had 119 goals and 230 assists over 10 seasons in New York

Giuseppe's wrist shot from the right circle, which ended a three-game skid for the Canes. It was Carolina's sixth straight home victory and snapped a three-game skid versus Tampa Bay. The Hurricanes have won just two of their last 10 games against the Lightning. Tampa Bay, without injured star Steven Stamkos, lost for the fifth time in six games. Its last regulation win was over Philadelphia on Nov. 23. Hurricanes goalie Cam Ward had 30 saves in his 25th career shutout. Tampa Bay's Ben Bishop stopped 29 shots.

FLAMES 8, DUCKS 3

Johnny Gaudreau had a goal and an assist in his return from a broken finger, and Calgary scored five times in a 6:04 span of the second period to rout Anaheim. It was a surprise when it was revealed in the morning that Gaudreau would be back in the lineup less than three weeks after surgery that was expected to keep son with two goals in 14 games. But he was just beginning to heat up with three goals in three games when a slash from Eric Staal against Minnesota on Nov. 15 sidelined him for 10 games.

WILD 2, OILERS 1, OT

Mikko Koivu scored 3:11 into overtime and Minnesota edged Edmonton. Charlie Coyle also scored for the Wild (12-8-4), who snapped a three-game skid. Patrick Maroon had the goal for the Oilers (14-10-3), who had won two straight. Edmonton got on the board less than 3 minutes into the game. Wild goalie Devan Dubnyk was able to stop a point shot by Mark Fayne, but couldn't recover in time to stop Maroon from scoring his eighth of the season on the rebound. The Wild tied it with 55 seconds to go in the opening period. Coyle was able to muscle in a rebound off Oilers goalie Jonas Gustavsson's skate for his ninth goal this season. —AP

ERIKSSON TO LEAD SHENZHEN FC

SHENZHEN: Former England coach Sven-Goran Eriksson yesterday took charge of second-division Chinese club Shenzhen FC, leaving the top tier of China football for the challenge of lifting a team out of relegation.

Eriksson, who has raised the fortunes of Chinese Super League sides Guangzhou R&F and Shanghai SIPG in his three seasons coaching in the country, parted ways with SIPG last month despite leading them to a third-place finish. After being introduced as Shenzhen's skipper in a press conference in the southern Chinese city near Hong Kong, the Swede said he wasn't ready to leave China and the fast growth of football in the country.

"I've been in China for three and a half years and I feel that I still want to work with football in China," he told AFP, calling Shenzhen FC a "big club with big ambitions."

"Hopefully we will play good football and hopefully we will win a lot of football matches. That's the target of course. Trying very, very hard to achieve the goal, and the goal is to go up to Super league."

Eriksson replaces former Dutch international Clarence Seedorf, who took over at Shenzhen in July but failed to win promotion to the Chinese Super League.

Shenzhen said it expected Eriksson's "rich coaching experience, advanced football philosophy, and intimate knowledge of Chinese football" to bring success.

Eriksson left Shanghai SIPG, one of China's biggest clubs, last month after two seasons in charge. SIPG were CSL runners-up in Eriksson's first year at the club and reached the AFC Champions League for the first time.

The made the last eight of the 2016 Champions League competition but crashed out to the eventual champions from South Korea Jeonbuk Hyundai Motors, losing the second leg by an embarrassing 5-0.

Eriksson coached England from 2001-2006

and went on to lead Manchester City and Leicester City.

Shenzhen FC thanked Seedorf for his contributions but otherwise gave no reason for his departure. The team have languished in China's second tier since being relegated in 2011. As a player, Seedorf won domestic and continental titles in his native Netherlands, Spain, Italy and Brazil but his managerial career has been less distinguished and he was dismissed by Milan in 2014 after just four months in the job. The CSL has a reputation for abrupt managerial turnaround.

SIPG said in November Eriksson was leaving following "friendly discussions" and it quickly replaced him with former Chelsea and Tottenham Hotspur manager Andre Villas-Boas. Shanghai Shenhua last week named former Uruguay international Gustavo Poyet as their new coach after cutting ties with his Spanish predecessor Gregorio Manzano despite a fourth-place CSL finish that earned them an AFC Champions League spot. — AFP



Sven-Goran Eriksson



QATAR 2022 ATTACKS 'MALICIOUS': ORGANISER

DOHA: Qatar's much-criticised 2022 country". World Cup has been the victim of "malicious and unwarranted attacks", a senior tournament official in the Gulf said yesterday.

Nasser Al-Khater, assistant secretary general of the Supreme Committee for Delivery and Legacy, the body overseeing the organisation of the tournament in Qatar, also claimed that many of the country's critics had not "set foot in the

"We've responded to our critics for a very long time to the detriment of the local people and local media," he told a Soccerex Asia forum meeting in Doha.

"We were under a lot of criticism we were under, I would say, malicious and unwarranted attacks."

Since being controversially chosen to host football's biggest event almost exactly six years ago, Qatar has received

a barrage of international criticism.

These have mostly focused on corruption allegations to secure the tournament in the first place and its poor human rights record, in relation to the almost two million migrant workers in the Gulf state.

Qatar is the subject of an ongoing Swiss Attorney General investigation into corruption claims over the bidding process for the 2022 tournament, allegations always denied in Doha.

It was also accused earlier this year by Amnesty International of using "forced labour" at one World Cup site.

Qatar has tried to counter such claims by saying it is in the process of bringing in significant labour reforms.

Later this month, the gas-rich state is expected to announce the end of its controversial "kafala" laws, which place restrictions on workers' ability to change jobs and travel.

In addition, last month the Supreme Committee announced that it would allow international trade union inspections of tournament stadium sites from next year.

Khater added that he thought critics were being silenced. "I think it's time critics started to listen to us. I think they are coming round to the fact that Qatar is not a bad idea," he said. — AFP



MANCHESTER: Manchester City's Brazilian midfielder Fernandinho (L) and Manchester City's French defender Bacary Sagna attend a training session at the City Football Academy in Manchester, northern England, yesterday. Manchester City are due to play Cetlic in UEFA Champions League Group C football match today. — AFP

UNSETTLED MANCHESTER CITY TARGET CELTIC REACTION

LONDON: Pep Guardiola's Manchester City will look to turn the page on their turbulent weekend defeat by Chelsea when they entertain Celtic in their final Champions League group game today. City's 3-1 loss on Saturday left them four points below Chelsea, who top the Premier League table, and saw Sergio Aguero and Fernandinho dismissed for losing their heads in stoppage time.

Guardiola's side are already assured of a place in the Champions League last 16, while Celtic cannot even reach the Europa League, but goalkeeper Willy Caballero says the hosts still have a point to prove. "Just hearing the anthem of the Champions League is a big motivation. It is the most important competition in the world," the Argentine said during a pre-match press conference yesterday.

"With this, it is enough. We have to respect this kind of game. We are going to play against a champion team and be focused and play in the same way we did against Borussia (Moenchengladbach) and Barcelona. "We lost at home. We need to recover the feeling of a winning team and the only way to do that is to win tomorrow." Caballero is expected to start in goal in place of Claudio Bravo as Guardiola rotates his starting XI for the Etihad Stadium encounter. With Aguero banned from domestic football until New Year's Eve, Guardiola must decide whether to hand him a last pre-Christmas run-out or give his deputy, Kelechi Iheanacho, a chance to get up to speed. "There will be changes tomorrow, definitely," Guardiola said. "I am so happy to give minutes to people who deserved to play the last games. Whether Sergio will play or not, I will decide tomorrow." Fernandinho received a three-game domestic ban for manhandling Chelsea's Cesc Fabregas and will not feature against Celtic due to a one-game European suspension.

ROBERTS RETURNS

Captain Vincent Kompany remains sidelined with a knee problem and Raheem Sterling is not expected to feature, having missed the Chelsea game after taking a knock to his knee.

But midfielder Fabian Delph is thought to be close to a return to first-team action after over three months out with a groin injury. Guaranteed to finish bottom of Group C, Celtic have only pride to play for, but they will hope to bow out with a performance akin to their fine showing in their 3-3 draw with City in September.

The Scottish champions have not won a game in Europe's top-level competition proper since October 2013, while the last of their three victories in England dates back to 2003. But they have had a memorable 10 days, claiming the Scottish League Cup to bring up a century of trophies, and go into the game on the back of a last-gasp 4-3 win at Motherwell on Saturday.

FLAWLESS ATLETICO HUNT PERFECT SIX AT BAYERN

BERLIN: Atletico Madrid can make club history at Bayern Munich today as the Spaniards look for a record sixth group stage win with both teams through to the last 16.

Diego Simeone's men arrive in Munich as the only side with a 100 percent record in Europe after five wins from five. The Group D leaders are six points clear of second-placed Bayern, who they beat 1-0 in Madrid in September, thanks to Yannick Carrasco's first-half winner.

Only five teams have achieved the feat of winning all six Champions League group stage games: Real Madrid (twice, 2011/12, 2014/15), AC Milan (1992/93), Paris Saint-Germain (1994/95), Spartak Moscow (1995/96) and Barcelona (2002/03).

Bayern have their own record run to maintain in Munich as their 4-1 victory over PSV in October was their 14th straight home win in the Champions League-a competition best.

The match at Munich's Allianz Arena is a dead rubber and regardless of the result Atletico will progress as group winners with Bayern second. Regardless, Bayern want a good performance after their 3-2 defeat at Rostov last time out.

"We want to play at a high level," insisted Bayern midfielder Thiago Alcantara. "It's not just a matter of prestige, we want to decide the game for ourselves." Bayern also have a score to settle after September's defeat in Madrid and semi-final exit last season at the hands of Atletico and Antoine Griezmann.

Atletico lost last season's final to neighbours Real in Milan on penalties having squeezed past Bayern in the semis. Madrid beat Bayern 1-0 at home and although the Germans won the return 2-1 in Munich last May, Griezmann's crucial away goal knocked the Bavarians out on a night when Thomas Mueller and Fernando Torres had penalties saved.

'The semi-finals were painful, but it's a thing of the past. Now we want a good performance," said Thiago. Atletico's contrasting domestic and European fortunes so far this season continued as they were held to a 0-0 draw by Espanyol at



MUNICH: Bayern Munich's Italian headcoach Carlo Ancelotti attends a press conference in Munich, southern Germany, yesterday, on the eve of the UEFA Champions League group D match between FC Bayern Munich and Atletico Madrid. — AFP

home on Saturday. The result leaves them nine points adrift of runaway Spanish league leaders Real Madrid

Atletico have at least recovered their defensive solidity with four consecutive clean sheets following a 3-0 reverse to Real two weeks ago.

Simeone has named a full strength 20-man squad for the trip to Germany, but key players like Diego Godin, Carrasco and Griezmann could be rested for their crucial La Liga match at Villarreal next Monday.

Having won the Bundesliga title for each of the last four seasons-a German league record-Bayern find themselves in the unusual position of second in Germany's top flight, three points adrift of leaders RB Leipzig.

Head coach Carlo Ancelotti experimented for

Friday's 3-1 win at Mainz. He switched Thomas Mueller from the wing to the attacking midfield and opted for a 4-2-3-1 formation, rather than his prefered 4-3-3, which paid off as Robert Lewandowski netted either side of an Arjen Robben goal. It was a return to winning ways after Ancelotti admitted his side made too many mistakes in the defeat to Rostov and 1-0 league loss at Borussia Dortmund last month.

"When we look at the stats, we haven't conceded many goals, but there were many individual mistakes we made and we're working on that," said Ancelotti.

The Italian says centre-back Jerome Boateng is out with a shoulder injury, while Arturo Vidal will feature at some point after returning from a leg injury he picked up playing for Chile. —AFP

'It was definitely a day to remember,' said Australian midfielder Tom Rogic, who netted a 90th-minute winner at Fir Park. "We are certainly champions for a reason and it is days like those when you are up against it, it tests your character as a group and as a unit and when you come through it, it is pretty pleasing.

"It was a new challenge and it showed the strength of the team." One visiting player hoping to catch the eye will be 19-yearold winger Patrick Roberts, who joined Celtic from City last February on an 18month loan deal.

Former City winger Scott Sinclair and left-back Kieran Tierney have been ruled out due to hamstring and ankle injuries respectively. But manager Brendan Rodgers said centre-back Erik Sviatchenko and striker Leigh Griffiths "should be fine" after they sat out the trip to Motherwell due to illness. —AFP

KLOPP DEFENDS LIVERPOOL AFTER BOURNEMOUTH SHOCKER

BOURNEMOUTH: Jurgen Klopp has been forced to defend Liverpool's character and title credentials after their incredible meltdown in a stunning 4-3 defeat at Bournemouth. Liverpool's shock loss on Sunday came at a time when they looked set to move to within a point of leaders Chelsea and go into the Christmas period as one of the favourites to finish as champions for the first time since 1990. However, the nervous manner of the team's late collapse against a Bournemouth team who had never won against Liverpool in their history, has opened up a debate over whether Klopp's squad is ready for such pressure. Next weekend sees Liverpool face lowly West Ham at Anfield, but the Christmas fixture list also throws up far tougher games against Merseyside rivals Everton and title rivals Manchester City, with star player Philippe Coutinho missing all of them because of an ankle injury. Klopp, however, sees no reason for panic despite his team conceding three goals in the last 14 minutes to turn a 3-1 lead into a 4-3 loss. "We have no attitude or character problem," he said. "No-one is born a winner. Not in the first two or three months. You have to learn it. "It doesn't feel too good right now but sometimes we need it. So I'm not angry. These things happen and you cannot be champions in December. "I would say we were 100 percent before now. Now we are 99 percent. But it's quite simple to go back to 100 percent.

"Nothing happened today apart from losing three points. Everything else is ok."

NO CONCERN

Klopp did admit he wasn't happy with

certain aspects of Liverpool's performance, however - accusing his team of 'opening the door for Bournemouth' in the latter stages of a match in which Liverpool scored excellent goals through Sadio Mane, Divock Origi and Emre Can. But Klopp refused to place any blame at the door of goalkeeper Loris Karius, who spiled Steve Cook's stoppage-time shot to gift Nathan Ake the winner - and was then heavily criticised by television pundit and former Liverpool player Jamie Carragher for his mistake. "No, I have no concern," Klopp insisted. "No problem. If you make mistakes you get criticised. That's what happens in life. "I'm sure people criticised Jamie Carragher in his career. It has no influence on what I do to my team. It says nothing about him as a goalkeeper. It happens. We go on."

In contrast, Bournemouth players are celebrating a famous victory, having never previously beaten Liverpool in nine fixtures going all the way back to 1927.

The result takes them up to 10th, with matches against struggling Burnley and Leicester next on the agenda. Their comeback was inspired by a match-winning performance from 22-year-old substitute 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 his team's equaliser as the game was turned on its head.

Bournemouth manager Eddie Howe, whose team were playing in England's fourth tier as recently as six years ago, said: "I don't think I'll ever forget this game. It was a right contrast of emotions. —AFP

MEXICO CITY: Alex Mina Ibarra (R) of America vies for the ball with Jairo Gonzalez of Necaxa during their Mexican Apertura 2016 tournament second leg semifinal football match at Azteca stadium in Mexico City, Mexico, on Sunday. — AFP

UNITED VICTIMS OF DOUBLE STANDARDS, SAYS MOURINHO

LIVERPOOL: Jose Mourinho claimed he is being judged unfairly by critics after Manchester United conceded a late Leighton Baines penalty in a damaging 1-1 draw at Everton.

Mourinho's team have won just twice in the league since the end of August, a run which has featured numerous draws and has derailed United's hopes of winning a title in their manager's debut season at Old Trafford.

However, Mourinho, who earned a reputation for not always winning in the most attractive style when in charge of Chelsea, insists his side is playing well and that he is being held to a double standard. "You have to make a decision because when my teams are playing pragmatic football and winning matches and winning titles, you say it is not right and nice," Mourinho said. "When my teams play very, very well, there is a huge change in relation to the past two or three years. Now you say what matters is to get result, no matter what.

"At the moment teams are getting results, defending with 11 players, keeping the ball and playing on the counter-attack. You have to make a decision." The last comment may have been a thinly-disguised reference to Chelsea and their current style of play.

But, in any case, United had only themselves to blame for their latest disappointment as late substitute Marouane Fellaini tripped Idrissa Gueye and Baines struck the equalising penalty.

Mourinho, whose side are 13 points behind leaders Chelsea, did not take kindly to questions about his decision to bring on the Belgian and said: "I thought you would know more about football than you do. "It is obvious. Everton is not a passing team. They play direct. Everything is direct. "When a team is losing it plays direct, when you have a player on the bench with two metres (height) you play that player in front of the defensive line to win the match."

EMOTIONAL

Baines's penalty cancelled out the opening goal from Zlatan Ibrahimovic and a strong spell from United who also saw Ander Herrera hit a post. "It was another game with a very good performance in a very difficult place to play," said Mourinho. "A very emotional stadium against a team with very good players.

"We are playing very well at home, being super dominant. We are playing very well away controlling matches and performing really well with some amazing performance but not getting the results we deserve." United defender Phil Jones, who continued his impressive recent form after returning from injury problems, articulated the frustration in the visitors' camp. "It's happened too many times, we've dropped too many points," said Jones. "That's four or five games I can think of where we have completely dominated and didn't win. It's happened again." United might have had greater problems had defender Marcos Rojo been dismissed in the first half, instead of earning a yellow card, for a horrific lunge at Gueye, although Everton manager Ronald Koeman refused to criticise the Argentinian.

"It's difficult," said Koeman who made three excellent substitutions to rescue the point.

"Maybe if the referee could watch it back, maybe it would be a red card. We always have discussions about red or yellow, if it's a penalty, but finally it's a fair result. Both teams didn't deserve to lose. "We can fight back, we showed that today. It was disappointing to go 1-0 down but we didn't deserve to lose the match.

"We showed that commitment and qualities and the three subs had a big impact on the game. We deserved it because we were dangerous in the second half." — AFP



TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2016

UEFA Champions League Tables

UEFA Champions Leag lost, goals for, goals ag			ahead of	this wee	k's final ro	ound of	matches (played, won, drawn,
			c	iroup A			
Paris SG	5	3	2	0	11	5	11 - qualified
Arsenal	5	3	2	0	14	5	11 - qualified
Ludogorets	5	0	2	3	4	13	2
Basel	5	0	2	3	2	8	2
Dasei	5	0	2	5	2	0	2
			c	Group B			
Napoli	5	2	2	1	9	7	8
Benfica	5	2	2	1	9	8	8
Besiktas	5	1	4	0	9	8	7
Dynamo Kiev	5	0	2	3	2	6	2
-,							
			c	Group C			
Barcelona	5	4	0	1	16	4	12 - qualified
Manchester City	5	2	2	1	11	9	8 - qualified
Moenchengladbach	5	1	2	2	5	8	5
Celtic	5	0	2	3	4	15	2
	-	-		iroup D	_		
Atletico Madrid	5	5	0	0	7	1	15 - qualified
Bayern Munich	5	3	0	2	13	6	9 - qualified
Rostov	5	1	1	3	6	12	4
PSV Eindhoven	5	0	1	4	4	11	1
			c	Group E			
Monaco	5	3	2	0	9	4	11 - qualified
Bayer Leverkusen	5	1	4	0	5	4	7 - qualified
Tottenham	5	1	1	3	3	5	4
CSKA Moscow	5	0	3	2	4	8	3
			C	Group F			
Dortmund	5	4	1	0	19	7	13 - qualified
Real Madrid	5	3	2	0	14	8	11 - qualified
Sporting Lisbon	5	1	0	4	5	7	3
Legia Warsaw	5	0	1	4	8	24	1
Loicostor	F	4		iroup G	7	1	12 gualified
Leicester	5	4	1	0	7	1	13 - qualified
FC Porto	5	2	2	1	4	3	8
FC Copenhagen	5	1	3	1	5	2	6
Club Brugge	5	0	0	5	2	12	0
			0	iroup H			
Juventus	5	3	2	0	9	2	11 - qualified
Sevilla	5	3	1	1	7	3	10
Lyon	5	2	1	2	5	3	7
Dinamo Zagreb	5	0	0	5	0	13	0
			-		-		

PREMIER LEAGUE MISERY FOR TOURE, MAHREZ, MANE

JOHANNESBURG: African stars Yaya Toure of Manchester City, Riyad Mahrez of Leicester City and Sadio Mane of Liverpool suffered English Premier League misery at the weekend.

Ivorian Toure came off the bench as City fell 3-1 at home to leaders Chelsea, five days after he was charged with drink driving. Algerian Mahrez was substituted in an embarrassing 2-1 defeat for Leicester at Sunderland while Senegalese Mane scored before being taken off as Liverpool crumbled to a shock 4-3 loss at Bournemouth.

> ENGLAND YAYA TOURE (Manchester City)

Dortmund's 4-1 win at home to Borussia Moenchengladbach, which left him as the Bundesliga's top scorer with 15 goals this season. After Gladbach took an early lead, 'Auba' showed great finishing to volley home a seventh-minute equaliser after a deft flick from Marco Reus. Reus and Dembele then set up Aubameyang for his second on 68 minutes to cap an outstanding display from Dortmund's star-studded attack.

SALOMON KALOU (Hertha Berlin)

The Ivory Coast striker netted a 91stminute penalty to seal Hertha Berlin's 3-2 comeback win at 10-man Wolfsburg to



NAPOLI: Napoli's defender from France Kalidou Koulibaly (L), Napoli's defender from Romania Vlad Chiriches (2ndL), Napoli's defender from Algeria Faouzi Ghoulam (2nd R) and Napoli's defender from Spain Raul Albiol during a training session on the eve of the UEFA Champions League football match SL Benfica vs SSC Napoli yesterday at the SSC Napoli training ground. — AFP

NAPOLI, BENFICA, BESIKTAS BATTLE FOR LAST 16 SLOTS

PARIS: As Paris Saint-Germain joust with Arsenal for top spot in their group, Napoli, Benfica and Besiktas will battle it out today for last 16 Champions League slots.

The Group B trio all have everything to play for in their final pool games as the only one of the eight first phase groups where no side has yet secured a berth.

Portugal's Benfica, European champions back in 1961 and 1962 in their halcyon days but who have underachieved since, should have secured their passage on matchday five but threw away a three-goal lead at Besiktas. That Turkish comeback, rekindling memories of Liverpool's historic 2005 Istanbul triumph, has left the group outcome on a knife-edge with Besiktas knowing that a win at eliminated Dynamo Kiev will send them through. In contrast, the final round of games pits Benfica against a Napoli side who beat them 4-2 back on matchday two in Italy-while Besiktas were dropping home points against Kiev.

The Turkish side's subsequent win in Italy threw the group wide open and the 14-time national champions' refusal to surrender against Benfica means they now fancy their chances.

Anderson Talisca and Caner Erkin are on the treatment table and set to miss out.

The winner of Benfica-Napoli in Lisbon will qualify as group winners, while a draw would be enough to send the latter through given their head-to-head edge. If Besiktas lose, both will progress regardless. Whereas Benfica warmed up for the game by losing their unbeaten record in Portugal in slumping to unheralded Maritimo at the weekend, Napoli broke back into the top four in Serie A when Slovakia midfielder Marek Hamsik moved to within 11 goals of Diego Maradona's record haul of 115 goals for the club after scoring in Friday's 3-0 romp over Inter Milan. "As far as we're concerned, we have to go there looking for the win," said Napoli coach Maurizio Sarri. "It will be a difficult game, but it could be two games in one. For the first 70 minutes it could all be normal, then go one way or the other in the final 20 minutes."

Beyond the tightest group of the season, the final round of games is all about securing pole position and a theoretically softer second round draw. It's been tight at the top throughout in Group A where there is nothing to choose between Arsenal and PSG, both through and level on points ahead of final games at Basel and home to Ludogorets, both winless makeweights. Barcelona have already won Group C at the expense of Manchester City who nonetheless accompany the Catalan club through regardless of what happens as City host Celtic and Barca welcome Borussia Moenchengladbach. Atletico Madrid won Group D by a distance and are the only club in



UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Paris Saint v Ludogorets	22:45
beIN SPORTS 6 HD	
Basel v Arsenal	22:45
beIN SPORTS 7 HD	
Benfica v Napoli	22:45
beIN SPORTS 2 HD	
Dynamo Kyiv v Besiktas	22:45
beIN SPORTS 9 HD	
Manchester v Celtic	22:45
beIN SPORTS 1 HD	
Barcelona v Borussia	22:45
beIN SPORTS 5 HD	
Eindhoven v Rostov	22:45
beIN SPORTS 8 HD	
Bayern Munich v Atletico	22:45
beIN SPORTS 4 HD	

The Ivory Coast midfielder endured a frustrating end to a bad week as City were beaten 3-1 by title rivals Chelsea. Toure came on as a 76th-minute substitute with City trailing 2-1 and was unable to stop leaders Chelsea securing a victory that moved them four points clear of Pep Guardiola's team. As if that wasn't bad enough, police confirmed that Toure had been charged with drink driving after being spotted with his alcohol level above the legal limit while driving in east London last week.

as Leicester's miserable defence of the

English title hit a new low with a loss at the

team who had been bottom of the table

VICTOR ANICHEBE (Sunderland)

ger to Leicester as Sunderland climbed off

the bottom of the table with a 2-1 win at

the Stadium of Light. Former Everton star

Anichebe used to his pace and power to unsettle the Leicester defence and,

although he didn't score, the 28-year-old was a major factor in Sunderland's third

win in their last four league games. In the 77th minute he showed great strength to

get away down the left before crossing to

Duncan Watmore, whose blocked shot was

eventually converted by Jermain Defoe for

SADIO MANE (Liverpool)

individual performance at Bournemouth,

but it wasn't enough to stop Liverpool

crashing to an incredible 4-3 defeat. Mane

scored Liverpool's opening goal in the 20th

minute with a cool finish from Emre Can's

pass. He then played a role in Liverpool's

second goal by winning possession in mid-

field before Divock Origi's strike. Mane was-

n't finished and his superb run and cross

gave Can the opportunity to score

Liverpool's third in the 64th minute. At that

point, Liverpool looked certain to win, but

Mane was replaced by Adam Lallana five

minutes later and Jurgen Klopp's side con-

ceded three goals in the last 14 minutes to

The Senegal winger gave an excellent

The Nigeria striker was a constant dan-

going into the weekend.

Sunderland's second goal.

keep his side third. Strugglers Wolfsburg, who are just above the relegation places, scored twice in the opening 20 minutes, but goals by Marvin Plattenhardt and Alexander Esswein left Hertha level 20 minutes before the final whistle. Wolfsburg were reduced to 10 men for the final five minutes when Paul Seguin was sent off for his second yellow card and when Daniel Caligiuri fouled Plattenhardt in the area, Kalou converted the penalty for his fourth league goal of the season.

NABY KEITA (RB Leipzig)

RIYAD MAHREZ (Leicester) The Guinea international was an impos-The Algeria winger was hauled off after ing figure in the middle for Leipzig in a 2-1 73 minutes of Leicester's dismal 2-1 defeat home win over Schalke which put them at lowly Sunderland. Reigning Premier back on top of the table, three points clear League Players' Player of the Year Mahrez of Bayern Munich. The defensive midfielder has just one assist and three league goals was a physical presence and had several to his name this term and Leicester boss tussles with Schalke's attacking midfielder Claudio Ranieri had threatened to drop him Max Meyer, but missed two clear chances if he didn't improve soon. But Mahrez at the start of the second half. showed no signs of stepping up his game

FRANCE **RYAD BOUDEBOUZ (Montpellier)**

The Algerian international sealed Montpellier's shock 3-0 win over Paris Saint-Germain with his team-leading seventh goal of the season. The 26-year-old ran from inside his own half before drilling low into the far corner 10 minutes from time as Montpellier registered just a fourth win in 16 matches.

CLINTON NJIE (Marseille)

The Cameroon forward swept home Marseille's third goal in stoppage time in a 3-0 victory at home to Nancy. Njie, 23, curled in a first-time effort from the edge of the area for his second goal since joining on loan from Tottenham Hotspur.

MAJEED WARIS (Lorient)

Ghana striker Waris scored for the third game running to salvage a point for bottom side Lorient in a 2-2 draw at Angers. He beat defender Vincent Manceau before squeezing the ball past Mathieu Michel from a tight angle in the 66th minute.

ITALY KHOUMA BABACAR (Fiorentina)

Until the 93rd minute, Babacar was one of several players blamed for failing to put the match to bed against Palermo in a wasteful display from a dominant Fiorentina. But the towering Senegalese made amends in style when Fiorentina won a corner with practically the last kick of the game. Babacar did everything in his power to reach the ball when it was floated in, keeping defenders at bay to fire his header low and past the reach of Josip Posavec for a last-gasp winner in a 2-1 victory. — AFP

Besiktas will hope that their best previous showing-a 1987 European Cup quarter-final appearance-will not prove a poor omen. Back then, they lost 7-0 on aggregate-to Kiev.

ALL AT STAKE IN LISBON

Turkish daily Sabah expressed concern Sunday about the weather in Kiev predicting that sub-zero temperatures and snow could spell "danger". The paper added Aras Ozbiliz, the competition with a perfect record as they prepare to do the double over runners-up Bayern Munich.

Rostov will look to avoid defeat at PSV Eindhoven and see their adventures carry on albeit in the Europa League.

A minute's silence will be held before all matches as a mark of respect for Brazilian side Chapecoense, whose squad was decimated by last week's aircrash. — AFP



MANCHESTER: Former footballer and victim of abuse Andy Woodward is comforted by his family after a press conference at the launch of The Offside Trust in Manchester yesterday. The Offside Trust was launched to help victims of abuse and has been created by Andy Woodward, Steve Walters and Chris Unsworth, who were all the victims of historic child abuse. — AFP (See Page 17)

NICE STAY TOP AS MARSEILLE EARN WELCOME WIN

PARIS: Nice held top spot in France with a 3-0 win at home against Toulouse on Sunday as Marseille claimed just a second victory in seven Ligue 1 matches by beating Nancy 3-0.

First half goals from Alassane Plea and Younes Belhanda set Nice on their way with Ivorian Jean Michael Seri rounding off with his ninth goal of the campaign on 65 minutes.

Nice have a three-point advantage on second-placed Monaco who whipped Bastia 5-0 on Saturday with Paris Saint-Germain four points adrift of the leaders after falling 3-0 at Montpellier.

Nice captain Dante admitted the win was a psychological boost ahead of next weekend's clash with the champions at the Parc des Princes.

"We'll arrive in Paris next week with a fourpoint lead," said the Brazilian defender. "There will be a little less pressure. But we mustn't get carried away. Despite the defeat at Montpellier, Paris remain a great team. We've got to be prepared to suffer in Paris."

Toulouse, the only team to have beaten both Monaco and Paris Saint-Germain this campaign, remain stuck in eighth place. Earlier Florian Thauvin struck just after half-time at the Stade Velodrome before fellow Premier League castoffs Bafetimbi Gomis and Clinton Njie scored late goals after Benoit Pedretti was sent off for Nancy.

It was just a fifth win in 16 matches for Marseille this season as the fallen French giants climbed back into the top half of the table, 18 points behind leaders Nice. Rennes moved up to fourth as second-half goals from Paul-Georges Ntep and Kamil Grosicki earned them a 2-0 win at home to Saint-Etienne.

On Saturday, Radamel Falcao scored twice as Monaco thrashed Bastia 5-0, but PSG crashed to a 3-0 defeat at Montpellier to lose ground in the title race. However, the action was overshadowed by incidents in Metz where Lyon goalkeeper Anthony Lopes was taken to hospital with hearing problems after home fans targeted the Portugal international with firecrackers. Fortunately, the 26-year-old confirmed there would be no lasting damage, but Metz could face heavy sanctions from authorities including forfeiting a game they had led 1-0 before it was abandoned in the 31st minute. — AFP

GERMANY

suffer a stunning loss.

PIERRE-EMERICK AUBAMEYANG (Borussia Dortmund) The Gabon striker netted twice in



SEATTLE: Seattle Seahawks' Ahtyba Rubin pressures Carolina Panthers quarterback Cam Newton as Newton gets off a pass in the second half of an NFL football game, Sunday, in Seattle. — AP

BRADY SEIZES ALL-TIME WIN MARK **RAVENS 38, DOLPHINS 6** reaching the end zone, the suburban Atlanta native handed

'L results/standings

x-Dallas N.Y. Giants

Washingtor

Philadelphia

Detroit Minnesota

Green Bay

Chicago

Atlanta

Carolina

Seattle

Arizona

L.A. Rams

San Francisco

Tampa Bay

New Orleans

Kansas City 29, Atlanta 28; Detroit 28, New Orleans 13; New England 26, Los Angeles 10; Denver 20, Jacksonville 10; Green Bay 21, Houston 13;

Cincinnati 32, Philadelphi 14; Baltimore 38, Miami 6; Chicago 26, San Francisco 6; Oakland 38, Buffalo 24; Pittsburgh 24, NY Giants 14; Arizona

LOS ANGELES: Tom Brady became the NFL's career leader in victories by a quarterback, earning his 201st by throwing for 269 yards and a touchdown. Brady, who was 33 of 46, had tied Peyton Manning last week in a win over the New York Jets. His lone touchdown came on a 14-yard pass to Chris Hogan in the first quarter. LeGarrette Blount scored the game's first touchdown, rumbling for a 43-yard, ankle-breaking score in the first quarter while spinning around safety Maurice Alexander in the process. He finished with 88 yards on 18 carries. The Patriots (10-2) have won seven of their last eight. On the same day that Los Angeles coach Jeff Fisher and general manager Les Snead were given contract exten-sions, the recently relocated Rams (4-8) proved they still have a long way to go after losing for the seventh time in eight outings.

OAKLAND 38, BUFFALO 24

Derek Carr threw for 260 yards and two touchdowns to rally the Oakland Raiders to their biggest comeback in 16 years with a 38-24 victory over the Buffalo Bills on Sunday. After falling behind 24-9 following touchdowns on the first two drives of the second half for Buffalo (6-6), the Raiders (10-2) took the game over with 29 straight points and won their sixth straight to remain one game ahead of Kansas City in the tough AFC West. Oakland scored touchdowns on three straight drives, including scoring strikes from Carr to Michael Crabtree and Amari Cooper for his sixth fourth-quarter comeback of the season. This was the biggest comeback for the Raiders since overcoming a 21-point deficit to Indianapolis to win 38-31 on Sept. 10, 2000. The defense also tightened by forcing three straight three-and-outs and then getting a turnover when Khalil Mack deflected Tyrod Taylor's pass that Nate Allen intercepted.

SEAHAWKS 40, PANTHERS 7

Thomas Rawls ran for 103 yards and two touchdowns in the first half, Tyler Lockett took a reverse 75 yards for a score

to open the second half and Seattle routed Carolina. Another prime-time game in Seattle was clouded with odd story lines right from the outset when Carolina guarterback Cam Newton was benched for the first play, only to watch backup Derek Anderson throw an interception. The Seahawks (8-3-1) rolled up a season-high 534 yards and kept a three-game lead over Arizona in the division with four remaining. Rawls finished with 106 yards on 15 carries, quiet in the second half after briefly being checked for a concus-sion. Russell Wilson was 26 of 36 for 277 yards and a touchdown. Seattle safety Earl Thomas broke a bone in his lower left leg during a first-half collision with teammate Kam Chancellor while trying to intercept Newton's pass. X-rays revealed a "cracked tibia," coach Pete Carroll told Seattle's radio broadcast. Carolina dropped to 4-8.

CHIEFS 29, FALCONS 28

Eric Berry returned an interception for a touchdown, and then brought back another pick for a 2-point conversion that gave Kansas City an improbable victory over Atlanta The Falcons (7-5), rallying from a 27-16 deficit, went ahead 28-27 on Matt Ryan's 5-yard touchdown pass to Aldrick Robinson with 4:32 remaining. Atlanta decided to go for 2, looking to stretch the margin to a field goal. But Berry stepped in front of Ryan's pass and ran 99 yards the other way to give the Chiefs (9-3) their winning margin. It came after Denver won a game in similar fashion last month, returning a blocked PAT for the winning points at New Orleans. Berry had another huge play with less than a minute to go in the first half, picking off Ryan's pass over the middle and bringing it back 37 yards for a touchdown. After

the ball to his mother sitting in the stands at the Georgia Dome. Those weren't the only big plays for the Chiefs.

CARDINALS 31, REDSKINS 23

Carson Palmer threw for 300 yards and three touch-downs and David Johnson scored twice. The loss by the Redskins (6-5-1) clinched a playoff spot for the 11-1 Dallas Cowboys. Palmer's 25-yard touchdown pass to Johnson with 11:09 to play put Arizona ahead 24-20, the fourth lead change of the second half. After a Washington field goal, Palmer's 42-yard pass to J.J. Nelson with 1:56 padded gave the Cardinals (5-6-1) a 31-23 lead. Washington drove to the Arizona 28-yard line before Patrick Peterson's interception of Kirk Cousins' pass with 41 seconds left sealed the victory. Johnson, who also scored on a 1-yard run, became the second player in NFL history to top 100 yards from scrimmage in the first 12 games of a season. Edgerrin James was the other.

STEELERS 24, GIANTS 14

Ben Roethlisberger passed for 289 yards and two touch-downs, Le'Veon Bell rolled up 182 yards of total offense, and Pittsburgh's resurgent defense harassed Eli Manning into a flurry of mistakes. Antonio Brown edged good buddy Odell Beckham Jr. in their personal showdown, catching six passes for 54 yards and an acrobatic scoring grab at the back of the end zone. Tight end Ladarius Green added six receptions for 110 yards, both career highs, and a touchdown as the Steelers (7-5) won their third straight to keep pace with Baltimore atop the AFC North. Manning completed just 24 of 39 passes for 195 yards with two touchdowns and two picks in the red zone for the Giants (8-4), whose six-game run ended with a thud. Beckham was largely a non-factor despite a game-high 10 receptions for 100 yards.

BUCCANEERS 28, CHARGERS 21

Jameis Winston threw a go-ahead, 12-yard touchdown pass to Cameron Brate midway through the fourth quarter and Keith Tandy intercepted Philip Rivers in the end zone with 2:56 left to give the Buccaneers their fourth straight vic-

31, Washington 23; Tampa Bay 28, San Diego 21; Seattle 40, Carolina 7.

American Football Conference

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New England

Miami Buffalo

N.Y. Jets

Baltimore

Pittsburgh Cincinnati

Cleveland

Houston

Tennessee Indianapoli

Jacksonville

Kansas City Denver San Diego

Oakland

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/ 12 Sr

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256 206

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197 352

206

308 270 223 296 301 313

345 299

280 241

286 334 230 319

256

tory. Rivers had the Chargers on the move in the final minutes before Tandy got in front of a pass to Dontrelle Inman and picked it off. Tandy's momentum carried him into the end zone, giving the Bucs the ball on their 20. They ran out the clock. The Bucs (7-5) pulled into a tie with Atlanta atop the NFC South. Rivers threw two second-half interceptions, including Lavonte David's pick-6. The Chargers (5-7) were trying to get back to .500 for the first time since Week 2.

PACKERS 21, TEXANS 13

Aaron Rodgers threw for 209 yards and two touchdowns, and the Packers pulled away with two fourth-quarter touchdowns. The Packers (6-6) weathered snowy conditions at Lambeau Field, making just enough plays on the cold turf. Brock Osweiler connected with DeAndre Hopkins for a 44yard touchdown pass with 1:51 left to get within eight for Houston. Nick Novak missed the extra point, with footing slippery at Lambeau. The Texans (6-6) had one last shot after the Packers failed to run out the clock. But Osweiler's lastditch pass-and-lateral play from Houston's 12 with 4 seconds left failed, handing Houston its third straight loss and dropping it into a tie with Tennessee atop the AFC South. Nelson finished with eight catches for 118 yards and a touchdown for Green Bay.

LIONS 28, SAINTS 13

Matthew Stafford passed for 341 yards and two touch-downs. Golden Tate exploited a coverage breakdown on third-and-long for a 66-yard touchdown early in the fourth quarter when Detroit (8-4) was clinging to a six-point lead. The Lions, who've won seven of eight, dominated statistically, but four opportunities inside the New Orleans 20 ended with Matt Prater field goals, allowing the Saints (5-7) to stay close until the fourth quarter. This time, however, the Lions pulled away for their most comfortable victory of the season after seven previous victory margins of one to seven points. The Lions also became the first team in 60 Saints home games to stop Drew Brees from completing a touchdown pass, although tight end Coby Fleener had a pass bounce off his hands at the goal line.

National Football Conference

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295 302

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386 277 331

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264 276 194 250

180 262

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250 208 275 231

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11

6 5

5

Joe Flacco threw for 381 yards and four touchdowns, and

the Ravens overwhelmed the Dolphins in the first half to end Miami's six-game winning streak. Baltimore (7-5) led 24-0 at halftime behind Flacco and a dominant performance from the league's second-ranked defense. Flacco went 27 for 34 for 258 yards and three scores over the first 30 minutes, and the Ravens yielded only 115 yards and intercepted a Ryan Tannehill pass. That was enough to provide the Ravens with their fourth win in five games. Miami also is 7-5. Flacco finished with a franchise-record 36 completions in 47 attempts, by far his most impressive outing in an uneven season. He entered with 11 TD passes and 10 interceptions.

BRONCOS 20, JAGUARS 10

Bradley Roby returned an interception 51 yards for a touchdown, helping the Broncos gain ground in the AFC playoff picture. Roby picked off Blake Bortles' wobbler across the middle in the third quarter and went untouched the other way. Star linebacker Von Miller hit Bortles as he released the ball. It was the 11th pick-6 of Bortles' three-year career and his third in the last four games. Houston and Detroit also returned interceptions for touchdowns in games the Jaguars lost by less than seven points. The latest one resulted in a seventh consecutive loss for Jacksonville (2-10) and secured another miserable milestone for the small-market franchise. The Jaguars became the fifth team in NFL history to post double-digit losses in six consecutive seasons, joining Tampa Bay (1983-94), Detroit (2001-06), Oakland (2003-09) and Cleveland (2008-13). Jacksonville had a chance to tie in the final minutes, but Bortles fumbled trying to make a play in the pocket. The Broncos (8-4) rebounded from an overtime loss against Kansas City, and with Miami's loss at Baltimore, moved into position to get one of the conference's wild-card spots.

BENGALS 32, EAGLES 14

Andy Dalton threw a pair of touchdown passes and Cincinnati finally got its depleted offense moving without receiver A.J. Green. The Bengals (4-7-1) got their first win since Oct. 23, beating a team that's in a swoon of its own. The Eagles (5-7) opened the season with three straight wins, seven of nine Dalton had 50, 44, 29, 23 and 21 yards. The Bengals scored on each of their first six possessions for a 29-0 lead, reinventing themselves with Green and running back Giovani Bernard sidelined by injuries. The previous time they scored on their first six possessions was 2009 against the Bears. The only bad moment: Mike Nugent missed another PAT kick wide to the right, his fourth miss in a span of five tries. Nugent made field goals from 32, 33, 26 and 38 yards, the last one deflect-ing off the left upright.

BEARS 26, 49ERS 6

Jordan Howard ran for 117 yards and a career-high three touchdowns and the Bears handed San Francisco its 11th straight loss. The 49ers (1-11) extended their franchiserecord losing streak and set a club low with 6 yards net passng on a day when Colin Kaepernick got lifted for Blaine Gabbert. The Bears (3-9) finished with a season high in points and picked up a rare win in a matchup between two of the NFL's worst teams.

Matt Barkley, making his second start with Jay Cutler sidelined by a season-ending shoulder injury, went nearly the entire first half without a completion. But he led a touch down drive near the end of the second quarter and finished 11 of 18 for 192 yards. — AP



Kuwait's inflation eases to 3.6%; fuel impact subsides Page 22

Warba Bank offers financing solutions for LSA courses Page 25

Page 26

Ooredoo launches 'Nukhba' for its elite customers Page 23

KIB AWARDED 'BEST BANKING VISION IN KUWAIT'



BRUSSELS: Eurogroup finance ministers wait prior to take part in a Eurogroup finance ministers meeting at the European Council in Brussels yesterday. —AFP

ITALIAN BANKS ON KNIFE EDGE AS RENZI QUITS

INVESTORS FEAR THREAT TO RECAPITALIZATION PLANS

MILAN: The fate of key Italian banks was up in the air yesterday as investors feared that Prime Minister Matteo Renzi's resignation will threaten their recapitalization plans.

Concern focused on Italy's third-biggest bank, Monte dei Paschi di Siena (BMPS), which analysts said is one of the country's most vulnerable large lenders. Banking stocks went through a rollercoaster ride on the Milan bourse following Italian voters' rejection of constitutional reform that prompted Renzi's announcement that he would quit.

They opened sharply lower Monday, and then recovered, before plunging again, with UniCredit down 3.2 percent, Banca popolare di Milano 2.4 percent, Banco popolare 2.0 percent and Mediobanca 1.3 percent approaching midsession. BMPS, which is the world's oldest bank, has lost 84 percent of its market capitalization since the start of the year. It also emerged as the worst performer from European Banking Authority (EBA) stress tests in July.

To ensure its survival, the bank has launched a plan involving the spinoff of 27.6 billion euros (\$29.4 billion) worth of non-performing loans, combined with a capital increase of up to five billion euros. But the question is now whether lingering political uncertainty will scare investors off.

"If there is no solution to the government crisis within a couple of weeks, financial markets will start getting jittery again," said Lorenzo Codogno, a former Italian Treasury official and now a professor at the London School of Economics. "Probably the capital increase of Monte Paschi will be postponed or outright cancelled, and all other operations would be stalled."

While investors focus mostly on BMPS for now, the rest of the sector is far from immune to further panic, analysts said, pointing to the Milan's FTSE All-Share banking index, which has lost 47 percent of its value since January. The referendum result is adding to deep worries about the failure of the Italian banking sector-which features no fewer than 700 banks-to make meaningful progress towards consolidation. And this, despite non-performing loans on their books amounting to a combined 360 billion euros, roughly a third of the eurozone's total bad debt.

'A step back'

Ahead of the referendum, BMPS managed to raise one billion euros via a voluntary conversion of bonds into capital. But all bets are off for the remaining four billion. "The real risk lies with Monte dei Paschi di Siena. It's easy to imagine that investors who wanted to take part in the capital increase will now take a step back," said Umberto Borghesi, fund manager at Albemarle Asset Management.

"What is needed is a clear response on any government intervention, bail-in decision or any other solution," he said. A "bail-in" forces existing creditors to write off part of their claims. "No political formation can shoulder the responsibility of Monte dei Paschi failing," Borghesi said.

If investors really get cold feet, then UniCredit, Italy's biggest bank, could be the next giant to feel the pain, analysts said, as it undergoes a massive strategy review. It hopes to raise up to 13 billion euros of fresh capital early next year and analysts agree that the outlook for UniCredit is still favourable as it could also sell assets to fill capital gaps.

In the meantime, smaller banks like Carige or Veneta Banca are in much more immediate danger of falling victim to the ongoing crisis, analysts say. —AFP

AFTER TWO YEARS, WHY AN OPEC DEAL NOW?

LONDON: OPEC has finally agreed to cut production, but only after two years of fruitless negotiations. So what changed to make an agreement possible now, after it had eluded negotiators at previous OPEC meetings? The intense diplomatic manoeuvring behind the deal has been capably chronicled by my colleagues at Reuters ("How Putin, Khamenei and Saudi prince got OPEC deal done"), Bloomberg ("OPEC deal hinged on 2 am phone call and it nearly failed") and the Financial Times ("Saudi prince's ambition for life beyond oil forces OPEC deal").

The common theme in these accounts is the personal intervention of top political leaders, which overcame the obstacles which had stalled negotiations at technical level.

But the context was a change in oil market conditions that made it more attractive for Saudi Arabia and other members of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries to reach a deal. For the first time since 2014, the kingdom can afford to cut output without too much risk that other producers would fill the gap by raising their output in the near term. The signal for the November 2016 agreement came when Iran was no longer able to increase its oil production further over the summer. Saudi officials have long stated that it would only be possible to reach an OPEC agreement once Iran had normalized its output following the lifting of sanctions.

Saudi shift

Saudi Arabia, the organization's most influential member, has been seen as relatively unenthusiastic about a deal until the last few months. But Saudi Arabia's veteran oil minister Ali al-Naimi, seen as a skeptic, was replaced by Khalid Al-Falih in May, who has been more sympathetic to exploring the opportunities for an agreement.

The Saudi economy has also continued to deteriorate, with a substantial increase in unpaid government and business bills, and a further fall in foreign reserves, all of which increased pressure for a deal. And the kingdom's "Vision 2030" economic transformation program and planned share offering in the national oil company, announced in 2016, both depend for their success on higher oil prices.

Saudi Arabia's willingness to strike a deal shifted at some point between the unsuccessful OPEC meeting held in June 2016 and the successful OPEC meeting held in September 2016.

By September, Saudi negotiators went to OPEC's meeting in Algiers eager to reach a deal and willing to show sufficient flexibility to get one done. The provisional agreement concluded in Algiers was then turned into a final accord in Vienna this week.

Indispensable nation

Saudi Arabia is not like other members of OPEC. Saudi Arabia has always been the indispensable nation without which no agreement is possible. "Saudi Arabia is more influential than other OPEC members," wrote Anas Alhajji and Michael Huettner in what remains the classic short study of the organization.

"Saudi Arabia meets all the characteristics of a dominant producer by having relatively large market share, excess capacity, flexible behavior (and) the ability to move its price by increasing or decreasing production." "No other OPEC member has similar behavior. Therefore Saudi Arabia should be treated on its own within OPEC," they concluded. "Some of the confusion surrounding OPEC behavior has been caused by mistakenly assigning the power of Saudi Arabia, along with its Gulf allies, to OPEC (as a whole)."

Market share

Saudi officials have stated consistently the kingdom will not sacrifice market share to other producers - whether US shale firms, OPEC rivals such as Iran and Iraq, or non-OPEC competitors such as Russia. Saudi officials refused to cut output during 2014 and 2015 for fear that any price increase would simply throw a lifeline to US shale firms and encourage them to raise their production. Since May 2015, however, US oil production has been falling, eliminating one source of competition.

Saudi Arabia continued to refuse to cut output during 2015 and the first half of 2016, citing the threat of increased production from Iraq, Iran and Russia. But by the summer of 2016, Iranian output appeared to have reached a temporary plateau following the lifting of sanctions, reducing the threat from that quarter. The main challenge to Saudi market share now comes from Iraq and Russia, both of which have increased their output this year. But Saudi officials may have concluded the scope for further increases in the short term was modest and that an agreement to freeze Iraq's and Russia's output around current levels would be viable.

Market power

Saudi officials have usually assumed, with justification, that other OPEC and non-OPEC members will cheat on any production agreement if they can. But sometimes other OPEC and non-OPEC countries are unable to cheat because of war, sanctions, social unrest or lack of investment, which makes deals possible. Between 2014 and 2016, Saudi Arabia had no incentive to cut production because other countries were likely to respond by increasing their own output. Riyadh would have been left with lower output and unchanged or lower prices, resulting in lower revenues. Output cuts were not an optimal strategy for the Saudis.

But with Iran's output apparently peaking in the summer of 2016, opportunities for cheating have become more limited. Most other OPEC members are struggling to maintain current production and have few options to raise output.

The main challenge comes from further increases in output from Iraq and Russia, and both countries have agreed to freeze or cut their output under the November agreement. Given output from other sources is now maximized or frozen, Saudi Arabia's optimal strategy is to reduce output and secure an increase in prices. —Reuters

GULF SLIPS AS GLOBAL SHARES WOBBLE

MIDEAST STOCK MARKETS

DUBAI: Most stock markets in the Gulf fell yesterday as the mood on global exchanged darkened because of the 'No' vote in Italy's referendum on constitutional reform, while Egypt's most heavily traded stock sank on news its chief executive would step down.

Riyadh's main index fell 0.3 percent to 7,106 points, but it closed 83 points above its intra-day low and is still up 3.2 percent year-to-date. Trading volume shrank slightly but remained healthy compared to this year's average, and fund managers characterized the selling of stocks as profit-taking rather than an reversal of the strong uptrend of the last few weeks.

A purchasing manager's index released yesterday showed growth in Saudi Arabia's non-oil private sector picked up in November from a record low in October. Petrochemical shares were a mixed bag. Yanbu National Petrochemical fell 1.0 percent but the biggest company, Saudi Basic Industries, added 0.3 percent.

Most banks dropped, with heavyweight Al Rajhi Bank slipping 1.2 percent.

Dubai's index pulled back 0.3 percent as trading volume fell by roughly a half from Sunday. Profit-taking in some large caps which had gained strongly on the previous day was the main drag, with Emaar Properties dropping 0.6 percent. But Commercial Bank of Dubai, which is usually sparsely traded, added 5.1 percent in unusually active volume. Abu Dhabi's stock index swung 0.9 percent higher after a volatile session. Blue chips provided the main support with First Gulf Bank adding 2.2 percent and Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank gaining 2.5 percent.

Egypt underperforms

Cairo's index of the 30 most liquid shares pulled back 1.8 percent as Orascom Telecom Media and Technology tumbled nearly 10 percent in its heaviest trade since 2012. The company announced that Egyptian billionaire Naguib Sawiris had resigned as chief executive and his deputy Tamer El Mahdi was nominated as successor. It gave no reason for the departure.

Earlier on Sunday, OTMT also said it was closing its Orabank affiliate in North Korea because of complexity of complying with US sanctions on that country. The company added that its telecommunications associate Koryolink would continue operations in North Korea while complying with sanctions. "Investors are still absorbing the shock of Sawiris stepping down and of exiting the N.Korean bank," said Wafik Dawood, portfolio manager at Cairo's Compass Capital. "But fresh blood could be good news for the company over the longer term."

Local funds were heavy sellers of Egyptian equities, exchange data showed, while foreign funds continued to be net buyers, as they have been since the central bank ditched the Egyptian pound's peg to the US dollar on Nov 3. —Reuters



TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2016

KUWAIT'S INFLATION EASES TO 3.6%; FUEL IMPACT SUBSIDES

NBK ECONOMIC REPORT

KUWAIT: Inflation in consumer prices eased in to downward price pressures from housing, October as the initial impact of the fuel price hike ebbed. Headline inflation edged lower from the one-year high of 3.8 percent year-on-year further hikes in regulated prices. After surging in September on the back of (y/y) in September to 3.6 percent y/y in October,

the fuel price hike, inflation in the transportation sector appears to have steadied somewhat, at least for now. After slowing since at least 2009 due to softer growth in both car prices and airfares, inflation in transportation costs rebounded in September, soaring to 10.6 percent y/y,

Table: Consumer price inflation

as inflation in most components remained sub-

dued or broadly steady. Inflation excluding the

impact of the September fuel price hike has

remained steady at around 3.1 percent y/y.

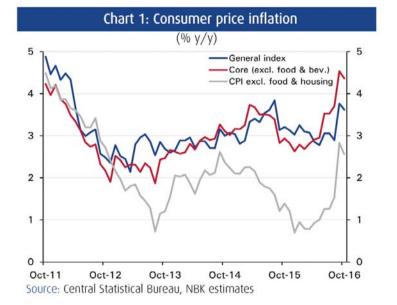
Inflation in 2016 is expected to average only

slightly higher than 2015 at 3.4 percent, thanks

	Year-or	-year	Annual average				
	Sep-16	Oct-16	2014	2015			
Food & beverages	0.8	0.7	2.9	3.4			
Tobacco & cigarettes	0.5	0.5	7.8	6.0			
Clothing & footwear	0.8	0.9	2.2	0.9			
Housing services	7.4	7.4	4.4	6.0			
Furnishings & household maintenance	2.1	2.1	4.8	3.4			
Healthcare	1.9	2.1	-0.6	1.7			
Transportation	10.6	10.4	1.5	0.5			
Communication	0.4	0.4	-0.8	0.4			
Recreation & culture	-0.1	0.2	0.9	-0.2			
Education	2.7	2.7	4.7	4.4			
Restaurants & hotels	2.9	2.8	3.1	5.7			
Other goods & services	1.8	1.5	-0.7	1.9			
Core	4.5	4.4	2.9	3.2			
Durable goods	1.8	1.4	0.3	1.1			
Semi-durable goods	1.1	0.1	2.7	0.2			
Non-durable goods	3.7	3.6	2.2	2.6			
Services	4.9	4.8	4.0	4.9			
Services ex-housing	1.1	0.9	3.4	3.3			
General index	3.8	3.6	2.9	3.3			

Updated once every quarter

** Excludes food and beverages; estimated by NBK



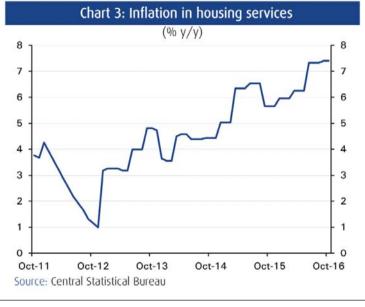
food, and other imported goods. In 2017, inflation is expected to rise and average 4 percent on

and kept steady at 10.4 percent in October. The jump came on the back of a 52 percent y/y surge in fuel & lubricant prices, which in turn pushed the costs of transport services (taxi fares in particular) higher. While prices in this segment appear to have broadly steadied in October, we may still see some upward pressures in this segment in the short to medium-term as transport services readjust their prices to reflect the fuel price increases.

Inflation in local food prices maintained its softness in October, after it came in at a mere 0.7 percent y/y. The segment continued to be weighed down by declining global food prices. According to the Commodity Research Bureau, international prices of commodity foods slid deeper into deflationary territory after falling by 9.2 percent y/y during the same period.

Inflation in housing services eased notably in 3Q16 amid a cooling real estate market. After trending upwards for almost a year, housing inflation, which is comprised primarily of housing rents and is updated quarterly, steadied, at a still high, 7.4 percent y/y in September. However, the 3Q16 increase was a mere 0.1 percent, its weakest pace in over three years. We expect the momentum in housing inflation to continue to ease in the near-to-medium term.

Inflation in both furnishings & household maintenance and clothing & footwear remained subdued in October. Inflation in the furnishings & household segment held steady at 2.1 percent y/y, while inflation in clothing & footwear prices slipped back into negative territory for the first time in five months. The softness in this sector may be due to some weakness in the consumer sector. Inflation in the 'other goods & services' category ticked downwards. Inflation in this segment, which is mostly comprised of imported goods, such as personal care products and jewelry, eased to 1.5 percent y/y in October. The slowdown in this segment could be explained by the ease in gold price inflation.





TOKYO: Pedestrians walk past an electric quotation board displaying the current exchange rate of the Japanese yen against the euro (center) in Tokyo yesterday. - AFP

MUBADALA AEROSPACE'S STRATA **BUSINESS TO BREAK EVEN IN 2018**

DUBAI: Strata, the manufacturing business of Abu Dhabi's state-owned Mubadala Aerospace, expects to break even in 2018, a senior executive said yesterday.

Strata is part of the United Arab Emirates' efforts to diversify away from hydrocarbons. The government hopes to use companies such as Strata to build up industry and high-tech manufacturing.

The company, which was established in 2009 and started production in 2010, has an aero parts manufacturing facility in Al Ain, an oasis town within the Abu Dhabi emirate, producing aircraft components for Airbus, Boeing and others. "Strata, phase one, in 2018 should start breaking even now that we have sorted all the relationships and the delays and the changes in the market," Homaid Al-Shimmari, Mubadala's head of aerospace and engineering services told Reuters on the sidelines of an industry conference in Dubai. "I

think Strata will be in a (good) position financially." Strata currently manufactures eight different aircraft components, including for Airbus A330, A380, A350-900 and Boeing 777 and 787 jets. Strata's Chief Executive Badr Al-Olama told Reuters on Sept. 1 2015 the company would break even in 2017 and that it was targeting revenue of 1 billion UAE dirhams (\$272.3 million) by 2020. Al-Shimmari did not give a revenue forecast for this year. Its revenue was around 400 million dirhams in 2015, according to a company statement.

In July, Strata said it had won two contracts from Airbus valued at \$1 billion to manufacturer parts for the A320 jet and additional parts for the A350-900. It also announced a multi-year contract to manufacturer additional components for the Boeing 787. Strata expects to start manufacturing those parts in 2020 when a new facility opens in Al Ain, Al-Shimmari said. —Reuters

PLATTS TO LOWER SULPHUR **IN BENCHMARK GASOIL** TO 10PPM FROM 2018

SINGAPORE: Oil pricing agency Platts plans to lower the sulphur content of its benchmark gasoil assessment in Singapore and the Middle East from January 2018, in line with a global shift towards cleaner fuels, the company said yesterday. Platts, a unit of S&P Global Inc and whose benchmarks are used in major oil contracts in Asia and the Middle East, will lower the sulphur specification in its benchmark gasoil assessment from 500 parts per million

MIXED REACTIONS

Producers of the 10ppm sulphur diesel in Asia welcomed the move saying it will increase liquidity of the fuel and narrow the gap between Europe and Asian pricing. "Europe is using 10ppm gasoil and ICE gasoil is also on 10ppm, so if Asia turns to 10ppm, it will increase liquidity in the market as the traders don't have to think about the various grades," a North Asian refining source said.

Still, with many Asian countries such as Bangladesh, Indonesia, Vietnam and Pakistan still consuming gasoil with 500ppm sulphur or higher, others say the move is premature. "A big part of southeast Asia is still not using the ultralow sulphur diesel so shifting the benchmark without a sizable portion of users in Asia on board may be unfair to some," said Energy Aspects oil products analyst Nevyn Nah. He added that in an environment of rising oil prices and weakening currencies, shifting towards cleaner diesel might not be a priority for southeast Asian countries unless there is an obvious social cost to pollution as in China and India. "You can argue that the differentials to 10 ppm will be adjusted accordingly but you just lose direct influence on the benchmark itself," he added. FGE estimates that Bangladesh, Indonesia, Pakistan and Vietnam make up more than a quarter of Asia's total imports of gasoil. Platts last changed the sulphur content in its benchmark gasoil grade to 500 ppm from 5,000 ppm in January 2013. That change was initially criticised by some traders as coming before Asia was ready, but it was accepted quickly. — Reuters

IRAQI BANKS RELY ON GOVT TO **RECOVER FROM IS DEVASTATION**

BAGHDAD: Iraq's private banks are pinning hope on the oil-rich government to bring back into the black their balance sheets severely affected by Islamic State's takeover of parts of the country.

In an interview with Reuters yesterday, Iraqi Private Banks' Association President Ali Tareg said that several lenders would not be able to pass a stress test of international standards at their current level of capitalization.

"Collectively, banks have lost nearly 100 branches in hot areas with all their assets, funds, buildings, everything without any compensation," he said. "If a stress test is held currently, it should take into consideration the current situation of the country and the Iraqi banking sector."

The weakness of the private banks does not affect the banking sector as a whole, dominated by state-owned banks feeding on business from the oil-rich country's government.

But it is a setback for government efforts to develop the private sector and reduce the OPEC nation's reliance on oil. As a way to reinvigorate private lenders, the central bank may offer them the possibility of setting up a 500 billion Iraqidinar fund that will invest in the government's "strategic infrastructure projects" like housing, transport and sewage projects, Tareq said.

The government would thus provide the banks with a steady stream of business that will help restore their balance sheets. "The central bank is in the final steps, it has sent a letter to the participant banks to determine their shares, all banks are allowed to participate," Tareg said. "Other than levving interest, the banks will be engaged in long-term, guaranteed projects."

Other than damage to the assets of the banks and the banks clients, the militants' sweeping advance across northern and western Iraq also caused a rush on liquidity that weakened the leaders. People got worried that they would no longer be able to access their money deposited in banks. Iraq relies almost entirely on cash for day-to-day transactions.

Iraq has been prey to war and insurgency since the overthrow of Saddam Hussein in 2003. As a result, Iraqis are reluctant to use banks in case violence prevents them accessing their cash or restrictions are placed on withdrawals.

Private banks suffered a lot more than the state owned banks that relied on government liquidity and transactions to stay afloat throughout the 36 years of wars and sanctions that the country went through. Iraq's state-owned banks-Rafidain, Rasheed, Agriculture, Industrial, Real Estate and the Housing Fund-control together 86 percent of total deposits or \$48 billion, while the 45 private banks share the remaining 14 percent, or \$7 billion, said Tareq.

"There were many withdrawals of deposits by citizens because the circumstances at the time required that they have liquidity," said Tareq. "Bank transactions were dealt a heavy blow at the same time, as lending and letters of credit" to the private sector "decreased as the government executed fewer projects," he added. — Reuters

(ppm) of sulphur to 10 ppm, it said in a note to subscribers.

"The lower sulphur specifications reflect changing supply and demand trends across the regions, as well as the fact that global waterborne diesel trade is now predominantly maximum 10 ppm, known as ultra-low sulphur diesel," it said in the note

As vehicle use grows globally, with Asia accounting for most of the gains, the movement towards cleaner fuel standards to cap sulphur emissions has gathered pace. Newly built refineries are also producing cleaner fuels in larger volumes. Asia's key oil consumers China and India are moving towards cleaner fuel standards, pushing up trading volumes in gasoil with 10 ppm sulphur, a grade used by Australia, the region's largest importer of the fuel.

The change will take effect from Jan. 2, 2018 for its free-on-board (FOB) Singapore, Middle East and Korea gasoil assessments and follows consultation with relevant stakeholders since Sept. 5, this year, the company said. The change will also apply to its derivatives assessments, Platts said in the note.

EXCHANGE RATES

AL-MUZA	ini Exchange Co.	Swiss Franc Australian Dollar US Dollar Buying	302.970 229.350 304.800	Chinese Yuan Renminbi Thai Bhat Turkish Lira	45.000 9.575 87.220		Indonesian Rupiah Japanese Yen	0.000018 0.002608	0.00002 0.00278
ipanese Yen	ASIAN COUNTRIES 2.697	os bonar baying			87.220		Kenyan Shilling Korean Won	0.002996 0.000250	0.0029
idian Rupees	4.497	20 Gram	GOLD 241.07	BAHRAIN EXC		M PANIV W/LI	Malaysian Ringgit	0.064916	0.0002
akistani Rupees	2.919	10 Gram	123.46	DATIONIA LAC		VIIMINI VILL	Nepalese Rupee	0.002840	0.003
ilankan Rupees	2.065	5 Gram	62.57	CURRENCY	BUY	SELL	Pakistan Rupee	0.002670	0.002
pali Rupees	2.812				Europe		Philippine Peso	0.006074	0.006
ngapore Dollar	216.870 39.459	DOLLARCO	D EXCHANGE CO. LTD	British Pound	0.381639	0.391639	Sierra Leone	0.000052	0.000
ongkong Dollar Ingladesh Taka	39.459 3.846	DOLLARCO	J EXCHANGE CO. LID	Czech Korune	0.003927	0.015927	Singapore Dollar	0.209050	0.219
nilippine Peso	6.169			Danish Krone	0.039332	0.044332	South African Rand	0.015998	0.024
nai Baht	8.626	Rate for Transfer	Selling Rate	Euro	0.317427	0.326427	Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001642	0.002
		US Dollar	305.650	Norwegian Krone	0.032031	0.037231	Taiwan	0.009428	0.009
	SCC COUNTRIES	Canadian Dolla	230.085	Romanian Leu	0.072173	0.072173	Thai Baht	0.008255	0.008
audi Riyal	81.654	Sterling Pound	389.515	Slovakia	0.009174	0.01914	indi bant	01000200	01000
atari Riyal	84.101	Euro	324.345	Swedish Krona	0.028990	0.033990		Arab	
ni Riyal ahraini Dinar	795.218 813.070	Swiss Frank	302.445	Swiss Franc	0.294522	0.305522	Bahraini Dinar	0.805100	0.813
AE Dirham	813.070	Bahrain Dinar	810.255	Turkish Lira	0.083994	0.094294	Egyptian Pound	0.015640	0.024
	65.550	UAE Dirhams	83.610				Iranian Riyal	0.000085	0.000
A	RAB COUNTRIES	Qatari Riyals	84.830		Australasia		Iragi Dinar	0.000181	0.000
gyptian Pound - Cash	23.900	Saudi Riyals	82.435	Australian Dollar	0.219571	0.231571	Jordanian Dinar	0.426542	0.435
gyptian Pound - Transfer	17.399	Jordanian Dinar	431.775	New Zealand Dollar	0.211038	0.220538	Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000
emen Riyal/for 1000	1.229	Egyptian Pound	17.593				Lebanese Pound	0.000152	0.000
unisian Dinar	133.920	Sri Lankan Rupees	2.064		America		Moroccan Dirhams	0.020132	0.000
ordanian Dinar	431.200	Indian Rupees	4.487	Canadian Dollar	0.224135	0.233135	Nigerian Naira	0.000369	0.001
ebanese Lira/for 1000 yrian Lira	2.040 2.182	Pakistani Rupees	2.916	Georgina Lari	0.138207	0.138207	Omani Riyal	0.788384	0.001
Aorocco Dirham	30.909	Bangladesh Taka	3.878	US Dollars	0.301900	0.306600	Qatar Riyal	0.083239	0.794
	50.909	Philippines Pesso	6.150	US Dollars Mint	0.302400	0.306600	Saudi Riyal	0.080513	0.084
EUROPEAN	& AMERICAN COUNTRIES	Cyprus pound	167.850				Svrian Pound	0.080513	0.081
S Dollar Transfer	306.000	Japanese Yen	3.690		Asia		Tunisian Dinar	0.129939	0.001
uro	324.670	Syrian Pound	2.435	Bangladesh Taka	0.003377	0.003961		0.129939 0.083994	0.137
terling Pound	390.150	Nepalese Rupees	3.800	Chinese Yuan	0.042940	0.046440	Turkish Lira		
anadian dollar	230.150	Malaysian Ringgit	69.445	Hong Kong Dollar	0.037368	0.040118	UAE Dirhams	0.081888	0.083
urkish lira	88.230	Malaysian Minggit	07.773	Indian Rupee	0.000096	0.004607	Yemeni Riyal	0.001013	0.001

Kuwait 🗠 Times 🍜





Ooredoo launches 'Nukhba' for its elite customers Special ceremony held at Ooredoo head-office

KUWAIT: Ooredoo, Kuwait's fastest network in 2016, launched its exclusive Nukhba program for its elite customers yesterday morning. The program's tailored services cater to the needs of elite customers.

Speaking at a press conference held yesterday, Ooredoo Kuwait's Corporate Communications Senior Director Mijbil Alayoub said: "The launch of Nukhba reiterates our investment in this important, and stems from our

deep-rooted belief in our values of caring, connecting and challenging." Elaborating on the features of Nukhba, Ooredoo's Director of VIP and Direct Sales Jassim Abdulrahim said: "We're proud to be launching such a comprehensive package, which can be tailored to cover all the needs of our elite customers. Nukhba plans include exclusive benefits such as discounts and VIP invitations to certain events throughout the year."



BRITISH SERVICES PMI HITS 10-MONTH HIGH

Exclusive benefits

Abdulrahim added: "All our Nukhba clients are taken care of with a designated account manager, a special hotline (110) to answer any of their gueries around the clock, and are always kept up to date with future packages and products before they are released in the market. This is in addition to the customary Ooredoo benefits such as unlimited minutes, contract freeze, and easy transfer of contract ownership for customers' convenience."

He also noted that Nukhba customers can benefit from an exclusive concierge service that can be availed at most valet parking spots in Kuwait, in addition to entering VIP lounges in most international airports.

International minutes

Nukhba plans also include an unparalleled service giving customers 30 percent off international calls, in addition to Ooredoo Passport plans which give customers up to 1GB of roaming internet and 100 minutes and roaming SMS for KD 10 a week only.

Nojoom rewards

All Nukhba customers additionally get enrolled automatically in the Nukhba tier of Nojoom Program, a special rewards points program that gives customers points for every KD spent on using Ooredoo's services. The points can then be redeemed with vouchers from any of Ooredoo's partners, which include prominent retailers, hotels, airline companies, spas, restaurants and many



more premium service providers.

Nukhba Lounge

Ooredoo's Nukhba Lounge was inaugurated yesterday, where customers can enjoy an unparalleled reception in an ambience that reflects Nukhba's brand spirit. Customers can enjoy the hospitality while waiting to meet their account managers at the lounge on Ooredoo Head Office's 5th Floor where a special section is designated to test the latest devices and offerings from Ooredoo, including the newest tablets, smartphones, and routers.



LONDON: Businesses in Britain's dominant services sector grew at their fastest pace since January last month and the broader economy maintained momentum, even if firms have some worries about the year ahead, a survey showed yesterday. The Markit/CIPS services purchasing managers' index (PMI) - a closely watched gauge of the services sector rose to 55.2 in November from 54.5 in October, beating all the forecasts in a Reuters poll of economists.

However, businesses reported the second-weakest level of optimism about the future in four years, due to the unexpected result of the US presidential election, the value of sterling and ongoing uncertainty about how Britain will leave the European Union. Despite a dip in the equivalent survey of manufacturers published last week, overall the November PMIs suggest the economy as a whole will maintain the third quarter's solid 0.5 percent growth rate through to the end of the year, Markit said.

"The pace of UK economic growth remains resiliently robust in the fourth quarter, despite ongoing uncertainty caused by Brexit," said Chris Williamson, chief business economist at IHS Markit, the company that compiles the survey. Most economists and the Bank of England said Britain's economy would slow sharply after June's vote to leave the EU. But strong consumer demand and a

boost to exporters from the heavy postreferendum fall in sterling have kept arowth aoina.

A separate survey by manufacturing lobby EEF released earlier on Monday showed a boost in new orders and a better-than-expected recovery in output.

Last month the Bank of England revised up its forecasts to pencil in 0.4 percent growth for the last three months of 2016. But it also said annual growth would slow to 1.4 percent next year from 2.2 percent in 2016 as higher inflation squeezes household incomes.

"Elevated price pressures and drop in expectations suggest that a slowdown remains on the cards for next year," HSBC economist Elizabeth Martins said. "Inflation is likely to outpace wage growth over the coming year or so, bearing down on domestic demand and causing growth to slow."

Businesses are already starting to feel the pinch of costlier imports due to the fall in sterling, and Markit said business costs had risen by the most in five-and-ahalf years during the past two months.

"These higher costs will inevitably feed through to consumers in the form of higher prices," Williamson said. The BoE forecasts inflation will surge to 2.7 percent next year from 0.9 percent in the most recent data, and many private-sector economists think it could rise even faster. — Reuters

HEMPEL TO OPEN NEW PLANT IN KUWAIT ON ITS GOLDEN JUBILEE PARTNERSHIP WITH KUWAIT GOVT WILL CONTINUE: CEO

By Ben Garcia

KUWAIT: A modern Hempel paint factory will shortly open in Kuwait to replace its outdated plant, which was the first paint factory in the Gulf. Hempel-Kuwait partnered with the Al-Rashed family to bring the paint factory here in 1966, focused on marine coatings. It later forayed into decorative and protective paints. "The Kuwait market was the first to welcome our company in the Middle East. So in order to meet the demands from neighboring GCCs countries, we decided to establish a plant here in 1966," said Karsten Pedersen, Group Vice President and CEO of Hempel Middle East-West.

"We are now celebrating our golden jubilee, and we thank our loyal clients for placing their trust in us. After Hempel started in Kuwait, we broadened our reach to all locations in the region," Pedersen said. "Hempel, has been very proud to serve its clients. We are committed to continuing our partnership with the government of Kuwait. We have entered almost every sector, the oil sector being one of them. Hempel's operations are unaffected by regional instability," he added.

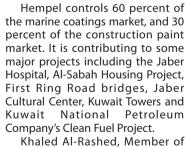
Hempel products have been improved considerably and it continues to innovate and cater to the needs of all countries. Today, Hempel is one of the most trusted brands, not just in the region but all over the world. It enjoys more than

a 50 percent market share and the innovation continues. "Kuwait holds a special place in our hearts.

Kuwait. We never stopped production in our factories, and all the credit goes to our dedicated employees, superior quality products and above all our loyal clientele. We managed to play a major role in Kuwait's reconstruction. I am extremely proud that all the stake-

ent here on this special occasion to be a part of our success story. This is a prelude to the opening of a new state-of-the-art factory in 2017," he noted.

Hempel Kuwait will open the 20,000 sq m factory in the first quarter of 2017, with a capacity of 19 million liters in two shifts compared to the current 13 million liters, which increases production capacity by 40 percent. The factory will have cooling facilities and will produce solvent-borne as well as water-borne products. Hempel is also installing a regenerative thermal oxidizer in the paint production unit that removes volatile organic compounds to prevent atmospheric pollution.



the Board of Director at Hempel Middle East-West, said, "We are proud today as we celebrate the 50th anniversary of establishing our first factory in Kuwait. Hempel succeeded in the past five decades in forging solid partnerships with all segments in the Kuwait society by producing high quality paints that have protected people's assets. Today, the company crowns its great success by announcing the opening of a new state-of-the-art factory in 2017. We are also honored to be a part of the largest medical complex in the region, the Jaber Hospital."

Hempel is helping Kuwait execute many other projects, such as the headquarters of the Ministry of Education, the facade of the Special Forces camp, offices of Al-Arjan company and Salmiya park, Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research, Institute of Nursing, Kuwait College of Science and Technology, Faculty of Health Sciences, and a project to build 892 villas at Jaber Al-Ahmad New City, where home paint samples have been supplied.

BRITAIN PUBLISHES DRAFT SUGAR TAX

LONDON: Britain moved forward with its planned sugar tax yesterday, publishing draft legislation confirming a two-band levy for sugar-added soft drinks aimed at fighting obesity.

In opting for a sugar tax, Britain joins Belgium, France, Hungary and Mexico, all of which have imposed some form of tax on drinks with added sugar. Britain's tax, announced in March, is due to come into force in April 2018, giving sellers of soft drinks, such as Coca-Cola European Partners and Britvic, time to reduce sugar in their products. The companies, which sell Coca-Cola and PepsiCo drinks respectively, have already been promoting no-sugar drinks such as Coca-Cola Zero Sugar and Pepsi Max cherry, which would be exempt from the tax.

The British levy has two thresholds-one of 18 pence per litre on soft drinks with more than 5 grams of sugar per 100 ml and one of 24 pence per litre on those with more than 8 grams per 100 ml. The draft was published on Monday by HM Revenue & Customs as part of an overview of legislative changes to

tax law the government plans to introduce in its finance bill for 2017.

The government has said it expects the levy to raise 520 million pounds (\$661.5 million) in the first year. Sugar taxes have tended to focus on fizzy soft drinks, as health campaigners argue they are a source of empty calories. Yet the whole packaged food industry has been working to make its products healthier as consumers increasingly opt for fresher foods. Nestle earlier this month said it had found a way to potentially reduce sugar in chocolate by up to 40 percent without affecting the taste. As a whole, the industry opposes special taxes on food or drinks, arguing that they do not work and disproportionately hurt poorer people.

"Evidence worldwide does not suggest that taxes of this sort have any impact on levels of obesity," Gavin Partington, director general of the British Soft Drinks Association, said in a statement, adding that the group would continue to work with UK Treasury officials during the process of implementation. — Reuters

It was our gateway to the Middle East market. After 50 years, Hempel Kuwait is stronger and more dedicated, with a leading position in the paint market," Pedersen said. "Together we have been through a great deal, despite some negative turns in the history of



Karsten Pedersen, Group Vice President and CEO of Hempel Middle East-West. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat



ITALY FIRMS AS INVESTORS BET AGAINST SNAP ELECTION

LONDON: Italian shares rose yesterday as investors bet against an immediate snap election in Italy following Prime Minister Matteo Renzi's resignation after defeat in a constitutional reform referendum. Markets had been jolted by the scale of Renzi's defeat which pointed to further turbulence and political crisis in the euro zone's heavily indebted thirdlargest economy and particular uncertainty was focussed on the country's fragile banks.

The euro fell as low as \$1.0508 and the Milan bourse shed as much as 2 percent at the opening, while Italian bond yields spiked sharply higher. But most of these moves quickly reversed. The euro roared back above \$1.06,

LONDON: Italian shares rose yesterday as investors bet against an immediate snap election in Italy following Prime Minister Matteo Renzi's resignation after defeat in a constitu-

> US futures pointed to a rise of about 0.5 percent at the open on Wall Street. "Our base scenario is a caretaker government which could be in place before Christmas, and no new elections before 2018," Indosuez Wealth Management chief economist Marie Owens Thomsen said.

> "If indeed things pan out according to our base scenario, there would be little reason for any broad-based turmoil. It is still utterly unlikely that Italy would leave the EU or the

euro," she said. The referendum outcome was anticipated but the margin of Renzi's defeat -59 percent to 41 percent - caused the initial alarm. Analysts say it could still deal a body blow to a bloc already reeling under antiestablishment anger that led to Britain's shock exit in June. Italian financials rose 0.5 percent having fallen more than 4 percent, and shares in the world's oldest bank, Monte dei Paschi, were flat on the day after being suspended at the opening.

Bonds remained under pressure though. Italy's benchmark 10-year bond yield jumped 11 basis points (bps) to 2.01 percent, widening the premium investors demand for holding

153,512,053

13,142,113

3,311

Italian bonds over safer German bonds to 175 bps, before easing slightly. The strong link between Italy's banking sector and bond market is a major concern for investors. Banks have been hit by concerns over their huge exposure to bad loans built up during years of economic downturn. They also hold large amounts of Italian government debt.

"Bond market turbulence could have serious implications for the financial system. Foreign investors may be less willing to underwrite capital raisings of Italian lenders," JP Morgan Asset Management global market strategist Maria Paola Toschi said.

Brexit in the dock

Markets had earlier taken some encouragement when Austria's far-right presidential candidate was soundly defeated by a pro-European contender, confounding forecasts of a tight election.

The European Central Bank meets Thursday amid much speculation it will announce a six-month extension of its asset buying program and widen the type of bonds it can purchase. Earlier in Asia, MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan eased 0.4 percent and Japan's Nikkei closed down 0.8 percent. China's CSI 300 index tumbled 1.7 percent. Hong Kong's Hang Seng index retreated 0.7 percent.

Wall Street ended Friday on a cautious note, with the Dow off 0.11 percent, while the S&P 500 rose 0.04 percent and the Nasdaq gained 0.09 percent. While the US November payroll report on Friday was firm enough to cement expectations of a US interest rate hike by the Federal Reserve this month, a surprise pullback in wages helped bonds pare a little of their recent losses. New Zealand stocks ended the day 0.7 percent lower. Sterling could be vulnerable to developments in Britain's Supreme Court yesterday, as judges hear the government's appeal against a ruling that parliament must have a vote on Brexit before the process can formally begin. The pound was last down 0.1 percent at \$1.2710, having risen to a multimongth high on Thursday on indications from a leading government minister that a "soft Brexit" might be the outcome rather than a "hard Brexit".

"If the government loses its appeal, we could see another leg higher in sterling against the dollar," City Index research director Kathleen Brooks said.

Tokyo stocks closed lower yesterday as Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi's resignation sparked worries about political instability in the eurozone and beyond. The euro briefly dived to 20-month lows against the dollar on the news, which also sparked demand for the safe-haven yen-a negative for Japanese shares. Investors largely shrugged off data released Friday that showed the US unemployment rate at a nine-year low in November, virtually guaranteeing a Federal Reserve interest rate hike this month. Tokyo's benchmark Nikkei 225 index lost 0.82 percent, or 151.09 points, to end the day at 18,274.99, while the Topix index of all first-section issues was off 0.75 percent, or 11.02 points, at 1,466.96.

		Fín [al Ba ancia Daily	l Mar Repo	rt	ait 🐪	وطنی NBI					
	-	Glo	bal St	ock In	dices							
	ASS #				201		Daily	Vearly				
Index		us Close	Last	Price	Cha	ange	Pertormance %	Pertorman %				
Dow Jones		91.93		70.42	-21.51	۲	-0.11	10.02				
NASDAQ S&P 500		51.11 91.08		i5.65 11.95	4.54	A	0.09	4.96				
Financial Times		30.72	11.021.010	i0.74	19.52	-	0.29	8.14				
DAX	10,5	13.35	10,6	61.21	147.86		1.41	-0.76				
CAC 10		28.82	100000 No.	8.81	19.99		1.10	1.26				
Swiss Nikkei 225		34.01 26.08		i8.93 74.99	71.92	÷	0.96	10.88				
Topix		77.98	2 L.O.*./10	6.96	-151.09	•	-0.82	-3.19				
Hang Seng	22,5	64.82	22,5	05.55	-59.27	•	-0.26	2.97				
Straits Times	2,9	19.37	2,94	13.05	23.68		0.81	2.09				
		ME	NA Sto	ock In	dices							
Index	Previo	us Close	Last	Price	Chr	ange	Daily Performance					
Kuwait	5,5	54.90	5,54	6.17	-8.73	•	-0.16	% -1.08				
Saudi Arabia	·	30.34	<u>8</u>	02.30	28.04	V	0.39	3.16				
Dubai	See	17.05	. Course	7.75	9.30	•	0.27	8.11				
Abu Dhabi	-	51.86		01.03	39.17	•	0.92	-1.05				
Bahrain Qalar	-	75.93 10.27	in the second	2.73	-3.20	•	-0.27	-3.29				
Qatar Oman	-	10.02		6.75	6.73	• •	0.12	3.77				
Lebanon		21.33	100000	7.65	-3.68	•	-0.30	4.43				
Jordan	2,10	59.52	2,16	5.87	-3.65	v	-0.17	1.55				
Egypt		31.41		18.34	-113.0/	۲	-0.97	66.02				
Morocco	-	21.99		58.69 10.79	36.70		0.35	19.00				
Tunisia	6000 (M)	10.67			-19.88 change	v Rate	-0.36	9.29				
	Gloi		-		Sterling	Swiss	Japanese	Australia				
Currency	Dinar	Saudi Riyal		Euro	Pound	Franc	Yen	Dollar				
Kuwait Dinar	0.00242	12.1767	3.2605	3.0607	2.5641	3.3052	372.58	4.3942				
Saudi Riyal US Dollar	0.08212	3,7346	0.2678	0.2514	0.2106	0.2714	30.60	0.3609				
Euro	0.30670	3.9785	1.0653	0.7307	0.7004	1.0803	121.78	1.34//				
Sterling Pound	0.39000	4.7489	1.2716	1.1930		1.2892	145.31	1.7142				
Swiss Franc	0.30255	3.6841	0.9865	0.9257	0.7757		112.77	1.3295				
Japanese Yen	0.00268	0.032/	0.0088	0.0082	0.0069	0.0089	04.75	0.0118				
Australian Dollar	0.22757	2.7711	0.7420	0.6964	0.5834	0.7522	84.79					
-		Kuwaiti		Bahraini	hange _{Qatari}	Omani	Emirates	Egyptiar				
Currency	US Dollar	Dollar	Saudi Riyal	Dinar	Riyal	Riyal	Dirham	Pound				
US Dollar Kuwaiti Dinar	3.2605	0.30670	3.7346	0.3740	3.6270	0.3832	3.6573 11.9247	18.140 59.145				
Saudi Riyal	0.2678	0.08212	12.1707	0.1002	0.9712	0.1026	0.9793	4.8573				
Balıraini Dinar	2.6736	0.81999	9.9848		9.6971	1.0245	9.7781	48.498				
Qatari Riyal	0.2757	0.08456	1.0297	0.1031		0.1057	1.0084	5.0014				
Omani Riyal	2.6095	0.80034	9.7456	0.9760	9.4648		9.5439	47.337				
Emirates Dirham Egyptian Pound	0.2734	0.08386	0.2059	0.1023	0.9917	0.1048	0.2016	4.9599				
			oal Int	0.000								
Currency	1-Week	1-Month	3-M	onth	6-M	onth	_	Year				
Kuwaiti Dinar	0.00	1.19		44	1	63		.94				
US Dollar Euro	-0.39	0.64 -0.38	2	94 .33		.29	-	.64				
Euro Sterling Pound	0.39	-0.38	A	38	1.	.22		.08				
Swiss Franc	-0.79	-0.83	-0.74		2		72 S 3 3 5 5 5		120	.67	-	.50
Australian Dollar	1.56	1.63		62		61		.62				
Japanese Yen	-0.03	-0.11		.06		01	0.	.11				
		Glo	obal B	ond Y	ields							
Country United States	_	/ear 12	(r.	lear 84		Year 41		Year .08				
United States Europc	-	.74	1	.40	L. 207	.33	1	.08				
United Kingdom		12	- 27	61	10-1 1-	.43	1947 - 2×	.05				
			Comn	noditie	es							
Index	Previo	us Close	Last	Price	Chr	ange	Daily Performance					
	40	.15	51	.14	1.99		% 4.05	¥ 41.51				
Kuwait Oil	17					2.650		693723				
	51	.91	52	.86	0.95		1.83	27.59				
Kuwait Oil Brent West Texas		.91 .75		.86 .65	0.95 -0.10	×	-0.19	114.02.00				
Brent	51		51		N			77.59 28.25 9.82				

Daily Kuwait Stock Exchange Report

Monday 05 December 2016

Index	Change		Closing	Last Closing	High	Low	
Price index		-8.73	5,546.17	5,554.90	5,564.19	5,543.80	Volume
Weighted Index		3.02	372.04	369.02	372.13	369.02	Value (KWD)
KSX 15		10.53	872.40	861.87	873.62	861.87	Number of Trades

MARIN KARUS PG VAPESCO ENERGYH 3PI ABAR DI & Gas CFOUC 3PCC ALKOUT ALQURAIN 3asic Materials CCEM REFRI 2ABLE	0.0 37.0 0.0 810 0.0 40.0 96	0.0 35.5 0.0 810 0.0	0 32,872 0 5,000	0 1,189 0 4,050	0 4 0	86 35.5 355		0.0 -1.5 0.0	SOKOUK KRE URC	33.0 56	32.0 55 0.0	4772339 1,010,870 0	155,226 55,848 0	80 14 0	32.5 56 94	_ 	0.5
PG APESCO NERGYH IPI BAR FOUC PCC LKOUT LQURAIN asic Materials CEM EFRI	0.0 810 0.0 40.0	0.0 810 0.0	0 5,000	0			1.17		all sector and the se							2 A. 2	
APESCO NERGYH PI BAR FOUC PCC LKOUT LQURAIN asic Materials CEM EFRI	810 0.0 40.0	810 0.0	5,000	100000	0	300	-	0.0			0.0	0	0	0	94	_	
NERGYH PI BAR FOUC PCC LKOUT LQURAIN asic Materials CEM EFRI	0.0 40.0	0.0			1	810		10.0	NRE	0.0	90	1,505,708	137,683	53	93		0.0
BAR il & Gas FOUC PCC LKOUT LQURAIN asic Materials CEM EFRI		20.5	0	0	0	43.0	-	0.0	SRE	365	360	73,000	26,370	8	360	v	-10
il & Gas FOUC PCC LKOUT LOURAIN asic Materials CEM EFRI	96	39.5	3,042,817	121,145	45	39.5	٧	-0.5	ТАМ	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	470	-	0.0
FOUC PCC LKOUT LQURAIN asic Materials CEM EFRI		96	10,000 3,090,689	960 127,345	1 51	96 782.19		0.0	AREEC MASSALEH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	172 39.0	=	0.0
PCC LKOUT LQURAIN asic Materials CEM EFRI			3,030,003	121,040	51	702.13		1.00	ARABREC	28.5	28.0	927,020	25,982	21	28.0	-	0.0
LKOUT LQURAIN asic Materials CEM EFRI	174	174	5,954	1,036	1	174	_	0.0	ERESCO	40.5	39.5	641,000	25,561	11	39.5	-	0.0
LQURAIN asic Materials CEM EFRI	465	460	362,632	168,620	9	465	-	0.0	MABANEE	840	830	121,794	101,094	3	830	-	0.0
asic Materials CEM EFRI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	640	-	0.0	INJAZZAT	74	74	25,000	1,850	2	74	-	0.0
CEM EFRI	234	226	294,444 663,030	67,659 237,316	32 42	228 971.72	V	-2.0	INVESTORS	23.0	21.5	18,323,829 55,010	412,842	152 8	22.5 26.0	A	0.0
EFRI				201,010					ALTIJARIA	81	80	2,028	164	2	81	_	0.0
	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	420	100	0.0	SANAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	29.5	-	0.0
ABLE	325	320	20,000	6,407	2	325		5.0	AAYANRE	63	63	60,000	3,780	2	63	-	0.0
UID	370	370	170,550	63,104	3	370	•	-5.0	AQAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	69	-	0.0
HIP CEM	162 920	160 920	201,053	32,188 9,200	13	160 920	Ξ	0.0	ALAQARIA MAZAYA	25.0	24.5	27,000	662 112,137	7 6	24.5	¥	-0.
APER	290	285	90,519	26,120	9	290		15.0	ADNC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	11.0	-	0.0
IRC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	63	-	0.0	THEMAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	89	-	0.0
CICO	270	260	28,772	7,761	3	270	-	0.0	TIJARA	41.5	39.0	4,277	167	2	41.5		0.0
GMC CC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	300 118	-	0.0	TAAMEER	20.0	19.5	360,300	7,106	15	20.0 82	¥	-0.
BMMC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	118	-	0.0	ARGAN	162	156	347,433	55,624	14	160	-	0.0
ICBM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	206	_	0.0	ABYAAR	21.5	20.5	25,177,358	533,534	122	21.5		1.0
QUIPMENT	43.0	42.5	823,500	35,024	19	42.5	٧	-0.5	MUNSHAAT	46.5	45.0	1,776,657	81,362	57	45.5		0.6
CCI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	50	-	0.0	FIRSTDUBAI	54	53	687,333	36,429	37	53	¥	-1.
YPSUM ALBOOKH	0.0	0.0	93 500	0	0 4	95 54		0.0	KBT REAM	41.0 0.0	40.0	2,114,500	85,243 0	34 0	40.0 196	v	-1. 0.0
ALBOOKH GLTY	55 580	54 560	93,500 273,747	5,084	4	54 570	-	-1.0	MENA	0.0	0.0	0 80,000	0	4	196 19.0	-	0.0
DU	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	192	=	0.0	ALMUDON	35.0	33.5	6,557,941	227,326	123	34.5		1.0
LEANING	46.5	44.0	1,017,245	46,237	34	46.0		1.5	MARAKEZ	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	36.0	-	0.0
GL	57	55	1,427,778	79,587	77	56		2.0	REMAL	48.5	47.0	430,180	20,348	27	48.0	٧	-0.
CPC UMANSOFT	0.0 2,060	0.0 2,060	0 2,499	0 5,148	0	170 2,060		-40.0	AWJ Real Estate	70	67	3,491,344 69,573,121	238,269 2,347,529	129 933	67 832.28		-0.4
AFAIS	2,060	0.0	2,499	5,148	0	2,060	-	-40.0	Itedi Latate			00,010,121	2,047,029	533	002.20		-0.4
AFWAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	385	-	0.0	KINV	81	75	1,121	91	2	81		1.0
FC	29.0	27.0	330,500	8,955	19	28.0	٧	-1.5	FACIL	152	152	521,790	79,312	23	152	٧	-2.
AYADEEN	29.0	28.0	4,254,708	121,227	49	28.5	-	0.0	IFA	31.0	30.5	50,100	1,528	3	31.0		0.
GC	610	570	9,623	5,532	5	610	•	-10.0	NINV	97	96	1,358,793	130,921	54	96	V	-2.
TCC PAC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	56 660	-	0.0	KPROJ COAST	510 38.0	510 37.0	1,850,618	943,815 119,421	44 59	510 37.5		0. -1.
LAFCO	226	218	294,025	64,379	12	224		8.0	SECH	42.0	41.5	813,502	33,761	20	42.0	-	0.0
UBARRAD	57	55	387,532	21,602	11	55		-1.0	SGC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	85	-	0.0
OGISTICS	70	69	335,070	23,169	21	70		1.0	ARZAN	31.0	30.5	298,100	9,235	7	30.5	٧	-1.
CEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	77	-	0.0	MARKAZ	83	81	12,050	978	2	83	-	0.0
CEM IC	74 0.0	74 0.0	2,600	192	1	74	-	0.0	KMEFIC ALAMAN	22.0 50	19.5 50	1,021 685,000	22 34,250	3	21.5 50		-0.
CEM	81	80	318,000	25,442	9	80		1.0	ALOLA	45.0	45.0	302,180	13,598	6	45.0	v	-0.
KWC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	90	-	0.0	ALMAL	19.5	19.0	2,785,504	52,925	60	19.5		0.0
PEC	77	75	41,100	3,086	7	77	-	0.0	GIH	30.0	28.5	6,803,656	198,234	98	29.0		0.0
dustrials			10,132,321	745,370	322	1261.61	٧	-1.27	AAYAN	28.0	27.0	4,809,335	132,026	69	27.5	-	0.0
SH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	136	122	0.0	BAYANINV	33.5 0.0	33.0 0.0	1,406,625	46,487 0	28	33.0 60	*	-0. 0.0
SH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	64	-	0.0	KFIC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	36.0	-	0.0
APCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	95	-	0.0	KAMCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	112	-	0.0
ATTL	214	208	10,750	2,238	4	214	۲	-2.0	NIH	62	61	917,449	56,383	25	61	-	0.0
ANAH	89	87	244,677	21,556	16	88	-	0.0	UNICAP	44.0	42.0	1,977,552	84,766	74	42.0	٧	-2.
OULT	0.0 2,620	0.0 2,620	0 32,000	0 83,840	0	188 2,620	-	0.0	MADAR ALDEERA	0.0	0.0 31.0	0 501,471	0 15,796	0	12.5 31.0		0.
onsumer Goods		_,•**	287,427	107,634	25	1127.40		1.29	ALSALAM	44.0	43.5	266,910	11,627	11	43.5	¥	-0.
									EKTTITAB	35.5	35.5	8,432	299	3	35.5	-	0.0
нс	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	230	-	0	ALMADINA	42.0	41.0	35,100	1,439	3	42.0	-	0.0
TC IACO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	920 435	-	0	NOOR TAMINV	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	46.5 285	-	0.0
ealth Care	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	1267.54		0.00	EXCH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	1,500	-	0.0
one la contra de Contra a									TAIBA	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	75	-	0.0
CIN	950	950	1,060	1,007	1	950	٨	10	KSHC	27.0	26.0	2	0	2	27.0	-	0.0
НОТ	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	265	-	0	ASIYA	32.0	30.5	42,418	1,314	7	32.0	-	0.0
	59 0.0	57 0.0	151,286 0	8,733	9	57 61	Ψ	-1	GNAHC AMWAL	33.0 19.0	32.5	464,100	15,265 18	14	33.0	-	0.
ABLETV YAS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	61 385	-	0	AMWAL	19.0 99	17.5 95	1,000 6,550,825	18 632,856	2 189	17.5 97	-	-2.
AHR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	154	-	0	MANAZEL	28.5	27.0	3,642,302	101,448	71	28.5		1.0
ULAFUEL	114	114	15,396	1,755	11	114	-	0	NIND	122	120	678,756	81,797	28	122		2.0
UNTAZAHAT	76	76	18,997	1,444	1	76	v	-2	BIIHC	19.0	18.0	3,673,149	68,158	56	18.0	۳	-1.
ZEERA OOR	790 114	770	153,057	118,808 2,992	17 15	770	v	-30	SENERGY AGHC	35.5 49.5	34.5	652,996 284 148	22,534	55 17	35.0	-	0.0
JTUREKID	0.0	0.0	26,468 0	2,992	15	114	-	-2	AGHC KPPC	49.5 44.0	49.0 44.0	284,148 32,173	13,964 1,416	17 9	49.5 44.0	-	0.0
LRAI	152	148	745,544	112,356	43	150	v	-4	TAHSSILAT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	41.5	-	0.0
МАН	41.0	40.5	125,240	5,073	10	41.0	-	0	JEERANH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	56	-	0.0
FIG	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	170	-	0	EKHOLDING	170	170	500,000	85,000	3	170	٧	-2.
ezzan onsumer Service:	990 s	950	1,247,330 2,484,378	1,222,002	71	980 909.74	A V	-11.06	GFH INOVEST	154 0.0	148 0.0	4,650,606	708,315	103	154 72		6.
	-		2,104,010	10.001			- and the		Financial Service	312.032	0.0	49,755,895	3,698,997	1,160	572.67	v	-0.4
AIN	415	405	3,748,963	1,529,199	88	405	-	0									
OREDOO	1,140	1,100	6,891	7,645	8	1,100	¥	-20	Investment Instru	iments		0	0	0	1081.97	-	0.0
ITSTELEC VA	43.0	42.0	2,354,900	99,351	51	42.5	٧	-1	ASC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	255	_	
VA elecommunication	900 ns	900	62,775 6,173,529	56,498 1,692,693	49 196	900 617.98	V	-4.20	ASC OSOS	0.0	0.0	0 500	0 72	0	255 144		0.0
									FUTURE	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	95	-	0.0
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BK	234	232	910,683	212,990	12	234		2	Technology			83,150	3,664	14	648.91	٧	-21.
зк зк	425 300	420 295	84,108 401,344	35,526	5	425 300	A A	15 5	SANAD	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	100		0.
MUTAHED	300	390	20,000	7,875	3	300		5	AFAQ	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	162	-	0.0
B	208	206	923,484	190,286	22	206	-	0	ALSHAMEL	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	460	-	0.
JRG	305	300	3,259,292	981,473	67	300	٧	-5	EFFECT	38.5	38.0	17,429	670	2	38.5		0.
FIN	520	510	81,215	41,673	19	520		10	AJWAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	40.0	-	0.
DUBYAN	400	395	546,802	215,999	16	395		5	MASAKEN	48.0	45.5	1,268,004	58,702	52	48.0		2.
JB HMR	194 38.0	194 37.0	154,753 694,040	30,022 26,027	8	194 38.0	-	0	DALQAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	350 90	-	0.0
ARBABANK	218	216	1,813,736	393,852	106	218		2	MIDAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	1,220	-	0.0
anks	a static		9,479,791	2,631,967	298	829.79	A	8.66	FLEX	0.0	0.0	0	Ő	0	45.0	-	0.
									THURAYA	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	158	-	0.
NS	238	238	3,949	940	1	238		2	AMAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	54	-	0.
INS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	620	-	0.0	Parallel Market			1,285,433	59,371	54	1016.10		7.6
INS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	460	-	0.0									
JWAITRE	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	99 186	-	0.0									
fi	49.5	49.5	500	25	1	49.5	-	0.0									
ETHAQ	31.5	29.5	498,840	15,092	36	30.0		0.5									
KIKWT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	355	-	0.0									
surance			503,289	16,056	38	956.47		3.03									



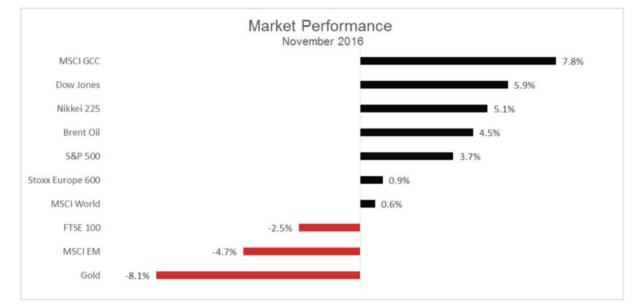
GLOBAL EQUITIES MIXED; US AND JAPAN ADVANCE

NBK CAPITAL MONTHLY GLOBAL MARKET REPORT

KUWAIT: Overall, global equities had mixed performance with Japan and US leading while emerging markets and UK equities were the major lagers. US equities rallied, following poor performance back in October, gaining 3.7 percent as measured by the S&P 500, as a result of Trump's victory, which is expected to lead to tax cuts and infrastructure spending. Commodities were mixed for the month with Gold down 8.1 percent while Brent Oil is up 4.5 percent. OPEC's decision in its meeting on November 30 in Vienna, to cut production levels for the first time in eight years, has driven crude oil prices up by 8.8 percent in the last day of trading of the month.

The US economy appears to show signs of continued growth, with preliminary annualized Q3GDP coming in at 3.2 percent supported by improving retail sales and a strong housing market. With the consumer price index coming in at 1.6 percent YoY, boosted by rising energy prices, and the expected increase in government spending from the Trump Administration, this could support the Fed's case for a December rate hike.

The November US ISM manufacturing came in at 53.2, higher than October's reading of 51.9. The November Nonfarm Payroll came in at 178,000, significantly higher than the October reading of 142,000. US unemployment



improved to 4.6 percent in November versus 4.9 percent in October. Consumer confidence grew in November to 107.1 from 100.8 in October. Durable goods order came in higher than expected at 4.8 percent in October, due to a 12 percent gain in transportation orders, compared to the revised September figure 0.4 percent. Strong US housing data revealed housing starts improved 25.5 percent in October to an annualized rate of 1.323 million, marking the strongest monthly percentage gain since 1982. Existing home sales also picked up to 5.60 million while new homes sales dropped to 0.563 million in October on an annualized rate.

The UK Manufacturing Purchasing Managers Index (PMI) for November dropped slightly to 53.4 compared to 54.2 in October. UK inflation remains somewhat stable at 0.9 percent down from 1.0 percent in September. Unemployment fell to 4.8 percent, an 11-year low as the number of unemployment claims only rose 10,000 to 803,000. Consumers continue to be confident which is proving to be crucial to the UK economy; retail sales rose to 7.4 percent YoY in October, up from the revised 4.2 percent in September.

UK equities dropped 2.5%

The eurozone manufacturing sector continues to grow as evident in the preliminary manufacturing PMI of 54.1 for the month of November, up from 53.5 in October. Further supporting growth in the region, is the preliminary service PMI for November, also at 54.1 compared to 52.8 in October. Consumer confidence, although still negative, has improved from a reading of -8.0 in October to a reading of -6.1 in November. European equities in November gained 0.9 percent, as measured by the Stoxx Europe 600.

Japan posted, a trade surplus of JPY 496 billion in October, compared to JPY 498 billion in September. The surplus was driven by a continued decline in the value of imports, which has fallen faster than exports. The Nikkei Manufacturing PMI remains slightly above 50 at 51.3 compared to 51.4 in the previous month. Japan's CPI rose YoY 0.1 percent in October breaking the declining trend over the past seven months. The unemployment rate remains at 3 percent in October, unchanged from September, the lowest since 1995; however, Real GDP grew at a rate of 0.5 percent QoQ in Q3.

Japanese equities continue to perform considerably well, as measured by the Nikkei 225, generating returns of 5.1 percent in November.

Chinese exports dropped 7.3 percent in October, an improvement from the 10 percent decline in September and imports declined by 1.4 percent YoY. CPI increased, on a YoY basis, from 1.9 percent in September to 2.1 percent in October. The Caixin Manufacturing PMI dropped to 50.9 in November compared to 51.2 in October.

Although emerging market equities ended the month down 4.7 percent, Chinese equities, as measured by the Shanghai Stock Exchange Composite Index, generated returns of 4.8 percent.

The GCC equity market continued to perform well ending the month of November with gains of 7.8 percent, supported by Saudi equity market, which increased 16.4 percent. In addition, UAE equities, Dubai and Abu Dhabi, recovered from last month posting minor gains of 0.9 percent and 0.2 percent, respectively. The gains in Saudi stocks were supported by delayed payments finally being made to contractors amounting to SR40 billion and the announcement that another SR100 billion will be paid out by the end of December. Abu Dhabi's improved performance this month comes from speculation of future mergers within the financial industry given the recent completed merger between First Gulf Bank and National Bank of Abu Dhabi.

HK-SHENZHEN TRADING LINK OFF TO A NEGATIVE START

HONG KONG: A long-delayed trading link between the exchanges of Hong Kong and Shenzhen in China made a disappointing debut yesterday, with markets on both sides of the border ending lower.

The link opens another door to the mainland's cloistered markets, allowing foreigners to buy shares in more than 800 Chinese firms for the first time, while also giving mainlanders further access to Hong Kong-listed companies. Similar to a connect that kicked off between Hong Kong and Shanghai two years ago, the scheme is being touted as China's latest effort to prove its capital markets are gradually opening.

But a growth slowdown in China's economy, the weak yuan and an expected hike in US interest rates have analysts sounding a note of caution. Hong Kong's city leader Leung Chun-ying hailed it as "yet another milestone in deepening mutual access" between the capital markets in Hong Kong and mainland China.

The former British colony is now a special administrative region of China but remains connected to the global financial system, unlike the mainland's Analysts said the repercussions of a rout last year in mainland markets-which spread globally-were still being felt. That delayed the launch of the new link, which had been expected by the end of 2015. Concerns have been exacerbated more recently by capital flight caused by the yuan, which is at eight-year lows against the dollar.

'Huge significance'

Comments from Liu Shiyu, head of the China Securities Regulatory Commission, may also have dented sentiment, analysts said. Liu blasted hostile corporate takeover attempts between Chinese firms in a strongly worded speech posted on the commission's website.

In the highest profile case, China's largest property firm Vanke has been fighting to repel an acquisition by private conglomerate Baoneng Group that would be China's first blue-chip hostile takeover.

While saying some buyouts can be positive, Liu condemned those in which the suitor becomes "a barbarian, and then eventually a bandit". He did not spell out any official measures to stem such takeovers. "The (market) drop is mainly related to (Liu's) speech rather than the stock trading link launch," said Zhang Yufa, research director for private equity firm Million Tons Capital. "Market sentiment was affected by this." However, Liu Monday praised the new stock connect, saying it would "inject positive energy and instil confidence and trust in the international and domestic financial markets". Shenzhen is China's second stock exchange, behind Shanghai, and is the world's eighth largest bourse with a market capitalization of \$3.3 trillion as of September. The Shanghai-Hong Kong link launched in November 2014 giving foreigners access for the first time to Chinese companies not guoted elsewhere, and vice versa. But it has failed to excite traders, with both daily quotas for southbound mainland and northbound international buyers often unfilled. — AFP



WARBA BANK OFFERS FINANCING SOLUTIONS FOR LSA COURSES

closed markets.

However, by the close Hong Kong was down 0.26 percent and Shenzhen's composite index had given up 0.78 percent. And only 21 percent of the northbound trade permitted under the scheme was taken up, while a little more than eight percent of the southbound quota was used up. Hong Kong-based analyst Jackson Wong said the lacklustre start was not a surprise."Investors were not expecting a spectacular open anyway, because investor sentiment is a little bit on the quiet side," he said.

That was mainly due to the weak yuan and concern that China would not open up capital flows in the short-term, said Wong, a securities analyst at Huarong International. The markets' performance might improve once the currency stabilises, he said, adding: "I think (China) will roll out more relaxed policies and that would eventually trigger... more buying interests."

INFINITI AL-BABTAIN STARTS ITS BANKS AWARENESS TOUR AT BOUBYAN BANK

KUWAIT: Abdulmohsen Abdulaziz Al-Babtain Co, the authorized agent of Infiniti vehicles in the State of Kuwait started its Banks awareness tour in Boubyan Bank by giving its employees an exceptional offer.

Infiniti Al-Babtain had a variety of its luxurious vehicles displayed at the entrance of Boubyan Bank on Thursday. Infiniti Al-Babtain gave Boubyan Bank's employees a staff offer that included 5 years warranty open mileage, free maintenance up to 5 years, free window tinting and body protection, free third party insurance and admin fees, free one year comprehensive insurance and a special discount of KD500.

The bank has over 1135 employees that enjoyed this offer for a three days period exclusively. This is a part of Infiniti's Banks awareness campaign that will continues with more banks and more offers from Infiniti Al-Babtain.

Infiniti Al-Babtain aims to always hold activities that bring the product closer to the customer considering his desires and aspiration. Infiniti Al-Babtain aims through its new promotions' strategy to strengthen its sales of the luxury Infiniti vehicles, ensuring that Infiniti is the leading brand of luxury vehicles in Kuwait and the Middle East, which attracts the VIP clients to own it.

Infiniti belongs to the category of luxury vehicles that gained international publicity for its luxury features, elegant design, and attractive inspiration. All its models combine elegant comfort, capturing luxury, strong performance and smooth acceleration. Infiniti depends on the latest technology in the world, which ranks it on top of the most advanced smart vehicles with super technology.

BANK INKS COOPERATION AGREEMENT TO SUPPORT HEALTH SECTOR

KUWAIT: Warba Bank is distinguished by the innovative solutions it presents to all members of the Kuwaiti society, which reflects its commitment to supporting social growth as well as spreading education and culture. Accordingly, Warba Bank announced an exclusive cooperation agreement with the Life Sciences Academy (LSA) on December 5, 2016, through which it offers educational financial facilities for health sector employees who are looking to enroll in training programs organized by the academy, renowned as leader and the first health academy in Kuwait and the Gulf region that offers training programs for health sector professionals.

Warba Bank offers these financial facilities through 'bargaining' contracts that are exclusive for education, and according to the Islamic sharia. It also guarantees flexible instalments facilitations that extend for up to 5 years through the free Takaful insurance system. In addition, these facilities are available for all, do not require salary transfer, and with limits ranging from KD 1000 to KD 15,000.

Commenting on Warba Bank's initiative, Basel Al-Obaid, Chief Corporate Banking Officer, said: "Warba Bank is keen on designing innovative financing solutions that are complaint with the Islamic sharia, and commensurate with the bank's developmental strategy that aims to provide facilitations for education to improve the capacity of Kuwait's health sector employees."

"Our partnership with the Life Sciences Academy is aligned to the standards of the bank's message and vision, which aim to provide flexible facilitations and to encourage those looking to improve their professional skills. We hope that it reflects positively in service of citizens and the society," he added.

Al-Obaid further indicated that Warba Bank continues its message of innovating solutions that benefit all segments of society, regardless of their monthly income, because the bank believes that it originated from the middle of the Kuwaiti society to present guidance and support necessary for its development.

"We are committed to making our clients' lives easier, and to always present financing offers for them that are designed according to flexibility and innovation standards, which makes Warba Bank their first destination for Islamic banking transactions," Al-Obaid concluded.

Meanwhile, Mohammad Nahes Al-Enezi, CEO of the Life Sciences Academy which is owned by the National Group for Technology Projects (affiliated to the Kuwait Investment Authority), said that singing the cooperation agreement with Warba Bank to finance the training courses that the academy presents comes in line with the social responsibility of both parties in terms of supporting the health sector and its all of its workers.

Al-Enezi added that the new financing service comes as a solution for a problem created by the limited budget dedicated for training at the Ministry of Health, as well as the pressures created by the state's budget deficit, coupled with the



urgent need to improve the health sector and train medical personnel on using the latest medical technologies and skills.

Furthermore, it helps limit the state's spending on treatment overseas, he added.

Moreover, he further indicated that the agreement stipulates providing a financing with a minimum of KD 1,000 and maximum of KD 15,000, and without profits on the declared price, in order to help doctors, nurses and other medical personnel improve themselves, and enroll in professional training courses certified by the most prestigious medical institutions around the world. It could also allow them to attend international scientific conferences and workshops with reduced costs, and without having to wait for long periods to obtain training courses in a dynamic and fast evolving sector, thus improving their career competitiveness locally and regionally.

Al-Enezi further indicated that the integrated financing solutions available between the Ministry of Health and Warba Bank makes it mandatory to implement a compulsory continued medical education system for all medical personnel, which is a system followed worldwide as a condition to practice medicine.

He added that the academy is the first of its

kind in the Gulf region which is specialized in presenting continued medical education programs in Kuwait, both in the public and private sectors. Furthermore, he pointed out that the academy carried out more than 150 training programs over the past two years and a half dealing with various health fields for the public and private health sectors, in which around 1,000 trainees have enrolled. He further explained that the academy provides knowledge, education and training through professional training programs in all health-related fields, and for practicing doctors, pharmacists, physicians, and even executive directors as a unique platform for continued professional development programs, thus making its programs a true opportunity to stay acquainted with the latest internationally certified medical practices.

It is worth mentioning that Warba Bank is a leader in designing financing solutions that meet all of our clients' needs. It recently launched a series of promotions to finance vehicles, signing in the process strategic partnerships with international automobile agencies. It also offers online services including the Express Finance service which it recently announced in cooperation with the Public Authority for Civil Information.

NEW ISLAMIC FINANCE GUIDANCE ON GOLD EMPHASIZES REAL DEAL

LONDON: Islamic finance experts have developed new rules for gold transactions, they said yesterday, potentially opening the way for Islamic institutions to trade gold and silver much more actively. Gold transactions must be fully backed by physical metal and settled on the same day, the developers of the new guidance said, to observe Islam's distinction between real economic activity and speculation.

Traditionally, gold has played a very minor role in Islamic finance and there has been little activity beyond spot trading, partly because of uncertainty over what is religiously permissible. The new standards, which also apply to silver, could help to change this. The Bahrainbased Accounting and Auditing Organization for Islamic Financial Institutions (AAOIFI) spent a year working out the new rules on gold trading and agreed them last month.

AAOIFI developed its guidelines with the World Gold Council (WGC), a London-based market development body, to clarify existing Islamic rulings on bullion and make it easier to conduct complex transactions. The guidelines will help to increase acceptance of gold products among Islamic investors while giving Islamic banks new liquidity-management tools, said Hamed Hassan Merah, secretarygeneral of AAOIFI, whose standards are followed in whole or in part by sharia-compliant banks around the world. — Reuters



KIB AWARDED 'BEST BANKING VISION IN KUWAIT' BY CPI FINANCIAL

KUWAIT: Kuwait International Bank was recently awarded "Best Banking Vision in Kuwait" by CPI Financial in the Islamic Business & Finance Awards category, thereby garnering one of the leading regional awards recognizing banking excellence and rewarding pioneers in the field of Islamic finance. KIB's Acting Chief Executive Officer, Mohamed Said El Saka, received the award on behalf of the Bank at the Islamic Business & Finance Awards ceremony held recently in Dubai.

El Saka described this latest accolade as one of the important recognitions received by KIB in its recent history, adding: "This recognition serves to highlight KIB's forward-thinking strategy and visionary outlook, which have been extremely successful in enhancing the Bank's position within the Islamic banking sector. The "Best Banking Vision" Award came as a result of a clear growth strategy encompassing all aspects of the Bank's performance and operations. This includes the introduction of new products and offerings, enhanced customer service levels, senior management's contribution to demonstrate profitability and sustainability, as well as a commitment to CSR initiatives. Our focused strategic approach has translated to



impressive growth rates across all areas. It has also enabled us to make great strides in our mission to offer our customers innovative, contemporary, and market-leading Islamic banking solutions."

He further added: "We at KIB strongly believe that successful banking strategies are dependent

on having a clear and actionable vision. Our highly experienced and knowledgeable team, guided by our Board of Directors, is uniquely qualified to carry out our ambitious strategy, which focuses on realizing a comprehensive transformation across all sectors and segments of the Bank. This latest award serves to fuel our drive and motivate us to push ourselves even further to achieve that goal."

Over the past several years, KIB has garnered numerous local, regional and international prestigious awards, serving to affirm the strength of the Bank's financial core and the success of its strategy. One of the biggest accolades was being named "The Best Islamic Bank in Kuwait" by World Finance for three consecutive years (2014, 2015 and 2016). KIB was also named "Best Sharia-Compliant Bank in the Middle East" for the year 2015 by Capital Finance International.

El Saka concluded by saying: "The guidance of our Chairman, Sheikh Mohamed Al-Jarrah Al Sabah, along with our Board of Directors, has been a crucial factor in achieving this continued success, as well as the timely and proactive actions of the Central Bank of Kuwait. On behalf of the executive management at KIB, I would like to express my gratitude to every member of the team at KIB; their hard work has been a vital element towards helping us realize our success. My sincere thanks also to our customers for their continued trust in us, and we promise them even greater things to come."

AL-MAZAYA ASSIGNED CORPORATE RATING OF 'BBB-' LONG-TERM CI ALSO ASSIGNS 'A3' SHORT-TERM WITH 'STABLE' OUTLOOK

KUWAIT: Capital Intelligence Ratings, the renowned international credit rating agency, has assigned Al-Mazaya Holding Company corporate ratings of 'BBB-' for the long-term and 'A3' in the short-term.

In its initial report, the international agency indicated that the outlook on Al-Mazaya Holding Company's ratings is 'Stable'. The ratings are supported by the Group's well-diversified business model, its good liquidity backed by current high cash balances, and by its sound profitability. Further supporting the ratings is the long-term nature of the company's funding structure and the sound EBIT finance charge coverage ratio.

Commenting on the positive rating, Eng. Ibrahim Al-Soqabi, Group CEO of Al-Mazaya Holding Company, said: "Al-Mazaya Holding boasts a resilient financial position that is nimble enough to manage all the company's shortterm and long-term leverage. As such, the company is keen to fulfill the requirements of its investors and shareholders by bridging the information gap and providing them with seamless access to comprehensible, user-friendly and authentic data with regards to risk management. The ultimate goal is to build confidence and ensure transparency."

He added: "The new positive rating should encourage investors and financial institutions to accelerate cooperation with Al-Mazaya Holding and launch multifaceted investments and business entities."



His statement served to underline the company's tireless development efforts to operate according to a dynamic, stable business model that is likely to yield high returns at acceptable levels of risks and ultimately consolidate the company, positioning it for future growth.

Moreover, according to the report, the rat-

ings are also backed by the diversification that the company has achieved within the asset base and in revenue streams. While revenue streams are real estate-related, they are diversified by geography, varying between develop-for-sale and rental properties. The report also highlighted the fairly comfortable debt to equity ratio and the fact that this debt has a largely medium-to-long maturity profile. The company's short-term debt is fully covered by cash and other liquid assets at present.

In terms of non-financial factors, the report mentioned that the Group has a well-developed strategic plan and a very detailed multi-year business strategy that is subject to a quarterly review - the report is then updated if required. Moreover, there are clear policies and targets in place that include raising the proportion of income coming from rental activities, further diversifying the company's portfolio in terms of geography or real estate and establishing a family of Al-Mazaya Group brands.

The report lauded the company's financial results for the year 2016, stating that the current year is a good one for the Group in terms of both net profit and cash generation - both categories are growing significantly, especially the cash balance from sales of completed units. The report also hailed the company's falling leverage and rising rental income, noting that the expectation is for net profit attributable to shareholders to be maintained in 2017, with overall net profits predicted to rise in 2018.



MALABAR GOLD & DIAMONDS' OPENS ITS 157TH OUTLET GLOBALLY IN MUSCAT

MUSCAT: Malabar Gold & Diamonds, the leading jewellery retailer across the globe has launched its 157th global showroom in Sultanate of Oman at Muscat City Centre, Seeb on 30th November 2016. The latest showroom was inaugurated by Sheikha Tamimah bint Muhammad bin Sultan Almahruqiyah - Advisor of the president of Public Authority for Craft Industries, Oman in the presence of Khamis Al-Mandhari, Acting Chief of West Asian Department, Oman, Abdul Salam KP - Group Executive Director, Malabar Group, Najeeb K - Regional Head, Malabar Gold & Diamonds, Oman, media, wellwishers & other invited guests.

This exclusive outlet showcases exquisite collection of gold jewellery in

with the opening of this new store. Unlike the other stores in Oman, the new outlet features exclusive jewellery handpicked to cater to the wide set of customers from different countries who visit the mall. The jewelry chain offers a significantly large collection of traditional as well as contemporary designer jewelries. The exquisite range of collections in the new outlet can hold one spell-bound with their aweinspiring beauty and classic designs.

Malabar group offers exquisite and beautiful jewelry 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 -

NISSAN ADDS TWO MORE TROPHIES TO ITS CABINET

Second Arab Wheels Awards

DUBAI: The second annual Arab Wheels Awards, held this month at a prestigious ceremony in Dubai's Meydan Hotel, has resulted in Nissan taking top honours in two categories: 'Midsize Truck' for the all-new Navara and 'Large Sedan' for the Maxima.

"This award represents Nissan's hard work and success in the Middle East, and is testament of the company's efforts in introducing cars that deliver innovation and excitement to customers in the region," says Samir Cherfan, "Managing Director of Nissan Middle East, "Arab Wheels is one of this region's leading motoring magazine titles and, for a car to be awarded by its expert writers and readers, it has to be exceptional.

"That both the Navara and Maxima won their categories on the night should come as no surprise, as they represent the best in design, innovation and technology, and all of us at Nissan are proud that they have been awarded in what has quickly become one of the most eagerly anticipated industry awards ceremonies on the calendar."

For a car to be eligible for an Arab Wheels Award, it must be 'all-new' or 'significantly facelifted' and have been on sale for three months prior to the announcement of the nominations. Awards are decided on by a voting process that is divided 'fifty-fifty' between jury member votes and those made by the title's readers via an online voting process.

"Our expert judging panel is made up of three prominent automotive journalists from the Middle East," adds Issam Eid, Arab Wheels' Editorin-Chief. "Between them, the jurors have many years of regional experience and they know what makes a car suitable for the Middle East market. Nissan has been an intrinsic part of the market here for decades and is completely in tune with its customers' demands and expectations - which is why the rugged all-new Navara and dynamic new Maxima won their categories. They set new standards in their classes and fully deserved their trophies."

The all-new Navara has already been named International Pick-up of the Year 2016 in Europe and builds on Nissan's 80-year pick-up heritage by combining toughness and modernity to make the ideal vehicle for dual users who depend on their vehicles for professional and personal use. It introduces much in the way of new technology, safety, comfort and fuel efficiency, which is unrivalled in its class. It also outshines its rivals as the segment leader in torque and power, offering 403Nm and 168hp respectively, from its two engine options.



Winner of Best Large Sedan Award - Nissan Maxima.



Winner of Midsize Truck - Nissan Navarra.

As for the new Maxima, this completely redesigned 8th generation car is the sportiest model ever. Created by driving enthusiasts for driving enthusiasts, it looks unique and its 'fourdoor sports car' positioning is perfectly matched to its style, technology and performance capabilities.

The Maxima's 3.5-liter VQ-series V6 has been

redesigned with more than 60 per cent new parts compared to the previous model and generates a pulse-quickening 300hp yet manages to be 15 per cent more efficient than its predecessor. The V6 is complemented by a new, performance-oriented Xtronic transmission that further enhances the Maxima's exciting driver dynamics, setting it apart as unique in its segment.

18K, 21K and 22K alongside Diamond, Uncut diamond and precious gem jewellery which is specially handpicked for the jewellery lovers in Oman. The new showroom will also display the exclusive 21K gold jewelry collections of the brand L'AZURDE.

Malabar Gold & Diamonds intends to provide an unparalleled shopping experience to every customer of this region Gem Jewellery and Starlet - Kids Jewellery.

Malabar Gold & Diamonds has always been at the forefront in gold jewellery manufacturing, wholesaling and retailing and plans on being the 'most- preferred' jewellery retailer in the market in the coming years. The group strives to continue embarking on its journey by further expanding in the near future.

THE AUDIENCE HAS SPOKEN: BLUEFRIDAY SALE BY X-CITE WAS A HUGE SUCCESS!

KUWAIT: X-cite by Alghanim Electronics, the largest electronics retailer in Kuwait, is proud to share the news that the BlueFriday Sale, which ran from November 24th till 28th on xcite.com, was a huge success among cyber buyers and fans of electronics. Sponsored by Gulf Bank, Honda, Costa Coffee and Safat Home, the BlueFriday sale marks a new trend wherein customers are more receptive to online promotions presented within a limited shopping window on top of offering unbelievable prices across a wide range of products. **KUWAIT:** X-cite by Alghanim retail electronic stores in Kuwait and the Middle East. It offers a convenient, dynamic and modern shopping experience that aims to add joyous, entertaining moments to shoppers' time spent in the store. With its engaging and easy-to-use product display that encourages customers to get handson with the product of their choice, Xcite's shopping experience is further enhanced with its Easy Credit program, a highly skilled and multi-lingual team of sales professionals and the latest and newest electronic devices and gadgets in the market. X-

The success was evident by the massive traffic xcite.com has generated over the course of four days, with an astronomical jump in average daily visits to the website. Especially to Xcite's mobile app, which effectively demonstrates the customers' preference to shop on the go while enjoying the convenience of accessing, all of Xcite's amazing offers with just a few tabs on their smartphone devices.

While the year 2016 is coming to a close, X-cite still has few surprises in store. Effective throughout the month of the December is the grand shopping campaign, "Run for it before it runs out," offering daily deals with up to 50 percent discount, in addition to the retailer's website 5th anniversary celebration, which promises to be huge. Xcite.com is also expanding its range of products, starting by launching a Baby Care section very soon.

In the meantime, X-cite encourages its customers to stay in touch and be informed of its sales and daily deals by subscribing to its newsletter on xcite.com and following its various social media channels: @xcitealghanim on Instagram, Twitter and Snapchat and Facebook: XcitebyAlghanim.

X-cite has the largest network of

the Middle East. It offers a convenient, dynamic and modern shopping experience that aims to add joyous, entertaining moments to shoppers' time spent in the store. With its engaging and easy-to-use product display that encourages customers to get handson with the product of their choice, Xcite's shopping experience is further enhanced with its Easy Credit program, a highly skilled and multi-lingual team of sales professionals and the latest and newest electronic devices and gadgets in the market. Xcite by Alghanim Electronics has branches in 18 locations situated in strategic areas across Kuwait as well as an online store that parallels X-cite's unmatched in-store experience as it provides customers with valuable offers on quality brands. Customers can also enjoy many of X-cite's convenient services including Easy Credit, shopping at any of X-cite's select stores that are open 24-hours, extended warranty programs in addition to their new damage warranty program, free delivery and installation services and X-cite's bilingual online store, www.xcite.com, that enables customers to buy any electronic device or gadget they want at any time and any place.



Kuwait 📥 Times 🎫

TECHNOLOGY

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2016



HUAWEI LAUNCHES GLOBALLY AWAITED MATE 9 IN KUWAIT

KUWAIT: In an event held at the Xcite showroom in The Avenues mall, the Huawei Consumer Business Group in Kuwait revealed its most coveted flagship smartphone, Mate 9, launching its third successful and innovative device in the country this year. The Mate 9 promises a high performance and unprecedented images with its Leica smartphone camera technology.

The event was attended by the Commercial Counselor, Mr Zhu Lian, Huawei Technologies Kuwait CEO, Mr Trevor Liu, and the Senior Director in Category Management of the Retail Electronics Division at Xcite, Rohit Gandotra. The event was presented by the Sales Manager at Huawei Consumer Business Group - Kuwait, Mr Ahmad Yamout.

Huawei Technologies Kuwait CEO, Mr. Trevor Liu, said: "We bring to Kuwait our latest revolutionary smartphone, following the successful launches of the innovative Mate 8 and P9 this year. Huawei continues to push the limit of the performance and advanced featured of its smartphones, making them the ideal smartphones to support business users and complementing the lifestyle of consumers in general. Huawei users and new users won't be disappointed with the Mate 9."

Mate 9 users in Kuwait will also take advantage of the two-hour turnaround service at the Huawei Service Center, as well as a pick-up and delivery service for the maintenance of their devices under warranty. The two-hour turnaround service, available at the newly Service Center, gives users a high-quality and fast experience, from the device itself to the after-sale service. The pick-up of a device can be made simply by calling the Huawei VIP hotline at 22288063. A time will be set to pick the device at the preferred location of the user. Maintenance in case of pick-up and return takes up to three working days

Revolutionary speed

Built with the new Kirin 960 processor and intelligent Machine Learning algorithm, this ground-breaking interplay between hardware and software means the Huawei Mate 9 is born fast and stays fast.

Enhanced power

The Huawei Mate 9 offers a truly revolutionary battery life. With its large 4000mAh battery and smart power-saving technology, the battery lasts up to two days' usage. The State-of-the-art HUAWEI SuperCharge technology safely charges the device for a full day's power in 20 minutes.

Breath-taking photography

The Huawei Mate 9 offers exceptional sharpness in its second-generation Leica Dual Camera which renders images in unprecedented detail. The Mate 9 is also equipped with a front camera.

Ground-breaking user experience

The Mate 9 was designed with EMUI 5.0 and a beautiful and smart user interface for a stunning experience. Huawei plugged in the VR technology to support Daydream, a highlydemanded VR system launched by Google.

Fingerprint unlock speed

The Huawei Mate 9 comes with 4 Level Fingerprint which includes 3D fingerprint recognition and an encrypted file safe that you can access with the fingerprint sensor. It's also

fast, 20% faster when compared with the Huawei Mate 8.

Global connectivity

With incredible network support and integrated dual SIM support, the Huawei Mate 9 offers outstanding performance worldwide. Users can experience consistent call quality and a stable Internet connection with reduced power consumption and data usage around the globe.

Bold, meticulous and refined

The Huawei Mate 9 has inherited the Mate Series' design DNA, with a visual and sensual feel that's uniquely glamorous. There are two versions: The Huawei Porsche Design Mate 9 which uses 5.5 inches 2K curved screen, and the Huawei Mate 9 with 5.9 inches 1080P screen.



AVAYA HELPS BUSINESSES RAISE BAR FOR CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE

DUBAI: Avaya announced yesterday a new version of the matically simplifies the ability to provide that best-in-class company's contact center platform that enables midsize businesses to rise above the competition by offering a superior, omnichannel customer experience. Avaya IP Office Contact Center 10 is a true, end-to-end solution with the advanced features and tools customers expect, but the simplicity and affordability needed by midsize business.

Research data finds that 60% of consumers surveyed stated their expectations for customer service are higher now than they were just one year ago. In addition, by 2020 customer experience is expected to surpass product and price as the key brand differentiator. Finally, Aberdeen Group (2015) research shows significant increases in customer retention, profitability and growth for those companies that deliver best-in-class customer experiences over those that don't.

Avaya IP Office Contact Center 10 extends Avaya's industry leading contact center innovations that deliver efficient, personalized customer service, lower costs, and increase profitability. Midsize companies can quickly and easily define and deploy an omnichannel strategy that encompasses the entire customer journey, from proactive, outbound capabilities, multi-channel self and assisted service, through real-time and historical reporting and integration with CRM packages. Avaya IP Office Contact Center 10 draexperience with the following new capabilities for ease of use and simplification:

• Out of the box configuration wizards and templates to quickly design call and IVR flows that reduce time required by up to 80 percent

• Ability to make changes to call flows on-the-fly

 Simplified and enhanced user interface and web administration, including installation and configuration wizards for multichannel services and other frequently used features

• Enhanced real-time and historical reporting capabilities including more than 30 ready-to-use report templates that can be accessed in as little as four clicks

• Customer callback features that hold their place in the queue and give them more control over their time

• High availability and resiliency with support for VMware HA

• Tightly integrated workforce optimization via Avaya Workforce Optimization Select

Avaya IP Office Contact Center is optimized for use with Avaya IP Office software, and is available in multiple deployment options, including premises-based, hybrid or pure cloud. Avaya IP Office Contact Center 10 is globally available now in English, Spanish, French, German, and Italian.

CHINA SLAMS US DECISION TO BLOCK AIXTRON DEAL

US decision to block a Chinese companv's purchase of German semiconductor equipment maker Aixtron, saying business should not be politicized. President Barack Obama blocked the deal by rejecting the inclusion of Aixtron's US unit in it. The US Treasury Department said the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States had found that the risks posed by the purchase, which could put sensitive technology with potential mili-

BEIJING: China yesterday criticized a tary applications in Chinese hands, were too great. Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Lu Kang said the move to purchase Aixtron was purely market-driven.

"China opposes politicizing normal business behavior or interfering in it in a political way," he told a regular press briefing. "We hope the US side can stop making groundless accusations to Chinese companies and provide a fair environment and good conditions to Chinese investments." In a statement

Friday the US Treasury said publiclytraded Aixtron SE's expertise in technology which is key to making advanced compound semiconductors used for LED lighting, lasers and solar cells also has military applications. Washington does not want to see such technology end up in the hands of the Chinese government-backed company which wants to buy Aixtron, Grand Chip Investment. The Treasury said Aixtron's US business was an important contributor to that technology. —AFP

KASPERSKY LAB STRENGTHENS META TEAM WITH NEW APPOINTMENTS

DUBAI: Kaspersky Lab announces the appointment of Amir Kanaan as Managing Director in the Middle East, as well as the promotion of Aman Manzoor to the new role of Head of Consumer Sales in META (Middle East, Turkey and Africa). These changes reflect the focus the company places on the region for its development.

"We see great business perspectives for growth in the region, and aim to double sales in the META region by the end of 2020. I'm sure that our strong regional team can achieve this goal by establishing new customer and partner relationships and promoting new offerings for enterprise and SMB organizations," said Maxim Frolov, Managing Director for the Middle East, Turkey and Africa, Kaspersky Lab.

Amir Kanaan has more than 15 years of sales and managerial experience in the field of IT Security. As Managing Director in the Middle East at Kaspersky Lab, he is responsible for strengthening the company's position as a market leader and growing Kaspersky Lab's business in the region.

"Along with IT development and IT threat landscape changes, seeing more public cases of cybersecurity breaches, more organizations in META now pay a lot of attention to cybersecurity. We have been a trusted partner to many of these organizations, and are ready to



Amir Kanaan, **Managing Director**

meet the needs of others, by sharing our almost 20 years of expertise in the form of intelligence services and award-winning solutions. Working closely with our local partners, we'll be making sure our customers are protected in the complex and constantly changing IT environment," said Amir Kanaan, Managing Director in the Middle East, Kaspersky Lab.

Aman Manzoor in his role as Head of Consumer Sales in Middle East, Turkey and Africa will be promoting all Kaspersky Lab solutions for home users on the fast developing META market.

Before this appointment Aman was Regional Consumer Sales Director in the Middle East at Kaspersky Lab, so he will continue to apply his experience in developing a qualified team of personnel and a well-equipped and diverse channel network.

In recent years, Kaspersky Lab has expanded its security portfolio with new solutions for individuals and organizations, and introduced important updates to its current products such as Kaspersky Internet Security - multi-device 2017. The company offers Security Intelligence Servicesto corporate customers, as well as the comprehensive integrated Kaspersky Endpoint Security platform and a range of specialized targeted solutions. Among its latest offerings are Kaspersky Endpoint Security Cloud - a software-as-a-service solution that provides small and medium-sized businesses with multilayered IT security, and Kaspersky Industrial CyberSecurity- a solution designed to protect complex industrial environments.

FCC: AT&T, VERIZON SHOULDN'T **EXEMPT OWN APPS FROM CAPS**

NEW YORK: US regulators are calling out AT&T and Verizon for exempting their own video apps from data caps on customers' cellphones. This may not result in any changes in how the wireless carriers operate, however, as agency leaders appointed by Donald Trump, the incoming president, are expected to look more favorably on such practices.

The Federal Communications Commission sent letters to the country's biggest wireless carriers Thursday saying the way they handle the practice, known as "zero rating," can hurt competition and consumers. The agency had warned AT&T in November and said in its Thursday letter that AT&T's response did not ease its concerns. Other services - say Hulu or Netflix can pay Verizon and AT&T so that consumers could also use those apps without eating up cellphone data. The FCC says that could harm the market for streaming services as it makes it more expensive for internet companies to compete with video services that are owned by the carriers. For example, the FCC estimates that a video service provider would have to pay AT&T \$16 a month for a customer who streamed video for 10 minutes a day without using up his data on the cellular network, or \$47 a month for a user watching a half-hour a day.

Zero-rate

Adding in those costs makes it difficult for a rival to compete on price with AT&T's new online TV app, DirecTV Now, whose cheapest bundle costs consumers \$35 a month, wrote Jon Wilkins, the head of the FCC's wireless bureau. Competing video providers would also be at a disadvantage if they didn't zero-rate their services at all, as consumers could need to pay for more data to watch. AT&T Inc. said Friday that exempting apps like DirecTV Now from data caps saves customers money, and the FCC shouldn't put a stop to that. Verizon Communications Inc. said its practices are good for consumers and comply with regulations.

Verizon lets wireless customers watch its go90 video app and NFL football, for which it has exclusive mobile rights, without using up data. The warnings come in the final days of the FCC under President Barack Obama's administration, which has enacted regulations intended to prevent cable companies from playing favorites with internet services. The agency under Trump and a Republican-controlled Congress are expected to roll back or enforce more leniently such measures. —AP

CHINA RISKS WASTING \$490BN ON COAL PLANTS: CAMPAIGNERS

BEIJING: China could waste as much as half a trillion dollars on unnecessary new coal-fired power stations, a climate campaign group said Monday, arguing the world's top carbon polluter already has more than enough such facilities. The Asian giant's rise to become the world's second largest economy was largely powered by cheap, dirty coal. But as growth slows, the country has had a difficult time weaning itself off the fuel, even as the pollution it causes wreaks havoc on the environment and public health.

Many of China's giant state-owned coal mining firms are unviable and plagued by overcapacity, but the ruling Communist Party is reluctant to turn off the financial taps and risk widespread unemployment, with its potential for anger and unrest. As of July, China already had 895 GW in coal-fired power stations-representing more than half its said, existing plants and those currently under electricity generation-said the London-based Carbon Tracker Initiative, which argues for limiting carbon emissions using financial data. The country was operating the coal units at less than half their capacity, it said, but "perversely" had another 205 GW already under construction and plans for an additional 405 GW.

At an estimated US\$800 million per kW, that could cost US\$490 billion in total, CTI said. "This misallocation of capital is a microcosm of wider structural woes within the Chinese economy," it said in a report. Power demand growth had slowed from 10 percent to three percent or less per year, it added. Even if power consumption grew at five percent a year until 2020 and coalfired stations were run at 45 percent capacity, it construction would be more than enough.

'Overcapacity crisis'

"China no longer needs to build any additional coal plants and therefore should act with conviction to contain its coal overcapacity crisis," the report said. Beijing has repeatedly pledged to cut overcapacity in several sectors as it seeks to reform the economy to make it more efficient. It set a target of reducing coal production capacity by 250 million tonnes this year, which Premier Li Keqiang announced last week had been met by the end of October.

But even though capacity cuts do not necessarily lead to reductions in production, they have been blamed for rising coal prices, giving stricken producers a new lease of financial life. CTI's comments echo statements by environmental campaign group Greenpeace, which estimated in July that China has up to 300 GW of excess coal-fired capacity. Two new coal power plant projects were being begun each week across 10 different provinces, it stated.

China's current five-year plan-a blueprint for economic and social development in 2016-2020 — was "disappointing" and "far from ambitious enough" in tackling coal power overcapacity, Greenpeace has said. Public discontent about the environment has grown in China, leading the government to declare a "war on pollution" and vow to reduce the proportion of energy derived from fossil fuels, but critics say efforts have fallen short of expectations. — AFP



OAKLAND: In this Oct 25, 2016, file photo, Golden State Warriors coach Steve Kerr reacts during the team's NBA basketball game against the San Antonio Spurs. — AP

KERR'S MARIJUANA ADMISSION MAY SPARK DIALOGUE IN SPORT USING MARIJUANA 'MAKES A LOT OF SENSE'

OAKLAND: David West has undergone four surelbow and right foot twice to fix a couple of toes. "I don't even like saying all that," he said. So, yes, just like his coach who tried medicinal marijuana to get some relief, West knows real pain. Draymond

edged he tried marijuana twice in the past 18 geries in his long NBA career: Left knee, right months while dealing with debilitating back pain that still affects him this season. "First, I'm disappointed it didn't work. I really wanted some relief and I didn't get it. Having done the research it was well worth a try," Kerr said Saturday. "You can see it with our country, our country is starting to wisen up on the medicinal marijuana side. I hope we can wisen up on the prescription drug side. That's scary stuff and it's really not talked about often enough." 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. On Saturday, Kerr said he was surprised how a serious conversation about pain relief "turns into the headline 'Kerr smokes pot."" "I'm actually kind of glad it became an issue because I think it's a very important issue to talk about, having gone through a tough spell over the last year with my own recovery back surgery, a lot of pain, chronic pain," he said. "... The issue that's really important is how do we do what's best for the players? But I understand that it's a perception issue around the country and the NFL, NBA, it's a business, so you don't want your customers thinking, 'These guys are a bunch of pot heads.'That's what it is. But to me it's only a matter of time before medicinal marijuana is allowed in sports leagues because the education will overwhelm the perception."

would support drugs for medicinal use only - this after he was arrested on charges of misdemeanor marijuana possession in early March 2011, in Pullman, Washington, during college at Washington State. He was suspended for a game.

"Steve's open-minded, and obviously with the

KEY HOUSE CHAIRMAN: GOP WILL CHANGE MEDICARE, TO 'SAVE' IT

WASHINGTON: The chairman of a key House committee is pledging that congressional Republicans will change Medicare in order to save it.

GOP Rep Kevin Brady of Texas, head of the Ways and Means Committee, insisted Thursday that Republicans won't be deterred by the politics, even though Donald Trump won election as president on promises to protect the popular health care program for older Americans, and Democrats are already warning of a "war on seniors."

"Democrat tactics of 'Mediscare' have been around a long time. They've stopped working," Brady told The Associated Press in an interview in the Capitol. "Voters have figured out Republicans want to save Medicare for the long term, and they know that those who say everything's just fine with it aren't leveling with them.

But Brady also said the GOP will move cautiously on Medicare, starting with smaller changes. And he declined to say when the party might try to pass "premium support," the controversial approach that would, over time, remake Medicare into a voucher-like program that would force seniors to buy health insurance on the open market. Critics say such coverage would take away the "Medicare guarantee" and give seniors subsidies whose value won't keep up with inflation.

"I think it's important, especially in health care, to take this step by step," Brady said. "Whether it's the replacement of the Affordable Care Act, how we make Medicaid work better, how we save Medicare for the long term." "So I envision 2017 as taking steps, small, in preparing for larger steps to save Medicare for the long term," he said, mentioning early reforms in the areas of post-acute care - nursing homes, home health care agencies and rehabilitation facilities. "I'm absolutely confident, in fact I'm optimistic, that by focusing on quality and innovation in Medicare that we can save that program for the long term in a very positive way," Brady said.

ence: "It's clear that Washington Republicans are plotting a war on seniors next year. Every senior, every American should hear this loudly and clearly: Democrats will not let them win that fight." "We say to our Republicans that want to privatize Medicare, go try it, make our day," Schumer said.

Democrats have had political success in the past by attacking GOP plans to overhaul entitlements. Right after getting reelected in 2004, President George W. Bush held a news conference in which he claimed a mandate for change - and that meant entitlements. The ongoing Iraq war and that push on Medicare and Social Security cost the GOP control of the House and Senate in 2006. Now, with Republicans in control of both chambers of Congress and the White House next year, Democrats clearly view those same issues as their path back into the majority.

The lesson is not lost on Republicans, and several Senate Republicans said this week that they would not be eager to make Medicare changes their top priority, especially given their plans to move quickly to repeal President Barack Obama's health care law. "I think the first priority is Obamacare and that's going to take most of the oxygen out of the room," said Sen John McCain, R-Ariz. "The Medicaid issue, Medicare is very controversial. We were committed to repealing Obamacare, and that's what we've got to do first."

Medicare, in place more than a half-century, is considered the government's flagship health insurance program. It covers about 57 million people, including 48 million seniors and 9 million disabled people. Medicare has strong public support across party lines and generations.

Adding to the political complications for the GOP, Trump campaigned as a protector of Medicare, saying in an interview with The Daily Signal last year: "I'm not going to cut Social Security like every other Republican and I'm not going to cut Medicare or Medicaid. Every other Republican is going to cut." But Trump already appears to be shifting. His transition website mentions modernizing Medicare, though without details, and his nominee for secretary of Health and Human Services, GOP Rep. Tom Price of Georgia, has also backed the premium support idea. — AP

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 marijuana "makes a lot of sense."

"I'm always struck every time I'm home on the couch watching a sporting event, some drug commercial comes on, they show these happy people jumping in a lake, rowing a boat, then you just wait for the qualifier," Warriors coach Steve Kerr said a day after revealing he tried marijuana for severe back pain . "Side effects include suicidal thoughts and possible death. And you're like, this is insane. Insane." 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."

Dealing with pain

Green said he hasn't needed painkillers nor has he tried marijuana, never having a serious The reigning NBA Coach of the Year acknowl- injury or requiring surgery. Guard Klay Thompson

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," Thompson said. "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. Twentyeight states and Washington, DCnow 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. A spinal fluid leak led to terrible headaches, nausea and neck pain among other symptoms that left him feeling frustrated and down.

Kerr noted, "athletes everywhere are prescribed Vicodin like it's vitamin C, like it's no big deal." "I think the league should look into medicinal marijuana for pain relief ... that's what should be in the CBA," Kerr said. Green and West believe change can happen, that over time people might become more open-minded when the person speaking up is someone like Kerr, who was selected the Western Conference Coach of the Month for November. — AP

Political target

Democrats have already made clear that they view the GOP focus on Medicare as a ripe political target. The incoming Senate Democratic leader, Chuck Schumer of New York, fired an opening salvo earlier this week when he declared at a news confer-



IN JORDAN HOSPITAL, TRAUMATIZED CHILDREN BLOWN APART BY BOMBS

AMMAN: As soon as the bombs exploded outside his house in the Iraqi town of Falluja, Rachid Jassam rushed onto the street to rescue the injured. As the teenager ran out, another plane swooped overhead and dropped more bombs, the shrapnel tearing his right leg so severely local doctors wanted to amputate it. His father refused the amputation to spare his son from a life of disability, and opted for basic surgery instead.

"When I got injured, I didn't lose consciousness. I witnessed the whole thing when the people came and took me to the hospital. I remember everything," 15-year-old Jassam said through an interpreter at a Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) hospital in Amman in Jordan. "I lost five centimeters of my bone from my right leg and I couldn't move it anymore." More than 20 per cent of all patients at the MSF hospital are children just like Rachid - blown apart, severely burnt and disfigured by conflicts in Irag, Syria, Yemen and Gaza.

Since it opened in 2006, the hospital has treated almost 4,400 patients free of charge, and remains the only hospital in the Middle East to perform advanced reconstructive surgery on victims of war. But as conflicts rage across Middle East, hospital staff say resources have been stretched in recent years, with most patients coming from Syria and Yemen. For Jassam, the clinic has been his lifeline. Sitting

on his hospital bed in the Jordanian capital after receiving specialized surgery on his leg, he smiles broadly as he holds onto his crutches. "Thank God, it's God that preserved my leg."

'You see war every day'

Not all children are so lucky. In a small pink room on the upper levels of the hospital, young girls with disfigured faces and missing limbs grow increasingly agitated as they try to solve puzzles and play board games. "Sometimes the trauma affects their memory skills or problemsolving, and it also has psychological effects like low attention span. They can get frustrated easily and they have low self-esteem," said occupational therapist Nour Al-Khaleeb, 24, who is part of a team of mental health specialists.

"You see war every day, you see their injuries, you see how it's affecting their lives and sometimes it has an effect on you too," she said, talking loudly over the girls' screams and chatter. "Maybe they will remember that someone did something good for them, and this will give them hope later on in life." Around 60 people, mainly young men, undergo complex orthopaedic, facial and burn reconstructive surgery at the hospital each month, according to MSF. They also receive psychological care and counseling during their stay.

Mohammed, 11, said his family was fleeing the city of Homs in Syria by car when an airstrike hit, injuring him and his two brothers. He watched as his mother died in the explosion. "A part of the bomb went into my leg and fractured my bone into pieces - it cut into my nerves and tendons," he said through an interpreter, insisting he wasn't scared when the bombs fell overhead. Hobbling down the hospital corridor on crutches after a recent operation on his leg, Mohammed said he will get on with his life when he is discharged, and return to join his family in Jordan's Zataari refugee camp, which hosts almost 80,000 Syrian refugees.

Resilience

Clinical psychologist Elisa Birri, who heads the mental health team, said it was common for children in the hospital, especially boys, to put on a brave front. But sooner or later, psychological symptoms like bedwetting, depression, anxiety, aggression and insomnia can crop up, said Birri. At the severe end of the spectrum, patients can experience flashbacks, panic attacks and disassociation, where they lose their sense of reality. "Children show in their drawings and during free play what they have experienced, it's like a mirror. For example, they will draw themselves playing with guns because of the war context they came from," said Birri, adding that children will sometimes regress to an infantile state to cope with the trauma. — Reuters

Brady, R-Texas, speaks during an interview with The Associated Press on Capitol Hill. — AP

WASHINGTON: House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Rep Kevin

SCOTLAND BANS SMOKING IN CARS WITH CHILDREN

LONDON: A new law comes into force in Scotland yesterday banning smoking in cars when children are present, as part of the government's plans for a "tobacco-free generation". Under the law smokers face a £100 (\$127, 119 euros) on-the-spot fine if caught lighting up in a private vehicle where under-18s are present. The penalty increases up to £1,000 if a case goes to court, under a bill passed unanimously in Scottish Parliament in December. The new measure was introduced as part of the Scottish government's plans to lower the smoking rate to under five percent by 2034.

"It's simply not safe to smoke when a child is in the car. Dangerous levels of chemicals can build up, even on short journeys," said Aileen Campbell, Scotland's public health minister. Breathing second hand smoke is linked to asthma, respiratory infections, lung cancer and coronary heart disease, according to the World Health Organization. The law has been welcomed by health charities, with Ash Scotland saying it sends a clear message that children should grow up in a smoke-free environment.

"We know from speaking to parents that they want to protect their children from tobacco smoke, but often don't know enough about how smoke is harmful and lingers in the air even after you can't see or smell it," said the organization's Chief Executive Sheila Duffy. But the move has been criticized by smokers' group Forest, whose director Simon Clark described the law as "patronizing and unnecessary".

"Very few adults smoke in cars with children. Smokers know it's inconsiderate and the overwhelming majority don't do it. "So few people smoke when there's a child in the car it will be like looking for a needle in a haystack," he said. The law banning smoking in vehicles carrying children came into force in England and Wales in October 2015. — AFP

HEALTH & SCIENCE

AUSTRALIA CONSIDERS CHARGING ITS POWER GENERATORS FOR POLLUTION

cal power companies pay for greenhouse gas pollution they create, three years after the government scrapped the national carbon tax, a Cabinet minister said yesterday. The conservative government rejected all polluter-pays options in 2014 when it repealed Australia's 3-year-old carbon tax levied against the nation's biggest industrial polluters.

But Environment and Energy Minister Josh Frydenberg said that charging power generators

CANBERRA: Australia will consider making electri- fueled by coal and natural gas for their pollution was under consideration as the government looks for ways to achieve its carbon gas reduction targets.

He said while his government rejected the previous center-left Labor Party government's policy of charging all major industrial polluters, the electricity industry produced a third of Australia's greenhouse gases and could face its own charges. The new scheme could include international trade in carbon credits, he said.

targets while at the same time keeping electricity affordable and the lights effectively on? That's our target," Frydenberg told Australian Broadcasting Corp. The government on Monday released details of its climate change policy review which will begin in February. Australia has pledged to reduce its carbon emissions by at least 26 percent below 2005 levels by 2030.

The government replaced the carbon tax with a

"How we do we meet our emissions reduction 2.55 billion Australian dollar (\$1.9 billion) fund paid by taxpayers to give incentives to polluters to reduce their emissions. Only AU\$400 million is left, Frydenberg said. Environmentalist John Connor, chief executive of the Australian Climate Institute, said the fund could not achieve Australia's reduction target. Australia is among the world's worst greenhouse gas polluters on a per capita basis because of its heavy reliance on abundant reserves of cheap coal for electricity generation. — AP

SOLAR, WIND COMPANIES HOPE YEARS OF COURTING PAYS OFF UNDER TRUMP

LOS ANGELES: US wind and solar companies for the first time gave more money to Republicans than Democrats during the 2016 election cycle, according to federal campaign disclosures, part of a years-long effort to expand renewable energy's appeal beyond liberal environmentalists. The industry is now hoping its strategy of reaching across the political divide will pay off in the form of Congressional support as Republican Donald Trump, a climate change skeptic who has expressed doubts about the role of clean energy, takes the White House in January. "We're not starting from ground zero," said Isaac Brown, a principal at 38 North Solutions, which lobbies on behalf of clean energy clients.

The USwind and solar industries employ over 300,000 people, making clean energy an important political constituency that is about five times bigger than the coal sector for jobs, thanks to years of rapid growth fueled by government incentives and declines in the cost of their technologies. They have also fought to win over a new breed of backer: conservatives skeptical of climate change but interested in supporting homegrown energy alternatives that increase national security, boost competition, and create well-paying blue collar jobs.

But Trump's upset victory over Democrat Hillary Clinton in the Nov 8 presidential election has cast doubt on the future of a federal tax break for renewable energy seen critical to the industry's continued growth. Trump has never specifically called for those credits to end, but has expressed skepticism about the role of solar and wind in the US energy landscape, calling both "so expensive" and blaming wind turbines for killing birds and ruining picturesque landscapes.

Money and lobbying

During his campaign, Trump also called global warming a hoax and promised to guit a global accord to cut greenhouse gas emissions, though he has since softened his stance and said he is keeping an "open mind" about the deal.

The renewable energy industry got a

boost last year when Congress approved a five-year extension of tax credits for new power projects fueled by solar panels and wind turbines, and the industry's main concern in Washington is to ensure they are not withdrawn in Trump's first term, or allowed to expire should he win a second.

A Trump official did not respond to a request for comment about how he will approach renewables as president. But one of Trump's potential picks for Energy Secretary, Oklahoma oil and gas drilling mogul Harold Hamm, has been a vocal opponent of subsidies for renewable energy. Renewable stocks took a beating immediately after Trump's election but have since mostly recovered.

During the 2016 cycle, the wind and solar industry's political action committees contributed more than \$225,000 to Republican candidates for office, compared with \$185,000 for Democrats. The numbers are not large by the standards of political donations but they mark the first time the industry has tilted its contributions toward Republicans, according to federal records. In 2012, Democrats got about two-thirds of the industry's contributions.

Recipients this year included 34 House Republicans and 19 Senate Republicans. US Senator Dean Heller from Nevada, New York Representative Tom Reed and North Carolina US Senator Richard Burr - all vocal proponents of renewables - together accounted for more than 40 percent of the Solar Energy Industries Association PAC's total federal campaign donations. "It is reassuring that we have those relationships already developed, and we have a really strong business case for the policies that have been implemented," said Brown of 38 North Solutions.

Industry executives like SunPower Chief Executive Tom Werner and First Solar Inc CEO Mark Widmar have acknowledged the uncertainty around federal support for renewables. But they have sought to assuage investors, saying current policies are likely to remain due to the cost-competitiveness of their technologies and the number of jobs they represent. — Reuters



WASHINGTON: In this Friday, Dec 2, 2016, photo, visitors look on as a Pacific fisher takes off running after being released into a forest at Mount Rainier National Park. — AP

RARE WEASEL SPECIES MAKES COMEBACK IN WASHINGTON Species has been missing for seven decades

MOUNT RAINIER NATIONAL PARK: The elusive weasel-like mammal poked its head out of the wooden crate, glanced around and quickly darted into the thick forest of Mount Rainier National Park - returning to a landscape where it had been missing for seven decades. One by one, 10 Pacific fishers that had been trapped in British Columbia were set free at the park south of Seattle as part of a multiyear effort to reintroduce the native species to its historical range.

A large crowd gathered Friday to herald the return of the dark-brown member of the weasel family with its lush fur and bushy tail. They cheered, clapped and hooted, and First Nations and American Indian tribal members sang and drummed, as each crate door was lifted and a fish-

1998. They're one of the few predators of porcupines and are found only in North America.

While common in the Northeast and Midwest, they're rare in the Northwest. Population estimates of West Coast fishers today are anywhere from a couple hundred to a few thousand, mostly in southern Oregon and Northern California. More recently, West Coast fishers have faced threats from illegal pesticide use by marijuana growers and other threats. But they're slowly making a comeback in Washington through reintroduction efforts involving WDFW, Conservation Northwest, the National Park Service and other partners.

"These animals were here before us and so it's our duty to take care of them," Hanford McCloud, a Nisqually Indian Tribe council member, said dursustaining population but it sure is looking positive," said Lewis.

The recovery efforts, however, comes as conservation groups have sued the US Fish and Wildlife Service, alleging the federal agency failed to consider the best scientific evidence when it decided not to provide the fisher protections under the Endangered Species Act. Fish and Wildlife had proposed listing the forest-dwelling mammal as threatened in 2014 over concerns about logging practices, illegal pesticide use by marijuana growers and other threats.

In April, the agency acknowledged the creatures no longer occur in their historical ranges in Washington, Oregon and California but concluded they were not in danger of extinction. The agency said the best available science showed current threats aren't causing significant declines in West Coast populations. It also cited conservation measures such as reintroduction efforts in Washington.



PAS-DE-CALAIS, France : A picture shows a wind turbine and solar panels installed at the Lumiwatt site, a site of research and testing on photovoltaic panels. — AFP

er streaked out of sight across the snowy ground.

Solitary animals

"We're correcting something that we mismanaged a long time ago before we knew enough to manage wildlife populations," said Jeffrey Lewis, a biologist with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. "Now we can fix that because we know how to. We know we've got a lot of habitat here. All we were missing were the fishers."

Fishers historically were found throughout much of the forested areas of the West Coast. But they declined in numbers due to trapping in the 1800s and early 1900s, and the loss of forest habitats. By the mid-1900s they were eliminated from Washington State. The solitary animal, which hunts snowshoe hares, rodents and small mammals, were listed as state endangered species in

ing a ceremony before the fishers were released on park land designated for the tribe's use. Several First Nations people traveled with the fishers, some that were captured First Nations land in British Columbia. The first fishers, about 90 in all, were reintroduced in Washington state in Olympic National Park starting in 2008. Those animals are reproducing and expanding its geographic range.

Relocating fishers

The second phase of the project involves relocating fishers from British Columbia into the southwest Cascade Mountains and later into the North Cascades. The goal is to reintroduce 80 fishers to each region. "We feel like we're making headway and we're getting good positive results. It's too early to say that we're establishing a self-

"We're heartened by reintroduction efforts, but they alone are not going to be sufficient to save the fishers," said Tom Wheeler, Environmental Protection Information Center, one of the groups that sued. He said the animals need greater federal protections because they still face ongoing threats. Tara Chestnut, a Mount Rainier park ecologist, said the return of fishers to the Cascade Mountains will restore biodiversity to the ecosystem. "But there's also cultural significance," she said. "Fishers are part of our natural history and our natural heritage. There are also spiritual aspects of their return that are really important." — AP



Al-Jabriya - Block 1A - St. 1 - Mazaya Building - 15th Floor - Clinic B - Tel.: 22269369 - Fax: 22269368

WHAT'S ON



BRITISH DELEGATION VISITS WHITE PALACE

ord Mayor of the city of London, Dr Andrew Parmley, Lord Jonathan Marland, the British ambassador to Kuwait, Mathew Lodge and their accompanying delegation recently visited the White Palace where they met Dr Suad Al-Sabah, Sheikh Mohammed Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah, Sheikh Mubarak Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah and other family members. Both sides exchanged cordial talks and spoke of the friendly relations between both countries and peoples.

Come pose with 3D art paintings in Boulevard









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or the first time in Kuwait, Boulevard had organized a 3D art painting festival from 29th of November till 3rd of December performed by award winning 3D artists from Australia, Jenny McCracken and Rudy Kistler. The visitors along with the Australian ambassador HE Mr Warren Hauck and his family enjoyed posing on 3D paintings. Visitors during the event also enjoyed fresh

coffee and chocolate strawberries from Costa Cafe and Popcorn place. The artists during their visit trained some university students to learn new skills and gain invaluable experience. These volunteers will get a written reference letter post event completion.

Mrs Rawan Adnan - Marketing & Leasing Manager stated that this event was part of the

unique entertainment activities that Al Salmiya Group for Enterprise Development Company is organizing at its huge project "Boulevard". Such Activities are set to redefine "Boulevard" as the must-go touristic destination in the State of Kuwait and to support the talents and skills of youth. This was the first visit for the artists to the State of Kuwait. They have previously done

many such festivals in UAE, Australia, USA and worldwide.

Mrs Rawan Adnan also added that "Boulevard" project provides commercial, entertainment and sports services to represent the perfect place for family and youth to spend their time and enjoy such unique events. The project facilitates a huge commercial mall that consist of 2 floors with famous international and local brands, coffee shops and restaurants in addition to a huge green area that occupies 90% of the project area. It provides a perfect environment for joggers to enjoy beautiful views of trees. In addition to the above, the project also contains 2 lakes, a river and sports fields for football, tennis, basketball and cricket.



LET THE FESTIVITIES BEGIN WITH HOME CENTRE'S NEW SEASONAL COLLECTION

ome Centre, the largest home retailer in the Middle East, is set to ring in the festive season with its new seasonal collection. The new ranges of designer accents are sure to enrich homes and add the right aesthetic element.

Reflecting the essence of the season, this year's festive ensemble includes trendy decorative items such as wall hangings, baubles and ornaments, musical dancing figurines, LED lanterns, gingerbread mugs and snowman candles among others. Home Centre also has a range of decorated Christmas trees, available in various sizes and styles.

This year's collection has a traditional touch to it, bringing the red and gold back in trend. Each product reflects the quintessential festive glitter, made to dramatically accentuate one's home dÈcor and infuse it with festive warmth and cheer. Homes will look ready for guests this season with Home Centre's versatile entertaining essentials like ceramic crockery, glassware collection, serving bowls with inscriptions of festive messages, table runners and lots more.

Finding the perfect gift is one of the joys of Christmas and shoppers will be spoilt for choice with Home

Centre's range of tasteful gifting options such as decorative reindeer pieces, glass ornaments, gingerbread man photo frames and musical gift boxes - all in the colors of the season.

Home Centre is the one-stop solution for customers seeking every kind of aesthetic or functional home dÈcor item - from festive tree ornaments and baubles to stockings and eco-friendly lighting that add that extra sparkle to homes. The new seasonal collection is available across all Home Centre outlets located at Al Rai, Shuwaikh, The Avenues, Kuwait City, Fahaheel and Sama Mall.



WHAT'S O N

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2016



Women Group takes off at the Green Island

Men Group takes off at the Green Island

NBK HOLDS ITS 22ND ANNUAL WALKATHON

The biggest sports carnival with over 100 winners awarded

ational Bank of Kuwait (NBK) kicked off its annual Walkathon on Saturday, December 3, 2016 under the slogan "We're Stronger... With Every Step", where thousands of runners took part in the competitive race that started at the Green Island and ended at the Shuwaikh Beach Park. The event was culminated by awarding over 100 contestants in a huge gracious carnival.

Among the participants of this enormous sports event were Isam Al Sager, NBK Group CEO, Shaikha Al Bahar, Deputy Group CEO, Emad Ahmed Al Ablani, NBK General Manager, Group Human Resources, Suresh Bajpai NBK General Manager, Consumer Banking Group, Mohammed Othman, NBK's Deputy General Manager, Consumer Banking Group, Saleh Abdulmohsen Al Babtain, Al Babtain Group CEO, and Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al Ahmad Al Sabah, alongside several top executives from NBK and Al Babtain Group, in addition to several sports and social figures.

Manal Faisal Al Mattar, NBK Communications Executive Manager said in her event's speech that the National Bank of Kuwait is so proud to be a lead initiator in launching such a huge sports carnival, the biggest of its kind across Kuwait dating back over 22 years ago, in support of health and sports in Kuwait. She expressed her happiness of the great continuous success of NBK's annual Walkathon, and the huge mass participation that continues to far exceed all expectations at every event.

Al Mattar commended the great collaboration exhibited by different ministries and governmental institutions, spearheaded by both the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Interior, in addition to the Kuwaiti Association of Athletics Federations, all showing great cooperation to ensure the event's success.

Al Mattar also stressed that NBK maintains its position as the premier community leader in serving the Kuwaiti society through its commitment to uphold its inherent social responsibility cultural approach. She added that NBK takes pride in its mission of dedicating this culture through launching several key vital social programs across various sectors including education, health, recruitment, training and social support, in addition to sports initiatives and environmental activities.

ed after NBK volunteers finalized all required organizational and preventive measures to ensure the safety of the contestants. Furthermore, the team also collaborated with paramedics and medical emergency teams assigned by Ministry of Health, who provided the required tools in case of emergencies. Besides the huge coordination with Ministry of Interior, the Ministry spread its units along the entire distance of the Walkathon, and diligently followed up on all its events.

Meanwhile, the closing ceremony included many surprises, entertainment events, and rewarding competitions for both contestants and attending audience as well. Awards were presented to the top ten winners from each age group, as well as the special needs category winners, in addition to a draw on three brand new Renault 2016 cars offered by Al-Babtain Group.

Children's activities at Shuwaikh Beach Park

This year's event included organizing events dedicated to children aged 7 to 12 years old, set up a Shuwaikh Beach Park from 9:00am to 12:00pm. The children participated in several fun-filled contests and games, under the supervisor of NBK's volunteers.

Tough competition

A huge sense of enthusiasm prevailed among participants, who showed a great deal of determination to complete the race and win advanced positions. The competition lasted till the final stages, especially by returned participants who continued to join the race during the previous years, aiming to hold their positions and to grab additional medals.

Sheer will and determination

As part of the ongoing comprehensive coverage and follow up on NBK's Walkathon event this year, and keeping up the theme of "We're Stronger... With Every Step", several athletes shared their experiences with the participants, highlighting their stories filled with success and achievements, in order to encourage and push them to believe in their abilities and to adopt interest in sports as an appropriate behavior that leads to change and assist in fulfilling aspirations.



Speechless Engy Ahmed, unable to express her happiness to be a winner

active and vital role in various areas and fields, particularly sports. This year witnessed the participation of special needs contestants who successfully took part in the competition, thanks to their determination and enthusiasm, thus achieving a significant milestone in reinforcing their confidence and boosting their hopes.

Remarkable collaboration

Kuwaiti Association of Athletics Federations

The Kuwaiti Association of Athletics Federations provided its full support to NBK's Walkathon, with over 100 referees, spreading along the racing route to arbitrate the event. The referees were provided with vehicles stationed in various spots on the Gulf Road, in order to closely follow the race and make their decisions transparently. By the end of the race, NBK held the closing ceremony to award this category's winners, providing

Race preparations

Several communication points were set up along the race route (extending 11 KM); between the Green Island, Kuwait Towers, Soug Sharq, and Shuwaikh Beach Park. By the early morning hours, organizers ensured the full readiness of the site to receive the participants. The event start-

Special Needs champions

NBK dedicates an annual special competition within the race for people with special needs, as part of the bank's beliefs of the utmost importance of involving all members of society and their ability to prove their

As always, Ministry of interior and Ministry of Health and medical emergencies have not spared any efforts to support NBK Walkathon's participants. Additionally, Kuwait Municipality provided an appropriate venue to hold the closing ceremony in Shuwaikh Beach Park. NBK praised the efforts exerted by all parties involved and their supportive role during the race over the past years. The Ministry of Interior deployed patrols along the race route to ensure that it runs smoothly. Medical emergency task force assigned by the Ministry of Health was present around the race vicinity and was fully prepared for any emergencies.

them with a range of diverse and entertaining programs and contests, including the distribution of prizes and surprises.

The Walkathon on social network

Thousands of people followed the closing ceremony live on Twitter @NBKPage, NBK Group YouTube, Instagram, and Facebook. The audience interacted with the events, as NBK's team broadcasted full coverage of the event starting from the onset of the race up to the closing and awards ceremony, both on the banks' website as well as all relevant sites to this huge sporting event, the biggest of its kind in Kuwait and #100millionsteps and #NBKWalkathon.



A contestant showing great joy for her early arrival at the finish line



Winner of Al Jawhara monthly draw of KD 125,000 receiving his Victory tastes sweet - an award of appreciation prize from executive management





Ms Shaikha Al Bahar, Deputy Group CEO, presenting a special needs participant with a medal.



Children joyful participation and expressions of happiness

OVN MOVIES ACTION

00:00 Wanted 02:15 Age Of Ice 04:00 Apocalypse Pompei 05:45 Deep Rising 07:45 Robot Overlords 09:30 The Expendables 3 11:45 Hercules Reborn 13:30 Double Team 15:30 Deep Rising 17:30 The Expendables 3 19:45 Deja Vu 22:00 Hammer Of The Gods



00:50 River Monsters (Best Of Series 1-5) 01:45 Bondi Vet 02:40 Dr. Dee: Alaska Vet 03:35 Tanked 04:25 China's Last Elephants 05:15 Gator Boys 06:02 River Monsters (Best Of Series 1-5) 06:49 Dr. Dee: Alaska Vet 07:36 Swamp Brothers 08:00 Swamp Brothers 08:25 Too Cute! Pint-Sized 09:15 Dr. Dee: Alaska Vet 10:10 Mutant Planet 11:05 Tanked 12:00 Too Cute! Pint-Sized 12:55 Bondi Vet 13:50 Dr. Dee: Alaska Vet 14:45 Gator Boys 15:40 Mutant Planet 16:35 Tanked 17:30 China's Last Elephants River Monsters (Best Of Series 1-5) 18:25 19:20 Lone Star Law 20:15 Tanked 21:10 Kingdom Of The Elephants 22:05 Mutant Planet 23:00 Lone Star Law 23:55 Gator Boys



00:40	The Collection
01:35	Class
02:30	Orphan Black
03:20	Silent Witness
04:10	Casualty
05:10	Doctor Who
06:00	Eastenders
06:30	Eastenders
07:00	Casualty
07:50	Casualty

09:45 Workaholics 10:10 Tosh.0 10:35 Ridiculousness Catch A Contractor 11:00 11:25 Frankenfood 11:50 Idiotsitter 12:15 Workaholics 12:40 Tosh.0 13:05 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol 13:55 Ridiculousness 14:20 Catch A Contractor 14:45 Frankenfood 15.10 Idiotsitter 15:35 Ridiculousness 16:00 Impractical Jokers 16:30 Workaholics 16:55 Tosh.0 Workaholics 17:25 17:50 Tattoo Disasters 18:15 Tattoo Disasters 18:39 Tosh.0 19:03 Catch A Contractor Frankenfood 19:27 19:50 Idiotsitter 20:13 Impractical Jokers Ridiculousness 20:37 21:00 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah The Jim Gaffigan Show The Jim Gaffigan Show 21:30 21:54 22:18 Lip Sync Battle 22:42 Tosh 0 23:05 Inside Amy Schumer 23:30 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah Discovery

00:30 Prototype This 01:20 Don't Drive Here Pick A Puppy 02:10 02:35 Pick A Puppy 03:00 Untamed & Uncut 03:50 Ultimate Survival 04:40 How It's Made 05:05 How It's Made 05:30 Dirty Jobs 06:20 Mythbusters 07:00 Kenny The Shark 07:25 Doki 07:50 Bad Dog 08:40 How It's Made 09:05 How It's Made 09:30 Prototype This 10:20 Mythbusters 11:10 Dirty Jobs 12:00 Bad Dog 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 Kenny The Shark 16:35 Doki 17:00 Playhouse Masters



08:45 Bunk'd

09:10 Austin & Ally

09:35 Shake It Up

10:00 A.N.T. Farm

23:25 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch 23:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch



00:00 Doc McStuffins 00:30 Minnie's Bow-Toons 00:35 Zou 00:50 Loopdidoo 01:05 Art Attack 01:30 Henry Hugglemonster 01:45 Calimero 02:00 Zou 02:15 Loopdidoo 02:30 Art Áttack 03:00 Calimero 03:15 Zou 03:30 Loopdidoo 03:45 Art Attack 04:10 Henry Hugglemonster



TV PROGRAMS

18:55 How Do They Do It? 19:20 Gold Divers20:10 Storage Hunters UK20:35 The Liquidator 21:00 Still Alive 21:50 Kings Of The Wild 22:40 Running Wild With Bear Grylls Fast N' Loud: Demolition Theatre 23:30



06:00 Star vs The Forces Of Evil 06:25 K.C. Undercover 06:50 The 7D 07:00 Phineas & Ferb Atomic Puppet 07:15 07:40 Danger Mouse 07:50 Counterfeit Cat Future-Worm! 08:05 08:10 Gravity Falls 08:35 Lab Rats Elite Force 09:00 Supa Strikas 09:25 Supa Strikas 09:50 Danger Mouse 10:20 Annedroids 10:45 Annedroids 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 Supa Strikas 14:15 14:40 Supa Strikas 15:05 Lab Rats: Bionic Island Danger Mouse 15:30 15:55 Kirby Buckets 16:25 K.C. Undercover 16:50 Annedroids 17:15 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything 17:40 K.C. Undercover 18:05 Future-Worm! 18:10 Gravity Falls 18:35 Counterfeit Cat 19:00 Star Wars Freemaker Adventures 19:25 Supa Strikas 19:55 K.C. Undercover 20:20 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything 20:45 Mighty Med 21:10 Pickle And Peanut 21:40 Disney Mickey Mouse

- Guardians Of The Galaxy 21:45 22:10 Ultimate Spider-Man 22:35 Boyster
- Programmes Start At 6:00am KSA 23:00



00:00 Mystery Diners 00:30 Mystery Diners 01:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives 01:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives 02:00 Man Fire Food 02:30 Man Fire Food 03:00 Chopped 04:00 Guy's Grocery Games Roadtrip With G. Garvin 05:00 05:30 Roadtrip With G. Garvin 06:00 Chopped 07:00 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics 07:30 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics 08:00 The Kitchen Cooking For Real 09:00 09:30 Cooking For Real 10:00 Chopped Guy's Big Bite 11:00 11:30 Guy's Big Bite 12:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives 12:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives 13:00 Man Fire Food 13:30 Man Fire Food 14:00 Chopped 15:00 The Kitchen 16:00 Cooking For Real 16:30 Cooking For Real

16:00 Ancient Impossible 17:00 WWII: Europe's Secret Army 18:00 Monster Quest 19:00 Ancient Aliens 20:00 Missing In Alaska 21:00 Ancient Impossible 22:00 Patton 360 23:00 In Search Of Aliens

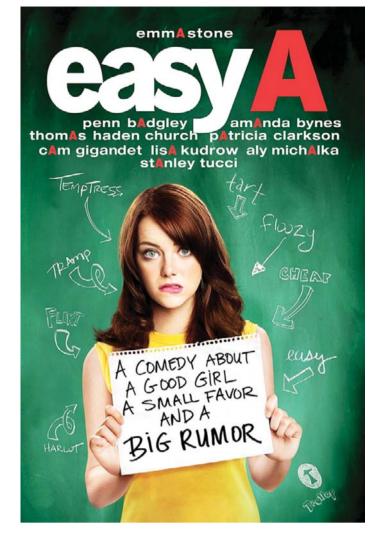


00:20 Aussie Pickers 01:10 Storage Wars 01:35 Storage Wars 02:00 Storage Wars 02:25 Storage Wars 02:50 Leepu And Pitbull 03:40 Leepu And Pitbull 04:30 Pawn Stars 05:00 Billion Dollar Wreck 06:00 Shipping Wars 06:25 Shipping Wars 06:50 American Pickers 07:40 Pawn Stars 08:05 Pawn Stars 08:30 Storage Wars Texas 08:55 Alaska Off-Road Warriors 09:45 Alaska Off-Road Warriors 10:35 Shipping Wars 11:00 Shipping Wars 11:25 Billion Dollar Wreck 12:15 Shark Wranglers 13:05 Ice Road Truckers 13:55 Ozzy & Jack's World Detour 14:45 Aussie Pickers 15:35 Pawn Stars 16:00 American Pickers 16:50 Storage Wars 17:15 Storage Wars 17:40 Swamp People 18:30 Billion Dollar Wreck 19:20 American Pickers 20:10 Pawn Stars 20:35 Pawn Stars 21:00 Mountain Men 21:50 Forged In Fire 22:40 Ozzy & Jack's World Detour 23:30 Alone



00:10 Home Strange Home 01:00 What's For Sale? 01:25 What's For Sale? 01:50 Around The World In 80 Dishes 02:40 Cruise Ship Diaries 03:30 Miguel's Tropical Kitchen 03:55 Route Awakening 04:20 Route Awakening 04:45 Places We Go 05:10 Places We Go 05:35 Carnival Eats 06:00 Carnival Eats 06:25 Hook It. Cook It 06:50 What's For Sale? 07:15 What's For Sale? 07:40 Around The World In 80 Dishes 08:30 Cruise Ship Diaries 09:20 Miguel's Tropical Kitchen 09:45 Route Awakening 10:10 Route Awakening 10:35 Places We Go 11:00 Places We Go 11:25 Carnival Eats 11:50 Carnival Eats 12:15 Hook It. Cook It 12:40 What's For Sale? 13:05 Top Chef Top Table: Seoul 13:35 Around The World In 80 Dishes 14:30 Cruise Ship Diaries 15:25 Miguel's Tropical Kitchen 15:50 The Food Files 16:20 The Food Files 16:45 Places We Go 17:15 Places We Go 17:40 Carnival Eats 18:10 Hook It. Cook It 18:35 Hook It. Cook It 19:05 Cruise Ship Diaries

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2016



EASY A ON OSN MOVIES COMEDY HD

16:00 Years Of Living Dangerously

18:00 Air Crash Investigation 19:00 Live Free Or Die

21:40 Air Crash Investigation

22:30 Live Free Or Die

00:20 Hyena Coast

01:10 Man V. Monster 02:00 Game Of Lions

02:50 Wild Case Files

05:35 Game Of Lions 06:30 Wild Case Files

Compilations

03:45 Unlikely Animal Friends

04:40 The Incredible Dr. Pol

07:25 Unlikely Animal Friends

Compilations 08:20 The Incredible Dr. Pol

09:15 Safari Brothers 10:10 How Big Can It Get

15:40 Big Baboon House

20:10 Big Baboon House

Shark Nicole

21:00 Safari Brothers

21:50 Monster Fish

03:00 Trust Me

23:30

16:35 Safari Brothers 17:30 Monster Fish

12:00 Shark Nicole

11:05 Dangerous Encounters

12:55 Jaguar: Catching The Cat 13:50 Savage Kingdom 14:45 Ultimate Animal Countdown

18:25 Ultimate Predators GPU

22:40 Ultimate Predators GPU

OM MOVIES

DRAMA

OM FIRST HD

COMEDY

01:30 Sex & Drugs & Rock & Roll

01:00 We Gotta Get Out Of This Place

05:00 Haunting In Hollow Creek 07:00 The Melancholy Fantastic

09:00 Breaking Through

17:00 Breaking Through

19:00 October Gale

00:00 Superstore

00:30 Cougar Town 01:00 Cougar Town

21:00 Enter Nowhere

23:00 Catch Me Daddy

15:00 Before I Go To Sleep

11:00 Trust Me 13:00 A Kind Of Magic

19:20 Ultimate Animal Countdown

23:20 Cruise Ship Diaries

23:45 Cruise Ship Diaries

20:00

17:00 Wicked Tuna: North vs South

20:50 Wicked Tuna: North vs South

Years Of Living Dangerously

NAT GEO

09:00 Game Of Silence 10:00 Lie To Me 11:00 Quantico 12:00 Shark Tank 13:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show 14:00 Drop Dead Diva 15:00 Live Good Morning America The Ellen DeGeneres Show 17:00 18:00 Castle 19:00 The Voice 21:00 Pitch 22:00 Supergirl 23:00 American Horror Story: Roanoke



01:00 Houba! On The Trail Of Marsupilami 03:00 Mousehunt 05:00 American Girl: Isabelle Dances Into The Spotlight 07:00 Houba! On The Trail Of Marsupilami 09:00 Pirates Who Don't Do Anything 11:00 American Girl: Isabelle Dances Into The Spotlight 13:00 Little Man Tate 15:00 Gulliver's Travels 17:00 American Girl: Saige Paints The Sky 19:00 Peter Pan 21:00 Little Man Tate 23:00 Gulliver's Travels

O/N MOVIES

01:45 Life After Beth 03:30 Alex Of Venice 05:00 Risen 07:00 Press 09:00 The Duff 10:45 Maze Runner: The Scorch Trials 13:00 Bill 15:00 Me And Earl And The Dying Girl 17:00 Chef 19:00 Barbershop: The Next Cut 21:00 Daddy's Home

THE EXPENDABLED J

THE EXPENDABLES 3 ON OSN MOVIES ACTION

17:50 Incredible Food Race

18:40 Prototype This 19:30 How It's Made

19:55 How It's Made

21:10 Playhouse Masters

22:50 Untamed & Uncut

23:40 Ultimate Survival

22:00 Incredible Food Race

20:20 Mythbusters

08:50 Father Brown Dickensian 09:35 10:25 Doctor Who 11:15 Casualty 12:10 Father Brown 12:55 Dickensian 13:45 Doctor Who 14:35 Casualty 15:30 Father Brown 16:20 Dickensian 17:10 Doctor Who 18:00 Doctors 18:30 Doctors Father Brown 19:05 20:00 Ripper Street 21:00 Ripper Street Orphan Black 21:55 22:45 Silent Witness 23:40 Doctors



00:00 Robbie Coltrane's Critical Evidence 01:00 Britain's Biggest Heists 02:00 Born To Kill Britain's Darkest Taboos 03:00 04:00 Robbie Coltrane's Critical Evidence 05:00 Britain's Biggest Heists 06:00 Born To Kill 07:00 The First 48 08:00 Nightmare In Suburbia 09:00 Homicide Hunter 10:00 It Takes A Killer 10:30 It Takes A Killer 11:00 Evil Up Close 12:00 Evil Up Close 13:00 Evil Up Close 14:00 Evil Up Close 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



00:00 Idiotsitter 00:25 Chappelle's Show 00:50 Tosh.0 01:15 Tosh.0 01:40 The Daily Show - Global Edition 02:05 John Oliver's New York Stand Up Show 03:00 Workaholics 03:25 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol 04:15 Key And Peele 04:40 Impractical Jokers 05:05 Ridiculousness Catch A Contractor 05:30 05:55 Tattoo Disasters Catch A Contractor 06:20 Disorderly Conduct: Video On 07:15 Patrol 08:05 Impractical Jokers 08:30 Ridiculousness 08:55 Tosh.0 09:20 Key And Peele



07:12 Blood Relatives 08:00 Tabloid With Jerry Springer 08:50 I Almost Got Away With It 09:40 Deadline: Crime With Tamron Hall 10:30 Women In Prison 11:20 Southern Fried Homicide 12:10 Momsters: When Moms Go Bad 12:35 13:00 I'd Kill For You 13:50 I Almost Got Away With It 14:40 15:30 Love The Way You Lie 16:20 Blood Relatives 17:10 Behind Closed Doors: Shocking Secrets 18:00 I'd Kill For You 18:50 I Almost Got Away With It 19:40 Deadline: Crime With Tamron Hall 20:30 Love The Way You Lie Blood Relatives 21:20 22:10 Disappeared 23:00 Las Vegas Law 23:50 I Am Homicide

23:00 The Jail: 60 Days In



03:10 Las Vegas Law 04:00 Six Degrees Of Murder 04:48 I Almost Got Away With It 05:36 06:24 Love The Way You Lie

07:00 Zou 07:20 Loopdidoo 07:35 Art Attack 00:40 Six Degrees Of Murder 01:30 Deadly Women 02:20 Killer Instinct With Chris Hansen 09:30 PJ Masks 10:00 PJ Masks Deadline: Crime With Tamron Hall Momsters: When Moms Go Bad 17:30 PJ Masks Deadline: Crime With Tamron Hall Fairies 19:00 20:30 22:30 Fairies 23:30



00:10 Hank Zipzer 00:35 Binny And The Ghost Violetta 01:00 01:45 The Hive 01:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch 02:15 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch Hank Zipzer 02:40 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 Binny And The Ghost 05:35 06:00 Violetta The Hive 06:45 Mouk 06:50 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

04:25 Calimero 04:45 Loopdidoo 05:00 Art Attack 05:25 Henry Hugglemonster 05:35 Calimero 05:50 Zou 06:00 Loopdidoo 06:15 Art Attack 06:35 Henry Hugglemonster 06:50 Calimero 08:00 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse 08:30 Sheriff Callie's Wild West 09:00 Goldie & Bear 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 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 18:00 The Adventures Of The Disney 18:30 Goldie & Bear Jake And The Never Land Pirates

19:30 Little Mermaid 20:00 PJ Masks Sofia The First 21:00 Bob's Broken Sleigh 22:00 Sofia The First Sofia The First 23:00 The Adventures Of The Disney Mickey Mouse Clubhouse



01:10 02:00 02:50 03:40 05:00 05:30 06:50 07:40 08:30 09:20 09:45 10:10 10:35 11:25 13:05 13:30 13:55 14:20 15:10 16:00 16:50	Deadliest Catch Catching Monsters Fast N' Loud: Demolition Theatre The Liquidator How It's Made: Dream Cars How Do They Do It? Deadliest Catch Wheeler Dealers Fast N' Loud: Demolition Theatre Gold Divers The Liquidator How It's Made: Dream Cars How Do They Do It? Gold Rush Deadliest Catch Catching Monsters How It's Made: Dream Cars Storage Hunters UK The Liquidator Edge Of Alaska Gold Divers Deadliest Catch Fast N' Loud: Demolition Theatre
16:50 17:40 18:30	

- 17:00 Chopped 18:00 Iron Chef America 19:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives 19:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives 20:00 Man Finds Food 20:30 Man Finds Food 21:00 Man v Food 21:30 Man v Food 22:00 Iron Chef America
- 23:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives 23:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives HD
- 00:00 America's Book Of Secrets 01:00 Ancient Aliens 02:00 Missing In Alaska 03:00 Ancient Impossible 03:50 WWII: Europe's Secret Army 04:40 Monster Quest 05:30 America's Book Of Secrets 06:20 Cities Of The Underworld 07:10 The Universe 08:00 Ancient Aliens 09:00 Missing In Alaska 10:00 Ancient Impossible 11:00 WWII: Europe's Secret Army 12:00 Monster Quest 13:00 America's Book Of Secrets 14:00 Ancient Aliens 15:00 Missing In Alaska



RISEN ON OSN MOVIES HD

20:50 Places We Go 21:15 Places We Go 21:40 Carnival Eats 22:05 Hook It, Cook It 22:30 Hook It, Cook It 22:55 What's For Sale? 23:20 What's For Sale? 23:45 Around The World In 80 Dishes NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC CHANNEL

20:00 The Food Files 20:25 The Food Files

00:10 The Border 01:00 Big Fix Alaska 02:00 Taiwan: Island Of Fish 02:55 Explorer 03:50 The Border 04:45 Born To Ride 05:40 Cruise Ship Diaries 06:05 Cruise Ship Diaries 06:35 Live Free Or Die 07:30 Big Fix Alaska 08:25 America's Lost Treasures 09:20 Born To Ride 10:15 Years Of Living Dangerously 11:10 Wicked Tuna: North vs South 12:05 Air Crash Investigation 13:00 Bad Trip 14:00 Big Fix Alaska

02:00 Togetherness 02:30 Insecure 03:00 Last Man Standing 03:30 The Simpsons 04:00 Cooper Barrett's Guide To Surviving 04:30 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon 05:30 George Lopez 06:00 The Grinder 06:30 Men At Work 07:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers 08:00 Cooper Barrett's Guide To Surviving 08:30 George Lopez 09:00 Last Man Standing 09:30 Angie Tribeca 10:00 Dr. Ken 10:30 Men At Work 11:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon 12:00 The Grinder 12:30 Cooper Barrett's Guide To Surviving 13:00 George Lopez 13:30 Men At Work 14:00 The Simpsons 14:30 Angie Tribeca 15:00 Dr. Ken 15:30 Cougar Town 16:00 Cougar Town 16:30 The Grinder 17:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers 18:00 Last Man Standing 18:30 The Simpsons 19:00 Angie Tribeca 19:30 Dr. Ken 20:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon 21:00 Cougar Town 21:30 Cougar Town 22:00 Family Guy 22:30 Family Guy 23:00 Insecure 23:30 Late Night With Seth Meyers



- 00:00 The X-Files 01:00 Quantico 02:00 Game Of Silence 03:00 Game Of Silence 04:00 Live Good Morning America 06:00 Lie To Me 07:00 Drop Dead Diva
- 08:00 Castle

O/ MOVIES HD COMEDY 00:30 Someone Marry Barry 02:15 Easy A 04:00 Passed Away

- 06:00 Accidental Love
- 08:00 Jack 10:00 Passed Away

23:00 Ted 2

- 12:00 Easy A
- 14:00 A Madea Christmas
- 16:00 Jack 18:00 The Invention Of Lying
- 20:00 Absolutely Anything 22:00 The Hooligan Factory



FESTIVAL

01:30 Breathe In 03:15 Hidden Agenda 05:15 Instinct 07:30 Bottle Rocket 09:00 Wuthering Heights 11:00 Breathe In 13:00 Song For Marion 15:00 Middle Of Nowhere 17:00 Wuthering Heights 19:00 Lost River 21:00 The Theory Of Everything 23:15 Taking Lives OM MOVIES HD

KIDS

01:15 Blackie And Kanuto 03:00 Baby Geniuses And The Space Baby 04:30 Bamse And The City Of Thieves 06:00 The Three Dogateers 07:45 Egon And Donci 09:15 Mamma Moo And Crow 11:00 Dixie And The Zombie Rebellion 12:45 Baby Geniuses And The Space Baby 14:30 Miffy The Movie 16:00 Cher Ami 18:00 Mamma Moo And Crow 20:00 Baby Geniuses And The Treasures Of Egypt 22:00 Miffy The Movie 23:30 Cher Ami



- 00:00 Electricity 02:00 The Bounty Hunter 04:00 To Write Love On Her Arms 06:00 A Promise 08:00 Some Girls 10:00 Miracles From Heaven 12:00 The Rewrite Racing Hearts 14:00 16:00 Some Girls 18:00 The Identical 20:00 Spotlight
- 22:15 People Places Things

CLASSIFIEDS

I AM NOT A SERIAL KILLER

KAHAANI 2: DURGA RANI SINGH - Hindi

DEAR ZINDAGI -Hindi

DEAR ZINDAGI -Hindi

UNDERWORLD: BLOOD WARS

FANAR-5 TAHT AL TARABEZA TAHT AL TARABEZA

TAHT AL TARABEZA

TAHT AL TARABEZA

TAHT AL TARABEZA

DEAR ZINDAGI -Hindi

TROLLS

TROLLS

MARINA-1

ALLIED

TROLLS

ALLIED

MARINA-2

TAHT AL TARABEZA

TAHT AL TARABEZA

TAHT AL TARABEZA

UNDERWORLD: BLOOD WARS

ARRIVAL

ARRIVAL

ARRIVAL

MARINA-3

LION

LION

ALLIED

FANAR-3

LION

LION

LION

FANAR-4

<u>Kuwait Times</u>

SHAROIA-1

Kuwait

11:45 AM

2:00 PM

5:00 PM

7:00 PM

9:30 PM

12:05 AM

12:30 PM 2:30 PM

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AL-KOUT.2

ITALIAN RACE

LION ALLIED

LION



SHARQIA-1 TAHT AL TARABEZA DEAR ZINDAGI -Hindi TROLLS TAHT AL TARABEZA TAHT AL TARABEZA TAHT AL TARABEZA
SHARQIA-2 UNDERWORLD: BLOOD WARS UNDERWORLD: BLOOD WARS UNDERWORLD: BLOOD WARS UNDERWORLD: BLOOD WARS UNDERWORLD: BLOOD WARS UNDERWORLD: BLOOD WARS UNDERWORLD: BLOOD WARS
SHARQIA-3 LION LION ALLIED ITALIAN RACE ITALIAN RACE LION
MUHALAB-1 DEAR ZINDAGI -Hindi TAHT AL TARABEZA TAHT AL TARABEZA DEAR ZINDAGI -Hindi TAHT AL TARABEZA TAHT AL TARABEZA
MUHALAB-2 ALLIED ARRIVAL TROLLS ARRIVAL ALLIED ARRIVAL

MUHALAB-3 UNDERWORLD: BLOOD WARS UNDERWORLD: BLOOD WARS

FANAR-1 ITALIAN RACE ITALIAN RACE **ITALIAN RACE** ITALIAN RACE **ITALIAN RACE**

AVENUES-2 FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM TROLLS -3D -4DX FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM AVENUES-3 ITALIAN RACE ITALIAN RACE ITALIAN RACE ITALIAN RACE ITALIAN RACE ITALIAN RACE 360°- 1 UNDERWORLD: BLOOD WARS 360°- 2 I AM NOT A SERIAL KILLER 360°- 3 ARRIVAL ALLIED ARRIVAL AANANDAM - Malayalam ALLIED

I AM NOT A SERIAL KILLER

AVENUES-3 ITALIAN RACE ITALIAN RACE ITALIAN RACE ITALIAN RACE ITALIAN RACE ITALIAN RACE	12:30 PM 2:45 PM 5:15 PM 7:45 PM 10:15 PM 12:45 AM
360°-1 UNDERWORLD: BLOOD WARS UNDERWORLD: BLOOD WARS-3D UNDERWORLD: BLOOD WARS UNDERWORLD: BLOOD WARS-3D UNDERWORLD: BLOOD WARS UNDERWORLD: BLOOD WARS UNDERWORLD: BLOOD WARS	1:00 PM 3:00 PM 5:00 PM 7:00 PM 9:00 PM 11:00 PM 1:00 AM
360°-2 I AM NOT A SERIAL KILLER I AM NOT A SERIAL KILLER	1:15 PM 3:30 PM 5:45 PM 8:00 PM 10:15 PM 12:30 AM
360°- 3 ARRIVAL ALLIED ARRIVAL AANANDAM -Malayalam ALLIED ARRIVAL	11:45 AM 2:15 PM 4:45 PM 7:15 PM 9:45 PM 12:15 AM
AL-KOUT.1 UNDERWORLD: BLOOD WARS UNDERWORLD: BLOOD WARS UNDERWORLD: BLOOD WARS UNDERWORLD: BLOOD WARS UNDERWORLD: BLOOD WARS UNDERWORLD: BLOOD WARS	12:45 PM 2:45 PM 4:45 PM 6:45 PM 8:45 PM 10:45 PM 12:45 AM



SITUATION VACANT

4:45 PM

7:00 PM

9:15 PM

11:30 PM

11:30 AM

2:15 PM

5:00 PM

7:00 PM

9:45 PM

12:30 AM

12:30 PM

3:00 PM

5:15 PM

7:45 PM

Lal Jangir to Mahaveer Prasad Jangir hereinafter in Driver needed for Kuwaiti all my dealings and docufamily part-time or fulltime. 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

ments, I will be known by name of Mahaveer Prasad Jangir. (C 5242)

changed my from Mohan

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 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

EMERGENCY () 112

Automated enquiry about the Civil ID card is 1889988

PRAYER	TIMINGS	-
Fajr:	05:05	
Shorook	06:28	25
Duhr:	11:39	le erten
Asr:	14:31	2/
Maghrib:	16:49	1018
Isha:	18:11	-la



eneral of Civil Aviation Home Page (www.kuwait-airport.com.kw)

DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

	-	its on Tuesday 6/12/2016		KAC	564	Amman	3:40			ights on Tuesday 6/12/2		UAE	872	Dubai	14:15
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	KAC	788	Jeddah	13:45	Airlines		Route	Time	JZR	324	Al Najaf	14:25
NSC	405	Sohag	00:05	KAC	792	Madinah	13:50	AIC	976	Goa/Chennai	00:05	KAC	561	Amman	15:00
AC	776	Riyadh	00:20	QTR	1078	Doha	14:10	FDB	072	Dubai	00:40	KAC	673	Dubai	15:00
ĹΜ	411	Amsterdam/Dammam	00:20	FDB	059	Dubai	14:20	JAI	573	Mumbai	00:50	FDB	060	Dubai	15:10
ZR	267	Beirut	00:30	SVA	500	Jeddah	14:30	MSC	406	Sohag	01:00	KAC	785	Jeddah	15:15
ZR	539	Cairo	00:40	KAC	692	Muscat	14:30	BBC	144	Chittagong/Dhaka	01:30	PAL	669	Dubai/Manila	15:20
ΓHΥ	772	Istanbul	00:55	GFA	221	Bahrain	14:40	KLM	411	Amsterdam	01:35	KAC	513	Tehran	15:25
NSC	411	Asyut	01:00	KAC	542	Cairo	14:45	MSC	412	Asyut	01:55	GFA	222	Bahrain	15:25
QTR	1086	Doha	01:15	KAC	672	Dubai	14:50	KAC	417	Manila	02:00	QTR	1079	Doha	15:40
<ac< td=""><td>102</td><td>London</td><td>01:25</td><td>KNE</td><td>529</td><td>Jeddah</td><td>14:55</td><td>THY</td><td>773</td><td>Istanbul</td><td>02:25</td><td>SVA</td><td>501</td><td>Jeddah</td><td>15:45</td></ac<>	102	London	01:25	KNE	529	Jeddah	14:55	THY	773	Istanbul	02:25	SVA	501	Jeddah	15:45
ΓHΥ	764	Istanbul	01:50	KAC	618	Doha	15:00	DLH	635	Frankfurt	02:55	KNE	530	Jeddah	15:55
OLH	635	Doha	01:55	ETD	303	Abu Dhabi	15:15	AXB	396	Kozhikode	02:55	KAC	745	Dammam	16:00
AXB	395	Kozhikode	02:00	OMA	645	Muscat	15:35	ETH	621	Addis Ababa	03:05	KAC	777	Riyadh	16:0
PGT	858	Istanbul	02:00	UAE	857	Dubai	15:45	PGT	859	Istanbul	03:35	KAC	283	Dhaka	16:1
TH	620	Addis Ababa	02:05	ABY	127	Sharjah	15:50	UAE	854	Dubai	03:45	KAC	357	Kochi	16:2
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:30	KAC	154	Ataturk / Istanbul	16:00	KKK	6505	Istanbul	03:55	ETD	304	Abu Dhabi	16:2
JAE	853	Dubai	02:30	QTR	1072	Doha	16:10	OMA	644	Muscat	03:55	ABY	128	Sharjah	16:3
DMA	643	Muscat	02:55	FDB	051	Dubai	16:25	THY	765	Istanbul	04:00	OMA	646	Muscat	16:3
KK	6506	Istanbul	02:55	KAC	662	Abu Dhabi	16:35	MSR	613	Cairo	04:10	JZR	266	Beirut	17:0
DB	069	Dubai	03:05	RJA	640	Amman	16:55	ETD	306	Abu Dhabi	04:10	JZR	240	Amman	17:1
ALA	644	Amman	03:05	KAC	118	New York	17:00	KAC	167	Paris	04:25	FDB	052	Dubai	17:2
TD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:10	SVA	510	Riyadh	17:15	QTR	1077	Doha	04:40	KAC	615	Bahrain	17:3
1SR	612	Cairo	03:10	GFA	215	Bahrain	17:30	LMU	5511	Cairo	05:00	KAC	343	Chennai	17:4
AC	358	Kochi	03:30	JZR	777	Jeddah	17:45	QTR	1087	Doha	05:50	QTR	1073	Doha	17:4
QTR	1076	Doha	03:30	JZR	325	Al Najaf	17:50	JZR	560	Sohag	06:05	JZR	538	Cairo	17:4
MU	5510	Cairo	04:00	NIA	251	Alexandria	17:55	FDB	070	Dubai	06:30	UAE	858	Dubai	17:4
AC	1544	Cairo	04:10	UAE	875	Dubai	18:00	THY	6376	Dubai/Istanbul	06:35	RJA	641	Amman	17:5
(AC	418	Manila	04:25	CLX	784	Luxembourg	18:10	KAC	153	Istanbul	06:50	KAC	331	Trivandrum	18:0
AC	284	Dhaka	04:55	FDB	063	Dubai	18:10	UAE	874	Dubai	06:50	SVA	511	Riyadh	18:1
AE	873	Dubai	04:55	JZR	177	Dubai	18:20	THY	771	Istanbul	06:50	GFA	216	Bahrain	18:2
HY	6376	Istanbul	05:05	MSR	620	Cairo	18:30	JZR	164	Dubai	06:55	JZR	184	Dubai	18:4
ZR	529	Asyut	05:15	QTR	1080	Doha	18:50	RJA	645	Amman	07:05	NIA	252	Alexandria	18:5
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:20	KAC	746	Dammam	19:10	KAC	541	Cairo	07:15	FDB	064	Dubai	19:0
(AC	354	BLR	05:20	ABY	123	Sharjah	19:25	GFA	212	Bahrain	07:15	JZR	124	Bahrain	19:1
(AC	344	Chennai	05:35	KAC	502	Beirut	19:30	KAC	773	Riyadh	07:30	UAE	876	Dubai	19:3
(AC	332	Trivandrum	05:45	GFA	217	Bahrain	19:30	KAC	787	Jeddah	07:45	MSR	621	Cairo	19:3
THY	770	Istanbul	05:55	KAC	778	Riyadh	19:35	KAC	171	Frankfurt	07:55	CLX	713	Hong Kong	19:4
<ac< td=""><td>384</td><td>Delhi</td><td>06:05</td><td>KAC</td><td>674</td><td>Dubai</td><td>19:45</td><td>KAC</td><td>563</td><td>Amman</td><td>08:00</td><td>QTR</td><td>1081</td><td>Doha</td><td>19:5</td></ac<>	384	Delhi	06:05	KAC	674	Dubai	19:45	KAC	563	Amman	08:00	QTR	1081	Doha	19:5
KAC	364	Colombo	06:05	KAC	514			BAW	156	London	08:40	ABY	124	Sharjah	20:0
(AC	206	Islamabad	06:20			Tehran	19:50	FDB	054	Dubai	08:55	GFA	218	Bahrain	20:0
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	06:25	FDB	057	Dubai	19:50	KAC	791	Madinah	09:00	FDB	058	Dubai	20:3
SAW	157	London	06:40	KAC	168	Paris	19:55	KAC	691	Muscat	09:00	KAC	361	Colombo	20:3
		Manila/Dubai		MSR	618	Alexandria	20:05								
Pal DB	668 053	Dubai	07:00 07:50	OMA	647	Muscat	20:10	KAC KAC	117 101	New York London	09:00 09:35	KAC MSR	1543 607	Cairo Luxor	21:0 21:0
				QTR	1088	Doha	20:35								
kac Jae	302 855	Mumbai Dubai	08:20 08:40	KAC	562	Amman	20:40	ABY UAE	126 856	Sharjah Dubai	09:45 09:55	OMA KAC	648 205	Muscat Islamabad	21:1 21:2
				DLH	634	Frankfurt	20:45								
AC	382	Delhi Shariah	08:45	FDB	5053	Dubai	20:50	KAC	671	Dubai Abu Dhahi	10:05	KAC	345	Ahmedabad	21:3
.BY TD	125	Sharjah Abu Dhabi	09:05	KAC	616	Bahrain	20:50	ETD	302	Abu Dhabi	10:10	QTR	1089	Doha	21:3
	301		09:05	JAI	572	Mumbai	20:55		6508 056	Shiraz	10:30		634 5054	Doha Dubai	21:3
TR	1070	Doha	09:30	KAC	786	Jeddah	21:15	FDB	056	Dubai	10:35	FDB	5054	Dubai Babrain	21:
C	6507	Shiraz	09:30	ETD	307	Abu Dhabi	21:20	QTR	1071	Doha Biyadh	10:40	DHX	171 571	Bahrain Mumbai	21:
)B	055	Dubai Dive alla	09:40	MEA	402	Beirut	21:20	SVA	513	Riyadh	11:00	JAI	571	Mumbai	21:
Ά	512	Riyadh	10:00	ALK	229	Colombo	21:25	KAC	617	Doha	11:10	KAC	351	Kochi	22:
/V	651	Asyut	10:10	KAC	172	Frankfurt	21:35	AVV	652	Sohag	11:10	KAC	783	Jeddah Alau Dhahi	22:
=A	213	Bahrain	10:40	UAE	859	Dubai	21:40	KAC	501	Beirut	11:15	ETD	308	Abu Dhabi	22:
A	675	Lar	10:40	GFA	219	Bahrain	21:45	GFA	214	Bahrain	11:25	KAC	203	Lahore	22:
′R	341	Damascus	11:00	QTR	1082	Doha	21.43	IRA	674	Lar	11:40	KAC	413	Bangkok	22:
AC	774	Riyadh	11:05	JZR	1082	Bahrain	22:00	RBG	554	Alexandria	11:55	MEA	403	Beirut	22:
3G	553	Alexandria	11:15					SYR	342	Damascus	12:00	ALK	230	Colombo	22:
SC	403	Asyut	11:15	KLM	415	msterdam/Dammam	22:10	KAC	661	Abu Dhabi	12:05	GFA	220	Bahrain	22:
ZR	165	Dubai	11:30	NIA	151	Cairo	22:10	JZR	776	Jeddah	12:05	KAC	381	Delhi	22:
IEA	404	Beirut	11:55	ETD	309	Abu Dhabi	22:15	MSC	404	Asyut	12:15	KAC	301	Mumbai	22:
TR	8511	Doha	12:00	AIC	987	Chennai/Hyderabad	22:25	MEA	405	Beirut	12:55	UAE	860	Dubai	22:
ISC	401	Alexandria	12:30	PIA	239	Sialkot	22:35	QTR	8512	Doha	13:30	ETD	310	Abu Dhabi	23:
ZR	561	Sohag	12:40	JZR	241	Amman	22:45	MSC	402	Alexandria	13:30	NIA	152	Cairo	23:
AE	871	Dubai	12:50	JZR	185	Dubai	23:15	JZR	176	Dubai	13:45	QTR	1083	Doha	23:2
/ISR	610	Cairo	13:00	FDB	071	Dubai	23:45	MSR	611	Cairo	14:00	KLM	415	Dammam/Amsterdam	
AXB	393	Kozhikode	13:10	JAI	574	Mumbai	23:50	AXB	394	Kozhikode	14:10	PIA	240	Sialkot	23:3
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ACROSS

- 1. North American republic containing 50 states - 48 conterminous states in North America plus Alaska in northwest North America and the Hawaiian Islands in the Pacific Ocean.
- 4. A drug (trade name Antabuse) used in the treatment of alcoholism.
- 12. A light touch or stroke. 15. A fractional monetary unit of Japan and Indonesia and Cambodia.
- 16. Type genus of the Serranidae.
- 17. One of the most common of the five major classes of immunoglobulins. 18. Severe diabetes mellitus with an early
- onset. 20. A bluish shade of green.
- 21. Equipped with or connected by gears or having gears engaged.
- 23. A river in northwestern Russia flowing generally west into the Gulf of Finland.
- 24. Jordan's port.
- 26. Similar to the color of jade. 27. The father of your father or mother.
- 30. Covered with paving material.
- 32. The basic unit of money in Iran.
- 33. An associate degree in nursing.
- 34. The branch of computer science that deal with writing computer programs that can solve problems creatively. 37. Science and technology of electronic sys-
- tems and devices for aeronautics and astronautics. 40. A region of northeastern France famous for
- its wines. 42. Of or relating to the stomach and intes-
- tines. 43. A white metallic element that burns with a
- brilliant light. 44. Goddess of the dead and queen of the
- underworld. 46. Used of a single unit or thing.
- 47. A legal document codifying the result of deliberations of a committee or society or legislative body.
- 49. An outlying farm building for storing grain

STAR TRACK



Using reasonable thinking and being more conscientious takes on a special importance for you. Professionally speaking, you are in top form and stop many times to help a customer or client. Now that the holiday season is underway, this afternoon you may give a short talk to your family regarding future meal plans with a list of things from which they can choose. This way you will have discreetly warned them ahead of time that the meals will be prepared ahead, albeit plentiful. Lean and healthy are the goals for everyone. It thrills you to have everyone near you this evening. Everybody wants to talk about their plans. Creative thinking, plans and a family that supports each other and plays together are great ways to spend your evening.



Staying focused may be a challenge the first part of this day. There are lots of unfinished projects but you are able to tend to all the loose ends. Lots of people have been clamoring for more of your time and this can wear a bit thin. Find ways to get your body moving at least once before quitting time. Anything as simple as walking outside your work area will help you sort through your day and regain a focus when you come back to the work chores this day. Some nice compliments may find a way to your ears today, making a busy day more pleasant. Being more involved with friends, neighbors and family is likely this evening. Although every person in your family is pooped-there may be some requests in favor of a movie tonight.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You find yourself talkative and quick-witted, much to the amusement of those lucky enough to be around you. Ideas are clear and easy for you to come by. This could be a good time for thinking over your future professional plans. It should be a super day for making financial plans or decisions or finding your way through just about any problem that may present itself. You feel successful and you are able to contend with whatever comes your way. Good advice and compliments come from a guide or an older person, if you need it. This is a wonderful day in general-and an exceptional holiday time. If you are alone this evening you might volunteer to help a friend so he or she can get some sleep or rest or just have a change of pace for a few hours.

Cancer (June 21-July 22)

A look into your deeper, more spiritual nature will be available to you at this time-a little quiet time this morning is good. Allowing your creative side a free rein could be your ticket to new solutions or inventions. You show great understanding and awareness of the needs of others and you are in a good position to communicate, listen or make decisions. You may enjoy a round of golf or some other workout with a friend or mate after work. Raising your own vegetables interests you and this evening you may decide a trip to the library or bookstore would help you decide on the type of garden you would like to work into your schedule this next spring. It could be something as simple as large pots that can be worked into the landscape easily.

Leo (July 23-August 22)

A demanding boss, who has always been very hard to please, pays you a compliment. Evidently, you are doing something right. You are pleased with the results of your hard work and others are pleased as well. You promise yourself to kick it up a notch for next year in hopes of getting a promotion or increase in salary. This afternoon circumstances create a good focus for you to complete a difficult task. Your more reserved side is dominant this evening. Visiting with friends or family is a good thing, and the rush to please turns into several convenient opportunities for your own needs in the next few days. If you are not the regular cook, you may help the main cook tonight with a specialty item. A few flowers complement the atmosphere

Virgo (August 23-September 22)

You just seem to have a natural sense for communicating with others. Clear thoughts about the past may also be flowing into your life. You may be planning a big get-together with friends soon. If you have been in a new workplace this year, you may find yourself wrapped up in some holiday plans that are quite different from your usual experiences. Tonight you talk about traditions you want to create with a loved one. Other people and the general place and time in which you find yourself are very pleasant. You may enjoy the company of many people this evening. You are thankful to have so many delightful friends. Your spirituality will become more pronounced and you may be able to express yourself in poetry or in attitude.

Libra (September 23-October 22)

F This day you may feel that you finally understand your current life situation better. All the shuffle to get things put together, mailed and attended to, seems to have moved along much better this year than any other year gone before-but it did take work. You are pleased and happy that now you can relax. You may even want to send up a prayer to keep things as they are at this time: peaceful. There is no test of relationship-all interactions are without a glitch, even the neighborhood is a quiet place. It is a grand time to get closer to the people you care about and there are opportunities to update yourself to your friends and vice versa. Let both your own feelings and the reactions of others guide you when seeking a balance in emotions.

Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

This workday flows along quickly as there are many projects that are coming to an end. Some projects will soon be set aside to be finished next year. Co-workers are busy with their own projects later this morning. At the noon break you may find yourself listening to the comments of customers. This means you may find a new way to put the finishing touches on a special job. You may be looking forward to a performance later this evening that you don't want to miss. You could find that you enjoy being with your family and friends more than ever. Enjoyment is derived by obtaining and sharing information and entertainment. Keeping communications positive is most important and you know just what to do. Tickets to an event make a great gift.

Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

Self-expression is accomplished through helping others at this time and you are always happy to help someone in the workplace or home place, whether they ask, or even if they do not ask. You have some sort of talent that other people enjoy. Family members encourage you to develop your special technical, scientific or spiritual talents and encourage you to try for perfection. You will be open to beauty and poetry. Your creative spirit is enhanced at this time, which may manifest as daydreaming and drifting attention from time to time. Anything you need this birthday year, including financial backers, will be pulled in for you because of your integrity of purpose. The reputation that ensues will be yours with little effort-magic happens. Happy birthday!

Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

You are very capable at managing others and that is what today seems to be all about-you are in charge and in high focus. You should find this an exceptionally good time to be with others and to work together. A superior may seek you out as just the right person for a particular job. It seems that your skills fit in most areas of the business world and that makes you a prized possession-consider a request for higher pay. Someone who understands just how you feel will be there to support you in any undertaking. You could find that you are appreciated for your ability to act quickly and responsibly. You may find yourself delving into some new area such as politics, metaphysics, further education, travel or religion to name but a few.



This time of year is probably one of your favorites. You will find yourself in a position to really enjoy and understand those around you, whether you are working with people or you have a house full of guests. Wonderful feelings and a sense of support and harmony make this a truly joyous time. Celebrate the feelings that you have today and allow them to carry forth throughout the coming new year, as well. You will find that others are very respectful of your ability to give advice, be of good cheer and in general present the type of person worth following. You just seem to have a natural sense of what others want and need for now. Clear decisions affecting others could be made today. This evening, you may spend time writing and addressing cards.



No grass grows under your feet today. . . You are out of the door, quick as a flash and ready to get the day over with before you even get to the work-place. Do be wise in your driving and handling of sharp instruments-all kidding aside, just slow yourself a bit. Establishing a good plan of organization could be the priority for this day. There is the possibility of some changes in your environment and the location of a social gathering may change. There is actually the possibility that you will have several social invitations; take the second one. Your ability to truly understand and have a handle on things of a conceptual and spiritual nature certainly will not hurt your popularity in a social situation. Others will appreciate the time you take to listen.

cules shaped like a double helix. DOWN 1. An act that exploits or victimizes someone.

2. (Judaism) The ceremonial dinner on the first night (or both nights) of Passover.

the smooth muscles and heart and glands.

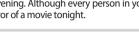
82. A river in northeastern Brazil that flows

83. A nucleic acid consisting of large mole-

Ocean.

generally northward to the Atlantic

- 3. (Norse mythology) A dwarf who possessed a treasure that was stolen by Loki.
- 4. A very poisonous metallic element that has three allotropic forms.
- 5. Remaining after all deductions.
- 6. A step in walking or running.7. Any of various strong liquors distilled from
- the fermented sap of toddy palms or from fermented molasses.
- 8. When dried yields a hard substance used e.g. in golf balls. 9. An organization of independent states to
- promote international peace and security. 10. A white crystalline carbohydrate used as a
- sweetener and preservative. 11. The compass point midway between east
- and southeast. 12. English theoretical physicist who applied
 - relativity theory to quantum mechanics and predicted the existence of antimatter and the positron (1902-1984).
- 13. Advanced in years.
- 14. A Chadic language spoken in northern Nigeria.
- 19. A starch made by leaching and drying the root of the cassava plant.
- 22. A genus of Platalea.
- 25. Obvious and dull. 28. (Irish) Mother of the Tuatha De Danann.
- 29. American prizefighter who won the world heavyweight championship three times
 - (born in 1942). 31. A Bantu language
 - 35. Grandson of Amaterasu and first ruler of Japan





- or animal feed and housing farm animals. 53. God of death.
- 55. Any of numerous perennial bulbous herbs having linear or broadly lanceolate leaves and usually a single showy flower.
- 57. The villain in William Shakespeare's tragedy who tricked Othello into murdering his wife.
- 58. Relating to or characteristic of Arabs.
- 61. An ancient Egyptian city on the west bank
- of the Nile opposite Cairo. 62. The 16th letter of the Hebrew alphabet.
- 63. On the negative side or lower end of a scale.
- 65. The immature free-living form of most invertebrates and amphibians and fish which at hatching from the egg is fundamentally unlike its parent and must metamorphose.
- 67. Extensive landed property (especially in the country) retained by the owner for his own use.
- 69. After a negative statement used to indicate that the next statement is similarly negative.
- 73. Sacred text of Zoroastrianism.
- 76. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth. 77. A logarithmic unit of sound intensity equal
- to 10 decibels.
- 78. (of a nuclear reaction) Occurring with evolution or releasing of energy.
- 80. (computer science) Memory whose contents can be accessed and read but cannot be changed.
- 81. The part of the nervous system of vertebrates that controls involuntary actions of

- 36. One of the evil spirits of traditional Jewish
 - and Christian belief. 38. A Roman Catholic priest who acts for
 - another higher-ranking clergyman. 39. A gesture involving the shoulders.
 - 41. Hungarian wine made from Tokay grapes.
 - 45. (Sumerian) God of the air and king of the Sumerian gods.
 - 48. A restraint that confines or restricts freedom (especially something used to tie down or restrain a prisoner).
 - 50. A highly unstable radioactive element (the heaviest of the halogen series).
 - 51. A cut of pork ribs with much of the meat trimmed off.
 - 52. Deciduous South African tree having large odd-pinnate leaves and profuse fragrant orange-yellow flowers. 54. True firs

 - 56. The god who fathered the islands and gods of Japan with his sister Izanami.
 - 59. The arch of the foot. 60. Battle in 401 BC when the Persian King
 - Artaxerxes II defeated his younger brother who tried to usurp the throne. 64. A toxic nonmetallic element related to sul-
 - fur and tellurium. 68. Divisible by two.
 - 70. Not easy.
 - 71. Very dark black.
 - 72. Avatar of Vishnu.
 - 74. A yearning for something or to do some-
 - thing. 75. A period marked by distinctive character or reckoned from a fixed point or event.
 - 79. A state in northwestern United States on the Pacific.

Yesterday's Solution

Α	N	S		Η	Α	N	D	G	U	N		В	A	Α	S
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WORD SEARCH

Look Up!

Find and circle all of the items that you might see when you look upward. The remaining 24 letters spell an additional item you might see.

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AIRPLANE	GALAXY	METEOR SHOWER	SMOG
BIG DIPPER	HAZE	MOON	SOLAR ECLIPSE
BIRDS	HELICOPTER	PLANETS	STARS
BLIMP	HOT AIR BALLOON	POWER LINES	STREET LIGHT
BLUE SKY	JET EXHAUST	RAINBOW	THE SUN
CHIMNEY SMOKE	JUPITER	SATELLITE	TREETOP
CLOUDS	KITE	SATURN	UNIVERSE
COMET	LIGHTNING	SKYDIVER	VENUS
DRONE	MARS	SKYSCRAPER	
FIREWORKS	MERCURY	SKYWRITING	

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ARROW	EUREKA	PINETREE	TOUCH WOOD
ASTROKNOT	FIRECRACKER	PRETZEL LOGIC	TRAPEZE
BALL AND RING	FLIGHT TEST	SHOCKWAVE	TRIPLE CROWN
BEDBUG	GRAND PRIX	SHORT CIRCUIT	TRIPLE PLAY
BRIDGE THE GAP	HANDCUFFS	SILENT PARTNER	TRIPWIRE
CENTIPEDE	HAVE A HEART	SLEIGHT OF HAND	TROUBLE CLEF
CHINESE RINGS	KING TUT	SLINGSHOT	VIRUS
CORKSCREW	MELEDA	SOMETHING FISHY	WEATHERVAIN
CRYSTAL CLEAR	MOTHBALLS	SPUTNIK	WEDGE
DEAD END	MOUSETRAP	SQUARING OFF	WOODEN OPEN
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The hidden phrase is: A HANDFUL OF PATIENCE IS WORTH MORE THAN A BUSHEL OF BRAINS

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		7		1		2	8	
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	5	1		2		9		
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Yesterday's Solution	n

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Yesterday Solution

Livewire Puzzles

FROUARINGOF EXTONIKOR

Kuwait - Times 55.

For labor-related inquiries and complaints: Call MSAL hotline 128

Hospitals

Sabah Hospital	24812000
Amiri Hospital	22450005
Maternity Hospital	24843100
Mubarak Al-Kabir Hospital	25312700
Chest Hospital	24849400
Farwaniya Hospital	24892010
Adan Hospital	23940620
Ibn Sina Hospital	24840300
Al-Razi Hospital	24846000
Physiotherapy Hospital	24874330/9

Clinics

Kaizen center	25716707
Rawda	22517733
Adaliya	22517144
Khaldiya	24848075
Kaifan	24849807
Shamiya	24848913
Shuwaikh	24814507
Abdullah Salem	22549134
Nuzha	22526804
Industrial Shuwaikh	24814764
Qadsiya	22515088
Dasmah	22532265
Bneid Al-Gar	22531908
Shaab	22518752
Qibla	22459381
Ayoun Al-Qibla	22451082
Mirqab	22456536
Sharq	22465401
Salmiya	25746401
Jabriya	25316254
Maidan Hawally	25623444
Bayan	25388462
Mishref	25381200
W Hawally	22630786
Sabah	24810221
Jahra	24770319



GOVERNORATE

Ahmadi

Jahra

Capital

Farwaniya

Hawally

INFORMATION

PHARMACIES ON 24 HRS DUTY

PHARMACY	ADDRESS	PHONE
Sama Safwan	Fahaeel Makka St	23915883
Abu Halaifa	Abu Halaifa-Coastal Rd	23715414
Danat Al-Sultan	Mahboula Block 1, Coastal Rd	23726558
Modern Jahra	Jahra-Block 3 Lot 1	24575518
Madina Munawara	Jahra-Block 92	24566622
Ahlam	Fahad Al-Salem St	22436184
Khaldiya Coop	Khaldiya Coop	24833967
New Shifa	Farwaniya Block 40	24734000
Ferdous Coop	Ferdous Coop	24881201
Modern Safwan	Old Kheitan Block 11	24726638
Tariq	Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St	25726265
Hana	Salmiya-Amman St	25647075
Ikhlas	Hawally-Beirut St	22625999
Hawally & Rawdha	Hawally & Rawdha Coop	22564549
Ghadeer	Jabriya-Block 1A	25340559
Kindy	Jabriya-Block 3B	25326554
Ibn Al-Nafis	Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St	25721264
Mishrif Coop	Mishrif Coop	25380581
Salwa Coop	Salwa Coop	25628241

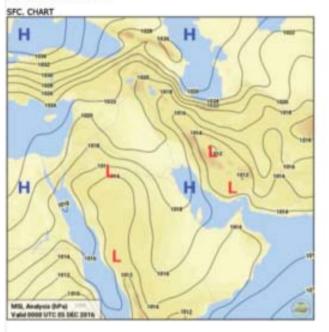
STATE OF KUWAIT DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT



Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours sued 05/12/2016-07:00 LT UTC +3hr

Max Temperature 22 °C

By Day : Visibility will improve gradually with light to moderate north westerly to light variable wind, with speed of 10 - 32 km/h and some scattered clouds will appear By Night : Partly cloudy with variable wind changing to light to moderate north westerly wind, with speed of 06 - 26 km/h



Four-Day Forecast



Cuwait Forecast		
Station	MIN °C REC	Max °C EXP
KUWAIT CITY	14	22
UWAIT AIRPORT	13	22
ABDALY	12	19
BUBYAN	12	21
IAHRA	13	21
AILAKA ISLAND	14	21
GALMEYAH	15	21
IDAMHU	15	21
AL ALIYAH	11	19
AROH ISLAND	18	21
IMM AL-MARADEM	18	22
NUWAISIB	13	23
NAFRA	12	22
MANAGISH	11	20
SALMY	09	. 18
UTRIBA	10	21

Max Tem	p (°C)		21	
Min Temp	(*C)		14	
Max Rel F	tum (%)		75	
Min Rel H	um (%)		32	
Max Wind and Direc	Speed (km/h) tion)	46 N	
TOTAL RA	UNFALL IN 24	HR	0 mm	
1	Sunrise		06:27	
~	Sunset		16:49	
Prayer Ti	imes			
Fajr		05:0	3	
Sunrise		06:2	7	
Zuhr		11:38		
Asr		14:3	1	
Sunset		16:4	9	
Isha		18:1		

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2016

INTERNATIONAL CALLS



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	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
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Expected Weather	Mostly sunny	sunny + raising dust over open areas	sunny	sunny + raising dust
Min Temp *C	12	10	09	08
Max Temp *C	21	18	17	17
Wind Direction	north westerly	north westerly	north westerly	north westerly
Wind Speed km/h	10 - 32	20 - 45	15 - 40	20 - 45

All times are local time (GMT+3) unless otherwise stated

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Ophthalmologis	sts		
Dr. Abidallah Al-Mansoor	25622444	-	Dr. Mo
Dr. Samy Al-Rabeea	25752222		Dr. Ab
Dr. Masoma Habeeb	25321171		Dr. Ab
Dr. Mubarak Al-Ajmy	25739999		
Dr. Mohsen Abel	25757700		Dr Di
Dr Adnan Hasan Alwayl	25732223		DrDi
Dr. Abdallah Al-Baghly	25732223		
Ear, Nose & Throat	(ENT)		Dr. Esa
Dr. Ahmed Fouad Mouner	24555050 Ext 510	ł	Dr Eis
Dr. Abdallah Al-Ali	25644660		
Dr. Abd Al-Hameed Al-Taweel	25646478		DrAdı
Dr. Sanad Al-Fathalah	25311996		Dr. Ve
Dr. Mohammad Al-Daaory	25731988		Dr. Fo
Dr. Ismail Al-Fodary	22620166		Dr. Ma
Dr. Mahmoud Al-Booz	25651426		Dr. Ah
General Practition	ners		
Dr. Mohamme Y Majidi	24555050 Ext 123		Dr. Sa
Dr. Yousef Al-Omar	24719312		
Dr. Tarek Al-Mikhazeem	23926920	_	Dr. An
Dr. Kathem Maarafi	25730465		Dr. Mo
Dr. Abdallah Ahmad Eyadah	25655528	_	
Dr. Nabeel Al-Ayoobi	24577781		Dr. Ad
Dr. Dina Abidallah Al-Refae	25333501	_	Dr. Mo
Urologists			Dr. Lat
Dr. Ali Naser Al-Serfy	22641534		
Dr. Fawzi Taher Abul	22639955		Dr. Na
Dr. Khaleel Abidallah Al-Awad	li 22616660		Dr. Mo
Dr. Adel Al-Hunayan FRCS (C)	25313120		Dr Na
Dr. Leons Joseph	66703427		
Psychologists /Psychotherapists			enter 90-1677 90 1688

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Dr. Fozeya Ali Al-Qatan

Dr. Ahmad Al-Khooly

Dr. Amer Zawaz Al-Amer

Dr. Mohammad Yousef Basher

Dr. Salem soso

Dr. Adnan Ebil

Dr. Mousa Khadada

Dr. Latefa Al-Duweisan

Dr. Nadem Al-Ghabra

Dr. Mobarak Aldoub

Dr Nasser Behbehani

Dr. Majeda Khalefa Aliytami

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eons		Paediatricia	ans
	22547272	Dr. Khaled Hamadi	25665898
	22617700	Dr. Abd Al-Aziz Al-Rashed	25340300
2	5625030/60	Dr. Zahra Qabazard	25710444
tor		Dr. Sohail Qamar	22621099
23729	596/23729581	Dr. Snaa Maaroof	25713514
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	22635047	Dr. Zacharias Mathew	24334282
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2572-6	5666 ext 8321	Dentists	
	22655539	Dr Anil Thomas	3729596/3729581
	25343406	Dr. Shamah Al-Matar	22641071/2
	25739272	Dr. Anesah Al-Rasheed	22562226
	22618787	Dr. Abidallah Al-Amer	22561444
eons		Dr. Faysal Al-Fozan	22619557
	22610044	Dr. Abdallateef Al-Katrash	22525888
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& Heart		Dr. Bader Al-Ansari	25620111
	22639939	Neurologis	sts
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	25728004	Dr. Jasem Mola Hassan	25345875
	25355515	Gastrologi	sts
	24726446	Dr. Sami Aman	22636464
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		Dr. Foad Abidallah Al-Ali	22633135
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	Enc	locrinologis	t
D	r. Abd Al-Naser Al-O	Othman	25339330
D	r. Ahmad Al-Ansari	25658888	
D	r. Kamal Al-Shomr	25329924	
	Physic	therapists 8	VD
D	r. Deyaa Shehab	25722291	
D	r. Musaed Faraj Kha	amees	22666288
	Rhe	umatologist	s:
D	r. Adel Al-Awadi	25330060	
D	r. Khaled Al-Jaralla	h	25722290
Internist, Chest & Heart			
D	R.Mohammes Akka	ad	24555050 Ext 210
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	B, ChB, FRCPC, PAC		e
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Μ	ubarak Al-Kabeer I	Hospital	25339667
	Consul	tant Cardiol	ogist
_	r. Farida Al-Habib D, PH.D, FACC		2611555-2622555
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Lady Gaga's headpiece contained almost 50,000 Swarovski crystals

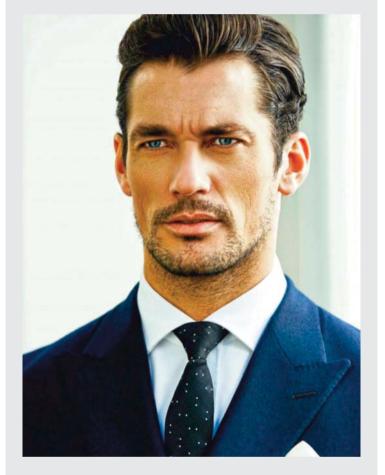
he 30-year-old singer songwriter who performed during this year's annual Victoria's Secret Fashion Show, which took place in the Grand Palais in Paris, France, on Wednesday - adorned five showstopping garments, but the black cowboy-style hat with beaded detail was emblazoned with 47,000 gems. According to WWD, the 'Bad Romance' hitmaker recruited the American hat shop Gladys Tamez Millinery and a team of 10 people to create the statement accessory, which took the creative masterminds 300 hours to make. However, this wasn't the first time the blonde beauty wore a garment from the store, as last month she adorned a white tailored suit, which she paired with a matching hat for the American Music Awards. Gaga had a number of costume changes during the show, including a sequinned jumpsuit, worn with and without sleeves, as well as teamed with a white leather jacket, and a black and red long dress, which was teamed with her very own angel wings, but has hinted her finale

ensemble was the most raunchy. The musician, who donned a stunning Azzedine Alaia sheer lace crop top and trousers set at the end of the lingerie show, has admitted her last outfit made her feel like an "affair". Alongside a photo of her on Instagram wearing the garment, she wrote: "A dress by @azzedinealaiaofficial worn for #vsfashionshow. Exquisite this piece, an affair really. Feels amazing in the City of Love in a dress made with so much of it.(sic)" The designer also created the gown she wore on the Pink Carpet ahead of the show, and Gaga was very grateful for his support. Alongside another image, she wrote: "Thank Monsieur ALAIA @azzedinealaiaofficial for my perfect Pink Carpet #vsfashionshow and Finale dress! I will always be grateful for not only your talent and generosity, but your simply stunning heart. there's only one ALAIA (sic)".



David Gandy works out 'five times a week' before a shoot

avid Gandy works out "five times a week" for two months prior to shooting a new campaign. The 36-year-old model who was announced as the face of Dolce and Gabbana's Light Blue fragrance for 10 years - has revealed prior to stripping down and shooting the commercials, the dark-haired hunk trains almost every day for a solid two months to be in his best shape. Speaking exclusively to BANG Showbiz about his fitness regime, the catwalk icon - who recently jetted to Mont Blanc to pose for the Autumn/Winter collection - said: "Dolce and Gabbana is out today that's the light blue we've been working for 10 years now, so the concept of that changed cause we did a winter commercial although it's always been in Capri and this time we did it 4,000 meters up on Mont Blanc, so it was quite unusual but it moves the story on. "It was a couple months of quite intense training. I've skied since I was six so the skiing thing was quite natural quite easy, which was good, it was just getting the body back into light blue as usual. "Well I train anyway, obviously, but when you're going into a shoot like that then you train probably a good two months before and go maybe 4 or 5 times a week." And the British hunk has likened his change in lifestyle to the routine of an athlete, because he has to alter his diet plan to include more protein. He added: "With the training you have to change your diet, so a lot more protein. It's almost like you're training like an athlete, so it takes about six weeks to get properly into shape for it for light blue or underwear commercials." Although David has admitted he has been active ever since he was a child, and didn't get into fitness because of his modeling career. He explained: "I've done sports since I was young and always trained. People may think I started from when I became a model, but it was years before. And a lot of it is for my mental state as well as my physical state, it's like I like to exercise wherever I am in the world. An hour in the gym is a great refresh and great to just release endorphin in different ways from being on your mobile phone for an hour. I'm not saying you have to go to the gym for six weeks, but when you've got something to build to its quite interesting." Meanwhile, David - who is the friend of the Jaguar brand attended the global reveal event in Los Angeles for the I-PACE, Jaguar's first all-electric car, which was revealed to guests using pioneering virtual reality technology.





ELIZABETH HURLEY'S MASK WILL BE SOLD TO CHARITY

lizabeth Hurley's Animal Ball mask is set to be sold to charity. The ■ 51-year-old actress wore a golden Georgia Hardinge Macaw head piece, accompanied with a stunning blue gown, to the Animal Ball event in London, which saw a number of dinners take place across the capital last month prior to the ball at Victoria House in London's Bloomsbury, and the extravagant Vero - the Animal Ball's social media partner - will sell the head piece alongside 11 other accessories, which depict a variety of endangered species, including the gorilla pop mask worn by model Lily Cole, the Ganesha elephant mask sported by Ellie Goulding, Princess Eugenie and Matthew Williamson's self made butterfly mask, as well as Charlotte Tilbury's showstopping peacock mask. The organization will see 100 per cent of the profits be donated to the Elephant Family charity, who protect endangered animals across the globe. Other popular masks for sale from the charity event are the Stripe a Pose Zebra mask by Philip Treacy, the Himalayan monal bird mask, the fashion mogul Jimmy Choo's oaxaca hummingbird piece and the turtle mask by Alice Temperley. And the organization have revealed they are "thrilled" they are able to give those who couldn't attend the star studded event, to still purchase and feel a part of the occasion by purchasing a mask and keeping it as a "momento". Speaking about the fundraising, Ruth Powys - who is the CEO of the Elephant Family - said: "Vero has been the perfect social media partner as it's allowed us to communicate privately with our patrons and ambassadors, as well as publicly with our supporters via a single app. "We love that Vero gives us the ability to deliver a fundraising first through social media purchasing. We're thrilled to be able to offer those unable to attend this year's ball, the chance to buy now and own an exclusive designer memento."





ylie Jenner has posed with a python for her sexy 2017 calendar. The 'Keeping Up with the Kardashians' star teased her social media followers with some of the shots from her 'Kylie Jenner 2017' calendar, and not only was she not afraid to flash the flesh for the shoot she was brave enough the left the giant snake lie over her as bared her bountiful butt. A post made on the official Kylie Shop Instagram account revealed the photo along with the caption: "KYLIE JENNER 2017 CALENDAR WITH @terryrichardson #December10 (sic)" Kylie, 19, also lived up to her former Snapchat name 'King Kylie' as on her own Instagram account she uploaded an image of her wearing a black crown along with the words: "The Official KYLIE JENNER 2017 calendar with @terryrichardson launches on KylieJennerShop.com December 10th all exclusive terry photos. Check out my snapchat for a preview xoxo ! (sic)" The 2017 calendar will be available to purchase from The Kylie Shop website from December 10 just in time for those looking for a Christmas gift for their Kylie-loving family and friends.





Hardy still hasn't got the tattoo DiCaprio designed for him

om Hardy still hasn't got the tattoo Leonardo DiCaprio designed for him, because his handwriting is "really sh***y". The 39-year-old actor lost a bet to the Hollywood legend when he claimed that he wouldn't be nominated for an Oscar for his role in 'The Revenant' - in which he plays adventurer John Fitzgerald who betrays Leonardo DiCaprio's frontiersman Hugh Glass - and whilst the penalty for losing the bet was to have a tattoo designed by DiCaprio, 42, inked onto his skin he is still waiting for a "proper" version to be drawn up. Speaking in December's issue of Esquire magazine, Tom said: "I haven't got [the tattoo] yet, because it sucks. "He wrote, in this really sh***y handwriting, 'Leo knows everything.' "I was like 'OK, I'll get it done but you have to write it properly." Whilst Hardy didn't pick up the gong for Best Supporting Actor, he previously dedicated his nomination to the production team who made the semi-biographi-

cal survival story happen. He said: "The nomination is for everybody that was in the cold, everyone who was in the wet. The film has been picked for them ultimately. It was a number of things, Leo called me, because Sean Penn wasn't available. The script, the director. "To be part of his team, I would facilitate whatever it is that he needs and it's a pleasure to do that for somebody who has got a smorgasbord of options that they've already come up with, that they're feeding you and you them. "It's wonderful to watch him (Leonardo) create and orchestrate himself on screen and also that carries through the entire ensemble. It's just lovely to be a team with somebody like that." Meanwhile, DiCaprio picked up his first ever Academy Award for his performance as Glass in the film, taking home the prize for Best Actor.



Kendra Wilkinson suffers from seasonal affective disorder

endra Wilkinson suffers from seasonal affective disorder (SAD). The 31year-old reality TV star has admitted she is currently coping with SAD, which is a specific type of depression that comes and goes according to the seasons of the year. She shared on Twitter: "I don't know about u guys but I feel crazy around the holidays. Moody n s**t. Maybe im like this year round n don't know tho. "Lack of vitamin D they say ... been gettin that extra D ... maybe I should actually take the vitamin tho. (sic)" The symptoms of SAD tend to be more severe during the winter months and can return in a repetitive pattern. The condition can cause sufferers to feel low, lose interest in normal everyday activities and feel lethargic. But Kendra revealed she was considering taking vitamin D supplements as a means of making up for the lack of sun during the winter months. She said: "Somehow they trap the sun rays in a pill n take it to supplement. I'll never understand. (sic)" In August, meanwhile, Kendra admitted to suffering from "empty nest syndrome" after her two-yearold daughter Alijah started school. The blonde beauty - who also has six-yearold son Hank with her husband Hank Baskett - previously insisted she had no ambitions to have a third child, but revealed she began to feel lonely and broody after her daughter started school. Asked about the possibility of having more children, she said: "I said, 'absolutely not,' but now our daughter just entered pre-school and that second that she went into the pre-school, I got empty nest syndrome already." Kendra - who previously was a live-in girlfriend of Playboy founder Hugh Hefner - and her husband were involved in a muchdiscussed cheating scandal in 2014, but they have since worked out their differences with the help of therapy. But Hank - who was alleged to have cheated on his wife with transgender YouTube model Ava Sabrina - was always convinced he was the right man for Kendra. He previously told Kendra: "No one will understand you and treat you like I do.' "I was like, 'You can go on out - me and the kids will still be here - so you can make your decision. I'll be here comfortable, but go play around if you want."

GOSSIP

David Hasselhoff has a Baywatch ringtone

64-year-old actor starred as Los Angeles County Lifeguard Mitch Buchannon in the iconic TV series - which also starred Pamela Anderson and Carmen Electra - and he is still proud of his association with the show by having the distinctive opening credits music on his phone, according to Boyzone singer Ronan Keating. The Irish pop star recently found himself stood behind Hasselhoff in a queue at an airport in London and shared the impromptu meeting on Twitter which exposed his ringtone of choice. Keating tweeted: "In the Q at Heathrow and @DavidHasselhoff is in front of you and his phone rings and his ring tone is Baywatch theme. #legend #Loveit (sic)" Hasselhoff retweeted Keating's message, before the chart-topping singer claimed he might follow the American's lead by having one of his own hit singles as his ringtone. He posted: "I might have to change my ringtone to "Life is a Rollercoaster"

avid Hasselhoff uses the 'Baywatch' theme tune as his ringtone. The 🛛 what ya think @DavidHasselhoff (sic)" Hasselhoff is poised to make a cameo appearance in the eagerly awaited 'Baywatch' movie, which is set for release in 2017. The Hoff's original role is to be played by Dwayne 'The Rock' Johnson, but the wrestler-turned-actor is delighted the Hollywood veteran has accepted a part in the film. Dwayne posted on Instagram earlier this year: "BAYWATCH is the most successful TV show of all time and from the day we announced we were turning it into a movie, 'The Hoff' has been our greatest supporter. Especially once he knew our RATED R movie was going to be a combination of AVENGERS meets ANCHORMAN. (sic)" Johnson also revealed Hasselhoff had been working hard in the gym to ensure he was ready for the movie. He said: "Hoff's a cool dude who's down to have fun and here's the best part ... He's been training his ass off and gotten in the best shape he's been in in years! (sic)"





MADONNA'S DAUGHTER IN GYMNASTICS SUCCESS

adonna's daughter won four medals at a gymnastics tournament. The 58-year-old singer cheered on 10year-old Mercy as she took part in the event, and the youngster cleared up by winning a multitude of prizes for her efforts. Madonna took to her Instagram account to share a snap of her daughter complete with her four medals, adding the caption: "Mercy James takes home 4 Medals! (sic)" The 'Hung Up' hitmaker - who also has kids Lourdes, 20, Rocco, 16, and David, 11 - also posted a picture of Mercy and some of her team-mates standing on a podium celebrating their success with their hands clasped together while up in the air. She wrote: "Go Mercy James!!! It's all about team Work! (sic)" It's not the first time Madonna has shown off Mercy's gymnastics talents to the world. In March, the pop star shared an Instagram video of the youngster doing some impressive cartwheels in New Zealand during some downtime from her 'Rebel Heart Tour'. She added the caption: "Mercy flies in New Zealand! What a beautiful magical place! Thank you for having us! (sic)" This comes just days after Rocco took to Instagram to admit he is "so glad" he no longer lives with Madonna. Rocco shared a video of his family - including Madonna, David and Mercy - taking part in the Mannequin Challenge, which requires the participants to stay completely still while being filmed. In the post, which has now been deleted, Madonna was seen with food hanging out of her mouth as she froze mid-meal. The video footage was captioned: "So glad I don't live here anymore."

Sean Penn's alleged stalker has been arrested

he unnamed woman was allegedly picked up by police in Malibu last week after she visited the home of the 56-year-old actor twice in two days. TMZ has reported that Sean claims the 51-year-old woman had "tried to contact him about 50 times this year by phone or email". The website also reports that during the woman's first visit last week the 'Dead Man Walking' actor was inside his residence and contacted the police at the time to file a report. During the second visit, it was reported that someone else called the police and the woman was allegedly arrested for felony stalking. The website claims it is unknown whether or not the actor was at home at the time of the alleged arrest. The woman is said to have believed she was in a romantic relationship with the 'Mystic River' star. The day after her alleged arrest, she was

released on \$150,000 bail. And the unnamed woman isn't the only one showing her affection to Sean either, as his ex-wife Madonna - who he was married to for four years before their divorce in 1989 - recently confessed she was "still in love" with the 'I Am Sam' actor. Speaking to Sean on stage at a fundraiser in Malawi, the star said: "I'm still in love with you. Yes. In fact, I think I love you more now that we're divorced." The 'Like A Virgin' hitmaker also professed her love for the actor at another benefit gala in January. The 58-year-old singer said: "I want to say, Sean, that I love you from the moment that I laid eyes on you and I still love you just the same. I just wish you'd stop smoking so many cigarettes."





igi Hadid gets "choked up" every time she thinks of the Victoria's Secret Fashion Show. The 21-year-old model - who graced the runway last week in the lingerie giants annual catwalk show, which is set to air on Monday on the American broadcasting channel CBS - has admitted she feels overwhelmed with pride and gets tearful when she thinks about her runway appearance and of her fellow models who gained their angel wings for the first time. Alongside a picture of the style icon sporting a pair of black angel wings prior to hitting the runway on November 30 in Paris, France, which she shared on her Instagram account, she wrote: "I can't look at this photo or think about all my angelic friends putting their wings on for the first time without getting choked up with tears of pride. My excitement is too real! Catch us out of our rehearsal clothes TOMORROW night on CBS! @victoriassecret#vsfs2016 (sic)." And the blonde beauty has credited the annual showcase for the fashion house as the "show of my dreams" because she always feels inspired by her fellow models and the creative team behind the show. Speaking previously the star - who is currently dating Zayn Malik - she said: "Forever and always the show of my dreams. @victoriassecret "If I could send, through the phone, the energy and emotion that filled the breathtaking Grand Palais as the music started, it would send chills down your spine. I will never be able to put into words how much being

Gigi gets 'choked up' thinking of the Victoria's Secret show





Olly Murs worries he'll always be single

lly Murs is worried he'll never meet the "right" woman. The 32-year-old singer - who split with his ex-girlfriend Francesca Thomas, 27, in 2015 after three years - has revealed that his deepest fear is he'll never settle down and get married and have children. He shared: "What's my deepest fear? Personally, never meeting the right person, getting married and having kids. "I'm sure I could get married and have kids but I hope it's with the right person - that's my only fear. Obviously, there are much bigger things to be fearful of in the world." The 'You Don't Know Love' hitmaker has begun to use different social media platforms to try and find potential dates as he thinks it's an "easy" way to meet ladies. Speaking to the Metro newspaper, he said: "I've been on a few dates. You've got Twitter, Instagram, all these different social platforms. I'm not saying I need them to meet girls but it's easy to meet different people." The pop star also revealed that he wasn't putting up "any barriers" in the search for a new lover and would be happy to date another celebrity or a regular girl. He added: "I always felt like nah, I'd rather date a normal a girl, which I did. But you never know in this job whoever you meet along the way. If you connect with someone who happens to be doing the same job as you, that's amazing. It could be anyone, a random girl walking down the street. I wouldn't put a barrier up." Olly's comments follow on from his previous admission that he isn't a fan of casual relationships or one night stands. He said: "People would suspect that because I'm a pop star I'd be sleeping with different girls every week but that's not the kind of person I am. I'm no slapper! "Of course, when I was younger and not interested in a serious relationship, I had a lot of fun but I'm not that kind of person now."

Mariah Carey had wedding delay guilt

ariah Carey worried about "disappointing" James Packer when she postponed their wedding. The Hero' hitmaker and her manager Stella were concerned that juggling plans for the nuptials - which were ultimately cancelled as the couple split in October - with her European tour were too stressful, so felt it for the best to delay the ceremony until Mariah's professional commitments were fulfilled. Stella asked: "I feel like you'll be putting your professional life before your personal life and it makes me feel bad but dare I say, do you postpone the wedding?" Mariah admitted: "It is slightly overwhelming because we are pretty much putting together this entire tour in two weeks. You know...there's a lot to think about." Later in the opening episode of the 46-year-old star's new reality show, 'Mariah's World', Mariah said: "I just...I don't...I don't know because he keeps asking what we're doing with the dates and when he asks...I don't want to disappoint him and I feel really bad. "And so now I'm sitting here going, 'How do I even do this?' " Stella reassured her client that the Australian billionaire loves her "so much" and is always "supportive" of her decisions, prompting Mariah to say: "OK, maybe we do the tour and then figure it out afterwards and do it right. You know it's not an easy call to make. "This is a hard decision to make, I'm not sitting around like, 'Oh just blow off the wedding.' I'm sitting here going, 'How am I supposed to fulfill my professional obligations and not disappoint James?" Mariah then called James to break the news, and later admitted: "I feel bad because I know I've disappointed James by postponing the wedding. But what I need to focus on right now is this tour." But it wasn't just because of the tour that Stella wanted the 'Fantasy' hitmaker to delay the wedding, as she also had concerns about the pre-nuptial agreement the businessman had had drawn up. She admitted: "I'm actually relieved that Mariah wants to postpone her wedding because I've been dealing with this pre-nup and it's definitely not the most romantic thing I've read I'll tell you that. "So I feel like we should meet our professional obligations first before jumping into any personal commitments at this moment." After the couple split, it was revealed the document included clauses that James would not pay for clothes for Mariah and her ex-husband Nick Cannon's fiveyear-old twins Moroccan and Monroe, any gift worth over \$250,000 had to be accompanied by a note stating it was a present or the giver retained ownership, and the investor had to approve the 'One Sweet Day' singer's requests to use a private jet for her own use.

in this show means to me and how inspired I am by the people I get to work with. Thank you@ed_razek for believing in me and having me again and for putting so much heart into everything you do.@10magazine @johndavidpfeiffer@monica.mitro and everyone behind the scenes who has put so much time into#VSFS2016, you are so amazing and so appreciated. Can't wait to share this magical show with the world on December 5th! (sic)."



LITTLE MIX 'IN TALKS' FOR TELL-ALL DOCUMENTARY

ittle Mix are "in talks" for a documentary about their lives. The 'Shout Out to My Ex' hitmakers - comprised ■of Perrie Edwards, Jesy Nelson, Jade Thirlwall, and Leigh-Anne Pinnock - are set to tell all in the new television show, which aims to detail their "personalities" and give fans an insight into their lives outside of the music industry. Jesy, 25, told the Daily Mirror newspaper: "We are in talks at the moment. We really want to do a documentary as we feel people do not know much about us. "They know our songs and have seen us perform but they don't know our personalities, so we would love to do a documentary. "We want to get someone to follow us around on this whole tour for a whole year." But Leigh-Anne, also 25, is concerned they won't enjoy having cameras following them everywhere they go, but admits it "will be good" for fans to get a first hand look at the "drama" in their lives.

She told the publication: "Maybe we are saying this now but when it comes to it and the camera is being rammed in our faces we will be like, 'Leave us alone'. "And the drama. There is always drama in our lives. "Honestly we actually don't ever get it on camera, do we? So that will be good for people to see that." The documentary is expected to be filmed in fly-on-the-wall style, meaning the cameras will be present in the room whilst the girls talk as they normally would. Documentary bosses are hoping this will help lift the lid on Jesy's recent claimed there was "no going back" for the pair. An insider said previously: "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."

MUSIC & MOVIES

Bob Dylan sends speech for Nobel ceremony

along a speech to be read aloud, the Nobel foundation said yesterday. The 75-year-old, whose lyrics have influenced generations of fans, has had a subdued response to the honor, remaining silent for weeks following the news in October he had won the prize for literature. "This year's Laureate in Literature, Bob Dylan, will not be participating in the Nobel Week but he has provided a speech which will be read at the banquet," the foundation said in a statement. Sending along the speech does not exempt the American songwriter from holding a lecture at a place and a type of his choosing, the only requirement by the Nobel foundation.

Rock legend Patti Smith will perform a version of Dylan's "A Hard Rain's A-Gonna Fall" at the ceremony on December 10 in Stockholm, which is the same day as the banquet. Dylan said

usic icon Bob Dylan won't be at the Nobel prize cere- in a letter on November 16 that he would not attend the ceremony this week to accept his award, but he has sent mony because he had "pre-existing commitments", in an announcement that did not come as a surprise to observers. Several other prize winners have skipped the Nobel ceremony in the past for various reasons-Doris Lessing, who was too old; Harold Pinter, because he was hospitalized, and Elfriede Jelinek, who has social phobia.

Dylan did not say a word about his prize on the day it was announced, October 13, when he was performing in Las Vegas. The writer of "Blowin' In The Wind", "Like A Rolling Stone", and "Mr Tambourine Man" confined himself to his songs. The Swedish Academy said it respected Dylan's decision, but that it was "unusual" for a Nobel laureate not to come to Stockholm to accept the award in person. Asked on October 28 by Britain's Daily Telegraph newspaper if he would attend the Nobel prize winners' banquet, Dylan said:

"Absolutely. If it's at all possible."

Academy member Swedish writer Per Wastberg accused Dylan of being "impolite and arrogant", and said it was "unprecedented" that the academy did not know if Dylan intended to pick up his award. But the first songwriter to win the prestigious award in literature is expected to come to Stockholm early next year. Nobel laureates are honored every vear on December 10 -- the anniversary of the death of prize's founder Alfred Nobel, a Swedish industrialist, inventor and philanthropist. The value of the prestigious award this year amounts to 8 million kronor (\$870,000). — AFP

> In this file photo, Bob Dylan accepts the 2015 MusiCares Person of the Year award at the 2015 MusiCares Person of the Year show in Los Angeles. —AP





Members of the band Kings of Leon, from left, Matthew Followill, Caleb Followill, Nathan Followill and Jared Followill arrive at the State Department for the Kennedy Center Honors gala dinner.



arrives with his family, from left, Ben Schmit, Jeddrah Leiterding, Owen Schmit, and Jean Schmit at the State Department for the Kennedy Center Honors gala dinner on Saturday.



Kennedy Center Honoree Timothy Schmit, center, of the Eagles Kennedy Center Honoree Joe Walsh, third from left, of the Eagles arrives with from left, Christian Quilici, Lucy Walsh, Marjorie Bach, Ringo Starr and Barbara Bach.

Bittersweet gala honors Pacino, Eagles, Taylor



l Pacino, The Eagles, James Taylor, gospel and blues singer Mavis Staples and Argentine pianist Martha Argerich were celebrated Sunday for their lifetime achievements at the last major arts gala attended by President Barack Obama and his wife Michelle. It was a bittersweet moment, with Obama making one of his final goodbyes to celebrated artists as president. The first couple received a long standing ovation as they entered the Opera House of the Kennedy Center, a monument to the late president John F Kennedy. As he kicked off the evening, host Stephen Colbert said America was lucky to have a "passionate, intelligent and dignified" president.

ty deposit" back. Founding member Glenn Frey died in January, and his prior illness caused The Eagles to postpone their awards last year. So Don Henley, Timothy Schmit and Joe Walsh received the medallions and rainbow-colored ribbons, as did Frey's widow Cindy over the weekend. Band manager Irving Azoff couldn't hold back tears as he raised a glass to Frey during Saturday's State Department reception. "For our Eagles family, 2016 couldn't have had a harder beginning or a more appropriate ending," he said.

Grammy Award-winner Juanes gave a stunning performance of "Hotel California" with guisang at Kennedy's inauguration. Argerich, 75, is widely considered one of the world's best, if reclusive, living pianists.

For nearly two decades, she largely shunned solo performances, playing almost exclusively with orchestras and chamber ensembles, until a sold-out recital at Carnegie Hall in New York in 2000. "I was surprised. I didn't think I was entitled," Argerich, who is famously wary of publicity, said of learning she had won the award. Academy Award nominee Don Cheadle hailed Pacino's humility despite a long and storied career that has seen him perform in some 100 films and

President Barack Obama and first lady Michelle Obama arrive for a reception to honor recipients of the 2016 Kennedy Center Honors in the East Room of the White House in Washington.



President Barack Obama and first lady Michelle Obama, with recipient of the 2016 Kennedy Center Honor award blues singer Mavis Staples, applaud during the Kennedy Center Honors gala.

That brought applause and by far the longest

standing ovation from the sold-out crowd in the Opera House, paneled in dark red woven fabric under a massive Lobmeyr crystal chandelier gifted by Austria. Colbert then joked: "Sir, I don't know why you stood up. I was talking about Michelle." "This is a joyous day. It's the best Christmas present!" Staples told AFP on the red carpet about receiving what is considered the nation's highest honor for lifetime achievements in the performing arts. At 77, Staples lives up to the maxim that age is only a number. "People ask me, 'Mavis, when are you going to retire?' Retire for what? I love what I'm doing and I intend to sing until I can't sing no more, forever," she said.

Aretha Franklin, Sean Penn, Kevin Spacey and Ringo Starr were among a series of surprise A-listers-the awardees are notoriously kept in the black about who will pay tribute to them prior to the event-who serenaded and hailed the legacy of the award recipients. Virtuoso Israeli-American violinist Itzhak Perlman, now wheelchair-bound, and 29-year-old Chinese pianist Yuja Wang played on the huge stage in honor of Argerich, with Perlman saying he felt lucky to have been alive during her time.

Obamas celebrated

At an earlier reception at the White House, Obama called the awards "one of the perks of the job that I will miss." Kennedy Center chairman David Rubenstein thanked the Obamas, who have hosted a reception for the honorees and attended the gala for eight years, and offered them a "golden ticket" for free admission to any event at the national arts center. But there's a catch. "Parking is extra," he guipped. Obama jokingly asked Eagles guitarist Joe Walsh, a notorious troublemaker, not to trash the White House because he is leaving soon and wants his "securi-



Teresa Heinz Kerry, front row, from left, Kennedy Center Honorees Al Pacino, Mavis Staples, Martha Argerich, James Taylor, and Kennedy Center President Deborah Rutter; rear row, from left, Secretary of State John Kerry, Kennedy Center Honorees Joe Walsh, Don Henley, and Timothy Schmit, and David Rubinstein are photographed following the State Department for the Kennedy Center Honors gala dinner, Saturday in Washington. — AP photos

tarist Steve Vai, who spoke of the "surreal" experience of playing the piece's famed guitar riff in front of the musicians. Garth Brooks, Sheryl Crow and Darius Rucker played some of Taylor's best hits, including "Carolina in my Mind" and "Sweet Baby James." Taylor, 68, performed "America the Beautiful" at Obama's second inauguration in January 2013, while Staples, who like none other provided the music of the civil rights movement,

plays, including "The Godfather," "Scarface, "Sea of Love," "Heat" and "Scent of a Woman." Kevin Spacey said Pacino "immerses us in his characters so we can experience the humanness in monsters and the monstrosities in humans."— AFP



This image released by Disney shows characters Maui, voiced by Dwayne Johnson, right, and Moana, voiced by Auliíi Cravalho, in a scene from the animated film, 'Moana.' - AP

Disney touts French-speaking African market with 'Moana'

he Walt Disney Company is set to expand its footprint across French-speaking Africa. The company is hosting the screening of "Moana" - dubbed in Arabic — at the Marrakech Film Festival today. "Moana" marks the first Disney movie to be shown at the festival and the first Disney film to be dubbed in Arabic in the Magrehb, which includes Morocco, Tunisia and Algeria. Disney has traditionally limited Arabic dubbing to Middle-Eastern countries. Audiences in former French colonies - Morocco, Tunisia and Algeria — only had access to Disney movies dubbed in French up until now, even though Arabic is increasingly considered the primary spoken language.

The move is part of Disney's strategic push into Frenchspeaking Africa, a market boasting a fast-growing middle-class and young consumers who often have a taste for Hollywood films as well as family entertainment and merchandising. Within the next year, Disney will aim at expanding the scope of its

releases in French-speaking Africa (spanning Abidjan, Ivory Coast, Gabon Tunisia, Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia), anticipating the growth of the theatrical landscape. France's largest cinema circuit, the Gaumont-Pathe theater chain, is expected to launch in the region next year.

Just last week, The Walt Disney Company inked a multi-deal with Canal Plus to distribute its films and TV series (from Marvel Studios, Disney Pixar, Lucas Film and Studio Ghibli) on Canal Plus channels in Africa and well as to distribute Disney's four channels, in exclusivity. Disney also just sold first-run rights to the ABC Studios-produced hit show "Black-ish" to Afrostream, the subscription-based VOD service dedicated to African-American, African and Caribbean films. — Reuters

Russian film sparks uproar by glorifying Soviet WWII 'myth'

n a controversial new Russian film, 28 Soviet soldiers facing sure death singlehandedly defend the frontline outside Moscow against an onslaught of Nazi tanks in 1941. "Everything's clear here-the enemy is over there, and Moscow is back there," says one soldier in the film "The Panfilov 28." But the events are far from clear cut and the film about a legendary unit of soldiers written into the pantheon of national heroism has sparked an angry debate. A top historian says the derring-do depicted in the film-which received generous state funding and is playing in more than 1,000 theatres across the country-was in fact concocted by Soviet propagandists.

Culture Minister Vladimir Medinsky has launched a scathing attack on doubters. "They are trying to knock away the foundations of our faith in things that are absolutely set in stone and holy," Medinsky said on television. "Even if this story was invented from start to finish... this is a holy legend, which is simply untouchable. And people who do this are the scum of the earth," he told journalists, according to RIA Novosti news agency. The film recounts the story of the outgunned and outmanned Panfilov rifle division, which was defending Moscow's western front. According to the official version, after suffering heavy losses, only 28 soldiers were left to fight with no possibility of getting reinforcements, knowing they would die. The 28 were collectively endowed with the title Hero of the Soviet Union.

'Made up heroes'

The head of Russia's State Archive, historian Sergei Mironenko, was one of those who spoke out as the film was being shot last year. He posted a Soviet military prosecutor's report from 1948 that called the story "invented." The Soviets launched a probe after noticing that five of the 28 were still alive and one had surrendered to



A security staff member walks past posters promoting the new Russian film "The Panfilov 28" in a cinema in Moscow. — AFP photos

the Nazis, but kept the report top secret. There was indeed fighting and more than 100 died, but the story of the 28 comes only from an army newspaper article, Mironenko told Kommersant daily. "The problem with the Soviet regime was that made up heroes were a lot more important than real ones," he said. Mironenko, who had been in his post since 1992, left it for a less senior role shortly after he cast doubt on the Panfilov story. Another historian, Andrei Isayev, who has written numerous books on World War II, told Lenta.ru news site that the official account has "no basis." Moscow still has a street named after these soldiers.

'Moral guide'

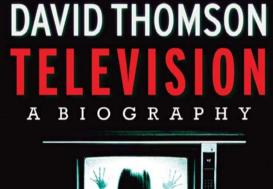
In central Moscow, wartime songs boom from speakers at the opening of a street art-

Producer and scenarist Andrei Shalopa poses for photographers during a preview of the new Russian film "The Panfilov 28" in a cinema in Moscow.

style painting promoting the film. Vladislav Kononov, the executive chief of the Russian Military History Society, who attended the event, said he had little time for sceptics. The society-founded by President Vladimir Putin and chaired by Medinsky helped with research for the film and is now helping promote it. Kononov calls the incident a "legend" and a "moral guide" for generations, while acknowledging that "possibly there weren't 28 of them (and) possibly they didn't all die."

"The fact that they carried out a feat of courage and endurance, that should not be under any doubt," he said. "Leave history to the historians." Producer and scenarist Andrei Shalopa agreed, saying that "in reality, there's no doubt that it happened." He blamed what he called "attempts to debunk national achievements that started back in the 1990s." Putin, who created a commission tasked with preventing the "distortion of Russian history" and was one of the first to view the film, has condemned what he calls the "falsification of history" by those challenging it.

It is the latest in a series of patriotic war films made with state funding and aimed at youth audiences. Last year, the film "Battle for Sevastopol" about a female sniper earned \$7 million (6.6 million euros) in cinemas, according to the Exhibitors' Bulletin trade journal. "Stalingrad," a special-effects-heavy drama about the long-running eponymous WWII battle, also earned more than \$25 million in 2015. At a recent showing of the Panfilov 28 film in Moscow, the audience applauded at the end, some in tears. "We all remember this and we are proud, even the young generation," said 27year-old Ksenia. The film made 154 million rubles (\$2.4 million) in its first weekend. Unusually for a Russian film, the makers used online crowdfunding to get some of their initial financing. This contributed some \$536,000 - or a fifth of the budget, Shalopa said, and the donors are all listed on the credits. — AFP



"In of fro Wd Foi is 4 md Bei He Ch will

The whole 'vast wasteland' of our beloved, hated television " —KEN BURN

BBC Earth Film series to get China releases

our medium length movies from BBC Earth are to get non-commercial theatrical release in China. "Tiny Giants," "Wild Africa," "Earthflight" and "Incredible Predators" will have distribution on a network of giant screens at science and technology museums from January. The move follows a deal between BBC Worldwide and Orient International Holding Shanghai Foreign Trade Co and Wuhan DDMC Culture Co. Each film is 40 minutes long and will enjoy runs of between six months and a year in mainland Chinese cities including Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou, Hangzhou, Shenyang and Hefei, as well as in Hong Kong.

"Visitors to science and technology museums all over China will have access to the four BBC Earth films that will allow viewers to envelop themselves in the larger than life, immersive experience of the 2D Dome and 3D giant screen formats," said Kelvin Yau, BBC Worldwide's GM, Greater China. "Earthflight" shows some of the world's greatest natural spectacles from a bird's-eye view. "Wild Africa," narrated by Helena Bonham Carter, discovers how water shapes all life. "Incredible Predators" delves into the interactions between predators and their prey. — Reuters

'Last Tango in Paris' rape scene revelation sparks outrage

ast Tango in Paris" is making headlines again 44 years after the controversial film came out. A recently unearthed video interview with Italian director Bernardo Bertolucci from 2013 has renewed interest, and outrage, over what happened to actress Maria Schneider on set during the infamous butter rape scene. Bertolucci said that neither he nor Marlon Brando told Schneider of their plans to use the stick of butter during the simulated rape scene - a concept they came up with the morning of the shoot because he wanted her to react "as a girl not as an actress." He

wanted her, he said, to feel "the rage and the humiliation." Schneider, who died in 2011 at age 58 after a lengthy illness, spoke a number of times about the scene between her, then aged 19, and Marlon Brando, then 48, even saying in a 2007 Daily Mail interview that she "felt a little raped" by her co-star and director. "They only told me about it before we had to film the scene, and I was so angry," Schneider said. "I should have called my agent or had my lawyer come to the set because you can't force someone to do something that tor planned her attack." Filmmaker Ava DuVernay called it "inexcusable." "As a director, I can barely fathom this. As a woman, I am horrified, disgusted and enraged by it," DuVernay wrote.—AP



Thames & Hudson

A SEASONED FILM CRITIC EYES TV IN 'TELEVISION: A BIOGRAPHY'

t 75, David Thomson is the sultan of cinema criticism. British-born but long based in America, he is the author of nearly two dozen film-related books including "Moments that Made the Movies," "'Have You Seen ...?': A Personal Introduction to 1,000 Films" and "The New Biographical Dictionary of Film." Now Thomson has switched his gaze, and his analysis, to the TV medium. In "Television: A Biography" (Thames & Hudson, \$34.95), he focuses on TV from its individual genres to its broad social impact during the past 70 years. As ever, his writing is bright, puckish and reader-friendly. At 400 pages, the book is a bit weighty, but not the prose. But what made Thomson, who had never before put his take on TV between covers, decide to change channels? During a recent interview, he explained. "I was at a point where I felt that the movies were not really going anywhere very exciting, and that if you were looking for the best American movies, you probably needed to look at television. 'The Wire, 'The Sopranos,' 'Breaking Bad' - they were so much more ambitious than anything made for theaters. So I began to develop an historical perspective on TV that I had had on the movies for a long time. I'm much more interested now in thinking about and writing about TV than the movies."

A viewer's book

"You may have watched a lot of TV but never thought systematically about it. I wanted to do a book which would give you a sense that the totality of the medium had been addressed. Not covered, but addressed. And if you have never watched television, after you read this book I think you can say, 'I understand what television is."

A different creature

"Our relationship with TV is different than with almost any medium we've had before. It's all well and good for something on TV to be so riveting that you don't want to miss a moment. But when you tune in to watch one show, you may end up just watching TV overall. There's such a lot on television that is sort of tidal - it just washes in and out, over you. You turn it on like you would turn on a light, and you may be doing other things. But even if you're not watching, it enters into you in ambient ways."

Short list

Thomson, film's consummate list-maker, shared "off the top of my head" a few pick TV hits: "Monty Python's Flying Circus" ... the BBC version of "The Singing Detective" ... live coverage of the funeral of President John F. Kennedy ... "Rowan & Martin's Laugh-In" ... "a couple of episodes of 'All in the Family' where Edith is just sublime" ... the ESPN documentary series "O.J.: Made in America," which he calls "a major work" ... and, of course, "Breaking Bad." "But this time tomorrow," he cautions, "I would revise the whole list."

TV president

"With Donald Trump in the White House, I think we're going to get more of the same as with the campaign: His administration will have to be judged as an ongoing TV show. He is a television person, so I think it's going to be a presidency of shows and moments. My instinct is, in terms of policy, he's doing to be dreadfully disappointing to his supporters. But on TV, I think it's going to be amazing - until it becomes grotesque."—AP isn't in the script. But at the time, I didn't know that."

But despite Schneider's past comments, the video interview with Bertolucci struck a chord this weekend as it circulated on social media that the director was admitting that the scene was non-consensual. Actress Jessica Chastain wrote on Twitter that she felt "sick" over the revelation that "the direc-

In this file photo, director Bernardo Bertolucci poses for photographers during a photo call at the Rome Film festival in Rome. — AP

Marrakech Film Festival remembers Iranian master Abbas Kiarostami

ranian master Abbas Kiarostami, who passed earlier this year, was celebrated at Marrakech Film Festival during a moving hommage hosted by his son, Ahmad Kiarostami, on Saturday evening. Speaking about his father's uncompromising love of life, Kiarostami told Marrakech audiences that someone once asked his dad what he would choose between living without his work or his work existing without him. "He said he'd choose his own existence over his films. That's how much he loved his life," said Ahmad Kiarostami.

"Now he's gone but he is with us with his films, his photography, his poetry, and hundreds of people he has trained in his master classes all around the world, and I see all these different events and tributes around the world, and all of you are here, as a continuation of his presence," said the director's son. "When he came, he came, when he was there, he was there, when he left, he was there," said Ahmad Kiarostami, reading one of his father's poems.

The speech drew a long ovation and was followed by the screening of Kiarostami's black-and-white wordless short film "Take Me Home," which he lensed in Southern Italy. Kiarostami headed Marrakech Film Festival's jury in 2009 and returned last year to deliver a master class. Credited for giving Iranian cinema an international profile and paving the way for other filmmakers in Iran and elsewhere with his poetry-filled, singular movies, Kiarostami died at age 76 in July. Although the media attributed Kiarostami's death to a cancer, the director's closed ones said he died of a stroke, four months after getting a surgery at a Tehran hospital. At the time of his death, Kiarostami was developing "24 Frames," an experimental film based on 24 four-and-a-half minute films that he had been directing over the last three years. — Reuters



French director Jan Kounen (center-left) presents a lifetime achievement award to Japanese director Shinya Asuka Tsukamoto (center-right) during the 16th Marrakech International Film Festival in Marrakesh, Morocco. — AFP photos



Katia Toledano and Sidney Toledano



Laetitia Bleger and Christophe Guillaume



Mathilde Meyer and Marisa Berenson



A model named feebee poses as part of art installation 'Narcissism : Dazzle room' made by artist Shigeki Matsuyama at rooms33 fashion and design exhibition in Tokyo on Sept 14, 2016. Matsuyama's installation featured a strong contrast of black and white, which he learned from dazzle camouflage used mainly in World War I. — AP

Cyprus minority sees chance to save ancient language



n a village in northern Cyprus, a community struggling to save its ancient language has seen a glimmer of hope in intensified efforts to reunify the divided island. Kormakitis was once the hub of Cyprus's Maronite minority, descendants of Syrian and Lebanese Christians who spoke Sanna, a unique dialect of Arabic influenced by the Aramaic spoken by Jesus. The language is now severely stay in the village despite living outside the Turkish-controlled part of the island, young Maronites have attended Sanna classes at a summer camp there every August since 2008. In sunbaked sandstone chapels and whitewashed bungalows around the small main square, around 100 children aged five to 17 took part in this year's camp. They learnt basics from the alphabet-codi-



A maronite woman attends a mass at the St George chapel near the village of Kormakitis in the Turkish-controlled northern part of Cyprus.

endangered, according to UNESCO. Uprooted by the 1974 Turkish invasion of Cyprus, many Maronites assimilated into Greek Cypriot communities where they sought shelter.

They have seen fresh hope in recent months as the Greek and Turkish Cypriot leaders intensified their efforts to reunite the island. Talks in Switzerland ended on November 21 with no breakthrough, but the leaders have since agreed to resume negotiations and are due to meet again in Geneva in January. The Maronites hope a deal could eventually encourage the community to return to live in northern Cyprus. That could help revive Sanna, which is in decline despite years of classes, the efforts of NGOs and an annual summer school in the village.

"The problem is that because we have lost our village it's very difficult to keep our language," teacher Katy Foradari said, taking a break from teaching Sanna under the vaulted ceiling of an 18th century church in Kormakitis. Able to visit and



A picture shows an Aramaic language course in the Cypriot capital Nicosia.

fied for the first time only a few years ago-to songs, vocabulary and grammar.

'Losing our language'

Making up less than one percent of the island's population, Maronites are a branch of the Catholic church and have been in Cyprus since the eighth century. Like many of the volunteers at the school, Foradari grew up in Kormakitis, the largest of the island's four Maronite villages and the last where Sanna was spoken. But when she was 16, Turkey occupied the northern third of Cyprus after an Athens-backed coup in the capital Nicosia. She and most of the community fled to the south, leaving their homes behind.

They established Maronite churches in their new communities, with parts of services still given in the ancient Semitic language of Syriac -- like their more numerous counterparts in Syria and Lebanon. But Sanna did not weather the displacement well. Because Maronite children do not go to school in Kormakitis, "we have started losing our language," Foradari said. "We are used to speaking Greek." A few hundred, mostly elderly, residents remained in the village after 1974, using Sanna in their daily life and helping out with the summer camp. But of nearly 5,000 Maronites living across the island today, only around 1,000 speak Sanna. Some of them see the peace talks as the best hope in years for reviving their language.

For Yiannakis Mousas, the community's representative to the parliament, only a solution to the Cyprus dispute can save Sanna. "Only through the return of the Maronite people, of their property, of their schools, of their churches, only in this way do we have a good chance to revive the language," he told AFP.

'A new beginning'

Since 1974, Mousas and many other Maronites have been based in Nicosia, the island's divided capital. They have a modern church and a small social club named after Kormakitis, where they sip coffee a few hundred yards from the UN buffer zone that splits the old town. Mousas said reunifying the island would encourage young Maronites to move to their villages, where they would hear Sanna spoken daily, encouraging them to adopt it again. "Once the Maronites are resettled to their villages, there will be a new beginning," he said.

But the latest talks produced no concrete results, and the memory of previous, failed negotiations looms over ongoing efforts to reach a solution. The community is teaching Sanna as usual, with classes at Nicosia's Maronite primary school and more summer camps planned. "We have to create projects like this camp where we combine learning the language with entertainment," said Antonis Skoullos, an IT expert in his 40s who helps organize the Kormakitis language school. He recognized the need to make Sanna appealing to young people who had no memory of living in Kormakitis. But nostalgic for the village he fled as a young boy, he admitted his motivation to revive the language was more personal than practical. "Behind this language are my memories and my feelings," he said. — AFP

Maronites attend a mass at the St George chapel near the village of Kormakitis in the Turkish-controlled northern part of Cyprus.



Maronite Archbishop of Cyprus Joseph Soueif leads a mass at the St George chapel in the village of Kormakitis in the Turkish-controlled northern part of Cyprus.



A picture shows an Aramaic language course on November, 4, 2016 in the Cypriot capital Nicosia. — AFP photos

Swiss restaurant still in world's top 10 despite chef's suicide

The Swiss restaurant named the best in the world last year remained in the top 10 of the La Liste ranking yesterday despite the tragic loss of its star chef who killed himself weeks after lifting the honor. The Restaurant de l'Hotel de Ville at Crissier near Lausanne came joint fourth in the latest French-based guides aggregator, which claims to be more "more scientific and reliable" than its British-based rival, the 50 Best Restaurants. Benoit Violier, 44, shot himself in January seven weeks after receiving the award, but his widow Brigitte vowed that the restaurant

would remain open.

It has also since retained its maximum three-star Michelin Guide rating. While French chef Guy Savoy topped this year's rankings for his Paris restaurant in la Monnaie, the old French national mint, Japanese restaurants came out on top overall. Two Tokyo institutions made the top 10: the minuscule Kyo Aji, and Kyubey, whose sushi is renowned for being both "extraordinary and reasonably priced", La Liste said. Two New York restaurants were up there alongside them, double Emmy-award-winning US television chef Eric Ripert's Le Bernardin fish restaurant-which came joint second-and Jean-Georges in Trump Tower. Italy's Osteria Francescana in Modena-which topped the 50 Best rankings came joint third in La Liste, which praised not only its inventive use of the local Parmigiano Reggiano cheese but also "its deep commitment to fighting food waste".

Restaurants in Italy also came out best overall for value for money, it said. La Liste bills itself as a "guide of the guides", pulling together reviews from almost 400 guidebooks, newspapers and online sites from TripAdvisor to the New York Times and the prestigious Michelin rankings. An aggregator, its list of the 1,000 top-rated restaurants in the world is modeled on the world tennis rankings, the Shanghai Ranking for universities-and film reviews website Rotten Tomatoes. This year it has added a smartphone application for the 10,000 eateries which its analysis found to be the best value for money. — AFP