

RABI AL-AWWAL 13, 1438 AH

THE FIRST DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF

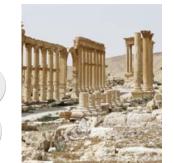
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Russia new tourist hotspot for **Kuwaitis**

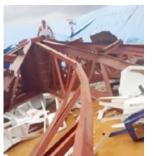


MONDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2016





At least 160 killed as Nigeria church collapses



Kuwait Times infographic: **NBA** Power Rankings





AMIR TELLS NEW ASSEMBLY SPENDING CUTS INEVITABLE

GHANEM REELECTED SPEAKER. KANDARI DEPUTY • OPPOSITION SHUT OUT

Min 06° **Max** 17° **High Tide** 10:55 & 22:01 Low Tide 04:25 & 16:18



KUWAIT: HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah pose for a group photo with members of the new National Assembly yesterday. — Amiri Diwan



By B Izzak

KUWAIT: HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah told the new National Assembly's inaugural session that cuts in public spending are "inevitable" and require sacrifices to face the sharp slide in oil revenues. Meanwhile, former pro-government tive measures to rectify the shortfall. "I speaker Marzoug Al-Ghanem was am confident that the Assembly and all reelected in a stunning fashion by secur- citizens are aware that cutting public

Islamist MP Jamaan Al-Harbash, by a single vote. All the three losing opposition MPs strongly lashed out at the government for siding with their opponents.

In his speech, the Amir said that the sharp fall in oil revenues has created a huge deficit in the state budget and that there is no other option but to take effec-



Newly-elected Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem speaks after his election during the opening session of the Assembly. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

SEE PAGES 2 & 3

ing 48 votes against a combined 17 votes for his two opposition competitors - MPs Abdullah Al-Roumi and Shuaib Al-Muwaizri.

Surprisingly, Ghanem obtained more votes in this Assembly with a strong opposition presence compared to the 38 votes he obtained in the previous Assembly, which was described as a rubberstamp of the government. The government also scored another win when Essa Al-Kandari was elected deputy speaker, defeating his opposition rival,

spending has become inevitable through well-studied measures," the Amir said.

A majority of the lawmakers who won in the Nov 26 election have vowed to reject any government austerity measures that could impose new financial burdens on Kuwaiti citizens. The previous Assembly was dissolved over a dispute between the government and the Assembly for raising petrol prices. As a result, the Assembly was dissolved and snap elections were called. Continued on Page 13

Mr Bader Al-Kharafi (second right), Mr Ali Thunayan Al-Ghanem (center) and Sheikh Meshary Al-Afasy (second left) applaud the election of Marzouq Al-Ghanem as speaker.



ISTANBUL: Turkish police officers carry the coffins of comrades during a funeral ceremony at Istanbul's police headquarters yesterday, a day after twin bombings killed 38 people near a football stadium. — AFP

TURKEY DEFIANT AS KURDISH GROUP CLAIMS TWIN BLASTS

Kuwait, Amir condemn bombings

ISTANBUL: A defiant President Recep Tayyip Erdogan yesterday vowed to fight terror "to the end" as a Kurdish militant group claimed twin attacks that ripped through Istanbul, killing 38 people, mostly police. The bloodshed, which took place late on Saturday, saw a car bomb exploding outside the home stadium of football giants Besiktas and less than a minute later, a suicide attacker blew himself up by a group of police at a nearby park.

Most of the dead were police officers, who accounted for 30 of the victims. Seven civilians also died, along with one person whose identity was unclear, officials said. Around 150 people were wounded in the blasts. The carnage prompted a sharp response from Erdogan, who vowed Ankara would "fight the scourge of terrorism right to the end".

Continued on Page 13

CAIRO CHURCH BOMBING KILLS 25 KUWAIT, AMIR CONDEMN ATTACK

GULF STATES TAKE SHINE OFF CUSHY **GOVERNMENT JOBS**

DOHA: Ahmed, a Qatari civil servant, used to arrive at his office at a government ministry in Doha late in the morning and leave for home after lunch, collecting a monthly salary of 40,000 rials (\$11,000) and a generous housing and travel allowance. But last month a government official made a surprise spot check on the ministry's offices and found dozens of employees absent. "Punctuality is a duty," said a letter Ahmed received from the minister's office. "Qatar expects the best of its citizens."

For a country whose tiny population is the world's wealthiest per capita and which sits upon its largest natural gas reserves, increasing the productivity of its 90,000 public employees might seem like a needless task. But it is part of a trend across the Gulf as economies there try to lessen the burden of costly public sectors. Gulf states have for decades used their energy wealth to provide millions of citizens with cushy government jobs, part of a social contract that rewards educational attainment with employment for life."

Continued on Page 13

CAIRO: A bomb blast tore through a church near Cairo's Coptic cathedral during a service yesterday, killing at least 25 people in the deadliest attack in recent memory on Egypt's Christian minority. There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the bombing but Coptic Christians, who make up about 10 percent

of Egypt's population, have been previously targeted in attacks. At least 31 people were also wounded in the blast, the health ministry said, as the attack drew condemnation from political and religious leaders and led President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi to declare three days of national mourning. **Continued on Page 13**



CAIRO: Protesters shout slogans as they gather outside the Saint Peter and Saint Paul Coptic Orthodox Church in the Abbasiya neighborhood after it was targeted by an explosion yesterday. — AFP





MONDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2016



KUWAIT: Marzoug Al-Ghanem is congratulated after being elected Speaker of the National Assembly. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat





Marzouq Al-Ghanem shakes his father Ali Thunaiyan Al-Ghanem's A general view of the first regular session of the National Assembly's 15th Legislative Term. hand after being elected as speaker.



Kuwait Times Deputy Editor-in-Chief Dr Ziad Al-Alyan (center) attends the session.



MP Shuwaib Al-Muwaizri speaks during the session.



MP Abdulkareem Al-Kandari reacts during the session.



US Ambassador to Kuwait Lawrence Silverman (center) attends the opening session.



MP Safaa Al-Hashem arrives to attend the opening Deputy Speaker Essa Al-Kandari (left) and MP

Talal Al-Sahli attend the session.



MP Abdullah Al-Roumi (top right) gestures during the Top police and army officials attend the session. session.



AMIR CONGRATULATES GHANEM, KANDARI HARSHANI CALLS FOR APPLYING CONSTITUTION

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad and 2009, and also in 2012, Ghanem was Speaker of the cables to the Deputy Speaker. Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent yesterday a cable of congratulations to Marzoug Ali Al-Ghanem for being elected Parliament Speaker, wishing him all the best. His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent similar cables.

Born in 1968, Ghanem earned a BA in mechanical engineering and held the post of Boubyan Petrochemicals chairman. He was also a board member at the Egypt

2013 parliament.

His Highness the Amir also sent a congratulatory cable Sunday to MP Essa Al-Kandari. In the cable, His Highness the Amir expressed his most congratulations to Kandari for being elected as Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly.

His Highness also wished the new Deputy Speaker all the best of luck on his mission to contribute to serving the country and boosting its status on regional and Kuwait Holding Company, the Building Materials international levels. Meanwhile, His Highness the Crown a speech at the National Assembly's first ordinary session facing Kuwaitis including health services, developing edu-Company and Global Telecom. Elected MP in 2006, 2008 Prince and His Highness the Prime Minister sent similar of the 15th legislative term. He also stressed the need for cation and housing requests. — KUNA

Fighting corruption

In a speech before the speaker's election, the National Assembly's senior MP Hamad Al-Harshani said that applying the laws and terms of the Kuwaiti constitution and punishing those who violate the law are vital to create stability in the country.

Fighting corruption is a must to overcome the current stable economic conditions in Kuwait said Ha

immediate economic reforms to achieve development, and the importance of full cooperation between the legislative and executive authorities to provide better conditions for citizens and protect the law.

Harshani affirmed the important role played by the two authorities in determining Kuwait's international policy and develop cooperation with the Gulf countries. He noted that the current assembly will exert huge efforts to face the regional economic and security challenges that may affect Kuwait Meanwhile he spoke of unresolved issue

PROFILES OF THE NEW CABINET'S MEMBERS

KUWAIT: His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah has formed the 34th government of the State of Kuwait since 1962 and the sixth since he has occupied the premiership post in December 2011. The following are profiles of the newly-formed cabinet including the premier.

• Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak, born in 1942, has occupied a number of positions since 1968, serving as supervisor of administrative and financial affairs at the Amiri Diwan, director of a State department and assistant undersecretary for financial and administrative affairs.

On March 19, 1979, he was appointed Hawally Governor. Later, he was named Al-Ahmadi Governor, before serving as minister of social affairs and labor and minister of information as well as advisor at His Highness the Amir Bureau.

On February 9, 2006, Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak was named first deputy premier, minister of interior and defense. He retained the same posts in two cabinets, formed on July 11, 2006, and March 25, 2007.

Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak, in a cabinet reshuffle on October 28, 2007, became the first deputy premier and minister of defense. He served in the same positions in the subsequent governments formed in May 2008, January 2009, May 2009 and May 2011. In November 2011, Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak was selected to serve as premier. He was reappointed to the premiership post in February 2012, July 2012, December 2012, July 2013 and January 2014.

 Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, the First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, born in 1953. He joined the foreign ministry in 1978 as a diplomatic attache, serving in the Arab affairs department (1978-1983) and with the permanent Kuwaiti mission at the UN (1983-1989). He worked as the deputy director of the Arab homeland department at the foreign ministry (1989-1992), in addition to several other senior posts till assuming the foreign minister's post in 2011. He retained the position in the years later.

• Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah, the deputy premier and interior minister, was named chief of staff on March 4, 2012, deputy premier and minister of defense in July 2013 and remained in the same service as of January 2014.

 Sheikh Mohammad Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, the deputy premier and minister of

KUWAIT: His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah casts his vote during the speaker's election yesterday. - Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

defense, was named Hawally Governor in 1991, minister of interior in 1996, as well as in the cabinets of 1998, 1999 and 2001. He was re-named for the same service in 2012 and 2014.

• Anas Al-Saleh, the deputy premier and finance minister, born in 1972, had served in key positions in several private business companies before he was named in 2012 as minister of commerce and industry. He retained the post in the cabinets of December 2012 and July 2013. He was chosen to serve as the deputy premier and finance minister in January 2014 and acting oil minister in November 2015.

Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah, the minister of state for cabinet affairs, born in 1971, started his career as a political researcher at the cabinet general secretariat. Later, he occupied a number of ranking positions until he was picked as the minister of information in February 2012. In the cabinet of December

2012, he served as the minister of state for cabinet affairs. He kept the same jobs in 2013 and 2014.

Dr Hind Subaih Al-Subaih, the minister of social affairs and labor, began climbing the echelon in 2007 as the assistance undersecretary at the civil service commission. She was chosen as the minister of social affairs and labor in January 2014.

· Yasser Abul, the minister of state for housing affairs, born in 1973. He was named to the key post in January 2014.

· Jamal Al-Harbi, the minister of health, born in 1961, was named as the assistant undersecretary for medical services in June 2013.

Abdul-Rahman Al-Mutawa, the minister of public works, had served as the deputy director general for construction at the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training.

• Essam Al-Marzouq, the minister of oil, electricity and water. He had served as chairman of the Kuwaiti bourse, board member at Kuwait Petroleum Corporation and chief of operations at Kuwait Petroleum International.

• Faleh Al-Azb, the minister of justice, had served in the investigations department at the interior ministry and as an advisor at the ministry of foreign affairs.

• Mohammad Al-Fares, born in 1966, served in key posts at Kuwait University in

2002 and 2007 before occupying the university general secretariat post in 2016.

· Mohammad Al-Jabri, the minister of awgaf and Islamic affairs, born in 1974, served at Kuwait Airways, became parliament member in December 2012 and 2013. He is also a member of the current parliament (the National Assembly). — KUNA

FULL LIST OF THE PARLIAMENT COMMITTEES' MEMBERS

• Financial and Economic Affairs Safaa Al-Hashem

Committee Saleh Ashour Khalaf Dumaitheer Marzouq Al-Khalifa Ahmad Al-Fadhl Safaa Al-Hashem Mohammad Al-Mutair Abdulwahab Al-Babtain

Legal and Legislative Committee

Mohammad Al-Dallal Al-Humaidi Al-Subaie Mubarak Al-Hajraf Mohammad Hayef Khaled Al-Shatti Abdukarim Al-Kandari Waleed Al-Tabtabaei

Interior and Defense Committee

Salah Khorshid Nasser Al-Dossari Askar Al-Enezi Saud Al-Shuwaier Majed Al-Mutairi

Complaints Committee

Adel Al-Damkhi Mubarak Al-Hajraf Saadoun Hammad Saud Al-Shuwaier Hamdan Al-Azmi

Public Funds Protection Committee

Abdulwahab Al-Babtain Shuwaib Al-Muwaizri Omar Al-Tabtabaei Khaled Al-Shatti Talal Al-Jallal

 Budgets Committee Riyadh Al-Adasani

Adnan Abdulsamad Awdah Al-Awdah Adel Al-Damkhi Abdullah Al-Roumi Mohammad Al-Huwailah

Public Utilities Committee

Mohammad Al-Hadiya Nasser Al-Dossari Abdullah Fahhad Khalil Al-Saleh Majed Al-Mutairi Rakan Al-Nasef Thamer Al-Dhafiri

Foreign Relations Committee

Hamad Al-Harashani Yousef Al-Fadhalah Ali Al-Deqbasi Al-Humaidi Al-Subaie Askar Al-Enezi

• Health and Labour Committee

Talal Al-Jallal Yousef Al-Fadhalah Humoud Al-Khudair Saad Al-Khanfour Khaled Al-Otaibi

Mohammad Al-Huwailah Omar Al-Tabtabaei Jamaan Al-Harbash Khalil Abul Awdah Al-Awdah

 Priority Issues Committee Salah Khorshid Thamer Al-Dhafiri Osama Al-Shahin

Educational Affairs Committee

Kuwait 🗠 Times 🎫





KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah delivers his speech after he inaugurated the first regular session of the National Assembly's 15th Legislative Term yesterday. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat

AMIR URGES FURTHER CAUTION, VIGILANCE TO DEFEAT CHALLENGES

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah yesterday called for further caution and vigilance against endeavors targeting the nation's unity. His Highness the Amir inaugurated yesterday the first regular session of the National Assembly's 15th Legislative Term.

Addressing the parliament session, His Highness the Amir referred to the surrounding hazards, which he has repeatedly warned against, and the colossal challenges that hinder the efforts aiming to protect the nation and its security and stability, satisfy citizens and maintain their dignity, as well as securing a dignified future for them and the future generations.

Growing challenges

His Highness the Amir said it is worrying that the dangers have been escalating, and the challenges are growing, as "brutal terrorism has found its way to our peaceful and safe nation, seeking to ignite sedition and break the national unity". His Highness the Amir highlighted the remarkable efforts and the "watchful eyes" that have preserved the nation's security and have not allowed more terror crimes to take place.

However, coution and vigilance remain

This will be a part of a comprehensive economic reform program, in which the private sector plays a vital and effective role. All parties will be committed to the program, and the government will provide its tools and operational and timing details, His Highness the Amir said. Citizens will be apprised of their role in the program, and what it can achieve for them and the future generations, with their positive participation and the responsibilities they will have to assume. His Highness the Amir stressed that he is confident that Kuwaitis' love and allegiance to the nation, and their readiness for sacrifice, are by no means less than their ancestors.

His Highness the Amir underscored the significance of identifying state priorities, amid the current regional and international conditions, fateful risks and the potential and unthinkable sudden developments, in light of the fact that million becoming homeless, and the ongoing plans of tampering and sabotage.

All have to realize that this is no time for political luxury, or making gains at the expense of Kuwait's higher interests, His Highness the Amir said. "If it is our destiny to bear national responsibility amidst the critical conditions the region is experiencing, we remain on our fixed constants on dealing with our (regional) sphere and the world, with the Arab and Islamic dimensions of these (consonants), as well as their regional and international frameworks," His Highness the Amir said. This will proceed with commitment to the usual moderate approach for the progress and good of humanity.



However, caution and vigilance remain a public national duty, His Highness the Amir said, urging "citizens, my brothers and my sons" to assume their responsibility, namely rejecting the heinous attempts for and disunity." His Highness the Amir pointed to the huge decrease of state revenues resulting from the sharp falls of oil prices that have caused a considerable deficit in the budget, as another significant challenge. It is inevitable to initiate effective measures to remedy the deficit and alleviate its effects, His Highness the Amir said.

Inevitable change

His Highness the Amir voiced confidence that the venerable assembly realizes that reducing expenditure has come to be "inevitable" through well-studied arrangements to fix the imbalance of the state budget and to curb wasting and depletion of national resources, directing them toward their correct goals. In the meantime, His Highness the Amir stressed keenness on easing the burden on people with limited income, and caring for social justice through regular review of these measures, amending them in line with the state revenues.

GCC unity

Meanwhile, His Highness the Amir said that it is high time for a new phase of ties among the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), which rises to the level of the challenges, and that embodies the common goals and destiny of the "brothers." This new phase will also see enhancing the GCC unity to achieve comprehensive development for the people and to maintain the sovereignty, security and stability of the member states.

His Highness the Amir expressed great pleasure over the recent visit by Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, and an accompanying delegation, to Kuwait, which reflected the deep-rooted, time-tested bilateral ties, on the level of the leadership and the people. His Highness the Amir recalled with high

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah waves as he arrives to the parliament's main hall along with His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

appreciation the historical role that Saudi Arabia has been playing in support of Kuwait's rights, reiterating the remarkable role by King Salman to consolidate the GCC march to reinforce security, peace, prosperity in the region.

His Highness the Amir told the first session of the parliament's 15th Legislative Term that sustainable development would remain a chief goal for the present and the future, as it is the "everlasting challenge that determines the fate of the society and the nation."

The fact that issues of security and the economic and financial reform as well as the unrelenting confrontation against corruption, does not at all mean overlooking the ills the nation is suffering from or the chronic diseases weakening the society, His Highness the Amir said. This prompts drawing up well-studied longterm scientific plans to overcome the ills and diseases, and to save the nation and the society from their vicious impact.

Such plans will have to be capped with

paying more attention and showing further care to youth, listening to them, bringing them up on moderation, immunizing them against extremism and deviant thinking, educating them on how to accept others' views and enhancing their spirit of cooperation and collective work, His Highness the Amir pointed out.

Creating jobs

His Highness the Amir called for opening the doors of the future wide for youth, as well as creating new job opportunities for the dozens of thousands of them who join the labor market annually. His Highness the Amir also stressed the need to improve public services, health, housing and the infrastructure, and above all reviewing and modernizing school curricula and teaching methods to cope with the developments worldwide.

Earlier in the speech, His Highness the Amir congratulated the new MPs for gaining the confidence of the Kuwaiti people, voicing satisfaction with the outcome of the November 26 elections that brought into the parliament young ambitious lawmakers who prompt feelings of hope and optimism and consolidate the energy to "build our dear nation."

His Highness the Amir highlighted the constructive role by the media, both official and private, which highlighted the democratic practice and encourages people to fulfill their national duty. His Highness the Amir told the MPs that the Kuwaiti people have put their trust in them, urging the legislators to been eager not to break the trust and to rise to the level of people's confidence. His Highness the Amir urged the MPs to hold Kuwait's interests above all other personal family, sectorial, tribal and class considerations.

Concluding his speech, His Highness the Amir emphasized confidence that Kuwait, which has overcome tribulations and hardships through history, will be able to counter all challenges and dangers, with help of Allah, and its loyal people. —KUNA

PM SETS FORTH GUIDELINES FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH LABOR CITY, AIRPORT EXPANSION, NEW HOSPITALS AMONG KEY PPP PROJECTS



KUWAIT: His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah delivers his speech during yesterday's parliament session. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

KUWAIT: His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah yesterday briefed the newly-elected MPs on the guidelines on the second economic development plan (2016-20). In his speech to the first regular session of the 15th legislative term of the National Assembly in the presence of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak said the plan includes measures to revitalize the economic growth, promote the role of the private sector and attract more foreign investment.

"Some of the mega projects, listed in the economic development plan, will be implemented solely by government institutions and others that will be implemented through public-private partnerships (PPP)," he said.

"These include the Khairan power station, the waste treatment plants, the labor city in south Jahra, the south Mutlaa' city, the expansions of Kuwait International Airport, the new university, and a number of hospitals. "The planned projects in the oil industry include Al-Zour Refinery and the subsidiary plants, and the environment-friendly fuel project," His Highness the Prime Minister said.

Competitive edge

"Besides these high-value-added projects that will enhance the country's competitive edge in the petrochemical industry, the government is working on a range of draft economic legislations and is looking forward to cooperating with your honorable Assembly to pass them as early as possible," he went on.

His Highness the Prime Minister thanked His Highness the Amir for renewing his mandate and the trust placed in him and in the new members of his cabinet at this important juncture in the history of Kuwait. He congratulated the new MPs on winning the confidence of the people who entrusted them with the responsibility to serve the national interests to realize the aspirations of the citizens.

"The government has always been keen on maintaining a positive relationship with the National Assembly so as to reach the desired targets in all fields in the framework of the relevant provisions of the Constitution, the Assembly's statutes, and the sound parliamentary practices," he affirmed.

"In keeping with Article 98 of the Constitution, the government is bound to present to your honorable Assembly its detailed agenda for the coming years soon after finalizing the document. The envisaged agenda aims to address the main challenges and the issues of common concern for the public through a radical approach. We now face the big challenges of putting Kuwait on par with the advanced economies on international rating indices, restructuring the state budget, diversifying the productive base, and activating the financial and economic reforms," he went on.

Human development

His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak also highlighted the need to focus on human development through modernization of education in keeping with the needs of economic development and leveraging the e-government applications which will impact positively on cutting the red tape and enhancing transparency.

Recalling his oath of office before His Highness the Amir, His Highness the Prime Minister renewed the vow to translate into action the vision of His Highness the Amir for reviving the economy, meeting the needs of the citizens in such areas as education, health and housing, and caring for the youth.

He noted that all these issues are a top priority for both executive and legislative authorities. He voiced hope that the Assembly will assume its supervisory role, fair accountability and absolute transparency in backing the government to reach the common goal of serving "our dear homeland."

On the regional political, security and economic developments, His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak said the complicated changes require that the government and the Assembly combine forces to implement the wise instructions of His Highness the Amir, who warned against such serious threats, in order to maintain the security and stability of the country. — KUNA

LOCAL

In Brief

AMIR OFFERS CONDOLENCES TO UAE'S PRESIDENT

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a cable of condolences yesterday to President of the UAE Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al-Nahyan, expressing his deepest sympathies over the death of Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid bin Hamdan bin Mohammad Al-Nahyan. His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent cables of similar sentiments to the President of the UAE. — KUNA

Photo

AMIR EXPRESSES SORROW ON PAKISTAN'S PLANE CRASH

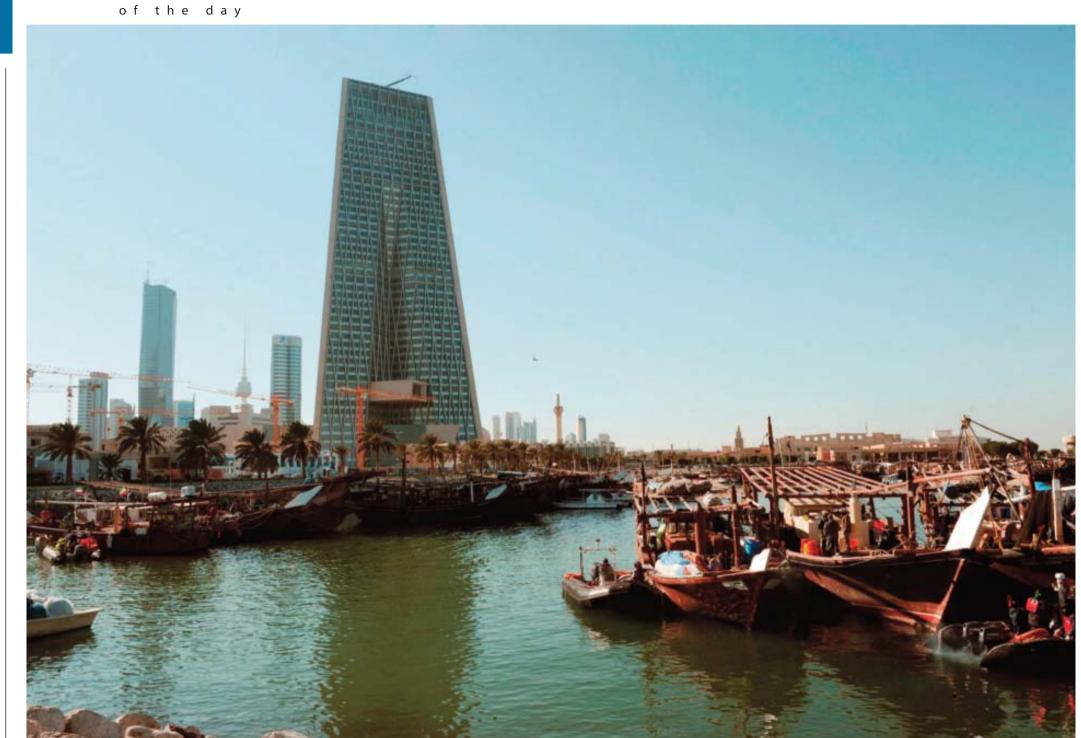
KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah has cabled Pakistani President Mamnoon Hussain expressing condolences over deadly crash of the Pakistani airlines plane that was flying to Islamabad. His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah addressed a cable containing identical sentiments of solace to the Pakistani president. —KUNA

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FM RECEIVES SPANISH COUNTERPART'S LETTER

KUWAIT: Kuwaiti First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah yesterday received a letter from Spanish Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Alfonso Dastis Quecedo. The letter is related to close relations between Kuwait and Spain in all fields and the latest regional and international developments. — KUNA





KUWAIT TO PARTAKE IN Harvard training Program Next Month

KUWAIT: Kuwait will partake in Harvard University's "Leading Strategy Execution in Financial services" training program for bank executives in the Gulf countries, Governor of the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK), Mohammad Al-Hashel has announced.

Improving the performance of the national banking and financial sector cadres is a top priority for the CBK and Kuwaiti banks, Hashel, also Chairman of Kuwait Institute for Banking Studies (KIBS), said in a press statement Saturday.



Mohammad Al-Hashel

He underscored that these cadres are playing an instrumental role in achieving sustainable development for the banking and financial sectors in Kuwait and other Gulf countries.

For the eighth year in a row KIBS and Harvard present this executive development program for banking and finance executives in the GCC region and some Middle East countries, he said, adding that this year's edition would be held in Muscat during the period January 28 to February 2, 2017. He stated that this program is designed for upper middle executives of levels such as department heads.

The first program was organized in 2009-10 in Kuwait exclusively for the KIBS member banks. After the success of that program, and with Harvard Business School and GCC banking institutes showing interest in a GCC level event, the program was extended to cover all GCC countries and several Middle Eastern countries, he pointed out.

The program is held every year in one of the GCC countries. Tshe 2016's edition was held in Qatar and the coming would be held in Oman. He estimated that the number of banking executives who partook in the previous seven editions at 311.

Harvard Business School Executive Education programs adhere to the school's high standards, thus ensuring that participants and their organizations receive the same quality of learning experience for which the school is so well known, he stressed.

He added that participants will receive a Harvard Business School certificate, verifying that they have completed the program. He underlined eagerness to continue fruitful cooperation between Kuwaiti and GCC banking institutions to make the best use of similar programs and initiatives for training and expertise exchange.

He expressed appreciation of the Kuwaiti and Gulf banks and financial institutions for their keenness to effectively participate in this distinguished program, and wished them all success to materialize the objectives of their participation. — KUNA

RUSSIA: NEW TOURIST HOTSPOT FOR KUWAITIS

MOSCOW: Russia has emerged as a new tourist destination for Kuwaiti and Gulf citizens, after the ninth most populous nation attracted some 32 million visitors in 2015. In March, Russia opened a national tourist office in Kuwait, an endeavor intended to lure Arab and Gulf tourists to a country whose tourism industry has grown exponentially and is home to 22 United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage Sites, in addition to a diverse landscape. Speaking yesterday, Deputy President of the Russian Tourism Agency Sergei Korneev underscored his country as a new global tourist hotspot, citing substantial growth in Moscow's tourism industry, adding that the country has managed to earn around \$13-20 billion in tourism revenue.

Moreover, he noted that Russia is keen on welcoming Gulf and Arab tourists in the near future, amid expectations of a 25 percent growth in the tourism industry by the year 2025. He also added that the tourism industry accounts for three percent of total investments in the country and has managed to provide some four million jobs.

Meanwhile, head of the Russian national tourist office in Kuwait Basel Al-Osoud said that Russia possesses all of the qualities and attributes needed to transform the nation into a fullfledged tourist destination, noting that the Kremlin has undertaken a series of infrastructure reforms to usher in an influx of tourists.

On tourist locations, he said that the country is home to religious and cultural sites, in addition to gardens and other locations that will beguile visitors, noting that around half a million Kuwaiti tourists venture into new parts of the world every year.

Speaking on touristic ties between Russia and Kuwait, he foreboded that relations will ameliorate, saying that Russia is a suitable destination for Kuwaitis during summer season, given the fact that temperatures remain moderate at around 25 degrees Celsius.

On efforts to cater to Arab and Muslim visitors, he revealed that a number of touristic companies have provided a wide range of 'Halal' food, adding that they have also incorporated the use of Arabic language into their programs to make visitors from that region feel more at home. — KUNA





Legalese

PASSPORT ISSUES

By Attorney Fajer Ahmed

egally, we don't own our passports - they are not our property, but are actually the property of the countries that issued them. Passports are extremely important because they are official documents issued by governments to certify our identity and entitle us to the right to travel.

Unfortunately, some employers in Kuwait and the region continue to hold their employees' passports. Why do companies still do this? There are regulations that impose fines on companies that do not adhere to the law and hold employees' passports, yet the issue continues to grow in Kuwait. I have written extensively about the matter, but I continue to get emails on a daily basis about the issue, so I decided to write about the importance of keeping your passport with you as an employee and what games companies play in order to keep the passports.

Complaint

Question: My employer has my passport - what can I do? I heard I need to file a complaint at the Shuoon (Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor). Is this true? Where do I go?

Fajer: Yes, you need to file a complaint at the Shuoon. It has one office in every governorate in Kuwait. Every employee has a file in a certain governorate, so you need to find out which Shuoon office your file is under. Your best option would be to go to the Shuoon in your work-place's area or where your company's head office is located. So for example, let's say you work in an oil company, so you should probably go to Ahmadi's Shuoon.

Once you get there, you need to file a complaint stating that your passport has been taken and not returned. The Shuoon does take this issue seriously and although the procedure may be complicated and may take a long time, at least the people that work at the Shuoon have been very compassionate and caring towards employees. If you are finding it difficult to file a complaint, I suggest you hire a lawyer. They are very efficient at doing the job, because unfortunately from experience, I can tell you that some companies play games stating that they do not have the passport or accuse the employee of lying.

If you file a complaint, expect that this may cause the HR department or your employer to be aggressive towards you. I am saying this from experience. I have seen employees go through a rough time and be treated badly because they asked for their right to keep their passports. It's really sad to see that employers still treat their staff this way, even though the Kuwaiti government has rewritten many resolutions in order to give the employees more rights.

Residency

Question: Is it true that if my passport is with my employer, they can cancel my residency?

Fajer: Yes, they can cancel your residency at the Shuoon if they have your passport. They can also extend your residency if they wish to do so. This has also caused many problems for my clients - some of them were looking forward to leaving the company, yet their employers renewed their residency for another year.

I know it is very difficult for you to refuse to give your employer your passport and it is a very tough situation to be in, but I highly advise that should you have to give your passport to your employer, get a signed document stating that they have your passport. Also, do the same when they give it back. If they ask for your passport because they want to renew your residency, for example, get them to give you that in writing as well. I hope the above has helped, and my apologies for repeating certain topics, but there are many concerns regarding these topics. If you have any topic suggestions, please do forward them to me.

For any legal questions, queries or if you need legal assistance, email ask@fajerthelawyer.com

BY-ELECTIONS TO FILL MUNICIPAL COUNCIL'S VACANT SEATS SOON

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: By-elections to fill the Municipal Council's five seats that became vacant when members resigned to run for parliament will take place soon, Chairman Muhalhel Al-Khaled said yesterday. He further urged members of the Cabinet and parliament to amend the elections laws in order to add new areas to their corresponding constituencies before the by-elections.

15 offers

The finance ministry's general debt committee received 15 offers from international banks and financial establishments to take part in issuing government bonds to cover the budget deficit of \$ 10 billion during the first quarter of 2017. The committee will study the offers to select the most suitable ones though the interest rates on these bonds were not set so far. Notably, Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Anas Al-Saleh has given the green light to the process by issuing a decision that Kuwait will borrow through issuing international bonds in foreign currencies to cover the deficit and diversify the sources of national income. According to the decision, the total value of the debts will not exceed KD 2.9 billion during the fiscal year 2016-2017. According to IMF statistics, Kuwait ranks seventh worldwide in terms of its general debt ratio compared to its GDP which was below 10.6 percent in 2015 while it was 19.4 percent in UAE, 20.6 percent in Oman, 35.8 percent in Qatar, 63.3 percent in Bahrain and only 5.8 percent in Saudi Arabia.

Governance

The Capital Market Authority (CMA) yesterday

warned some companies listed on the stock exchange for not filing their reports on governance requirements, said informed sources, noting that the concerned companies had made some inquiries about governance.

Transport authority

The Public Authority for Roads and Transportation's Chairman Soud Al-Nakki stressed that future projects will only be offered through the authority, adding that it will be responsible for qualifying bidders and offering tenders without referring to the Central Tender Committee (CTC). Nakki explained that the process will not be done randomly and that it is coordinated with the Fatwa and Legislation Department in order to be subjected to both internal monitoring and external one through the State Audit Bureau.



KUWAIT LAUDS NON-OPEC

OUTPUT CUT DECISION

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

barrels per day (bpd).

Venezuela."

KUWAIT: The total number of contests against the election results rose to 30 yesterday, the last day of the window granted to candidates to file complaints at the constitutional court. Former MPs Bader Al-Dahoum and Fares Al-Otaibi were among those who filed the contests. On his Twitter account, Otaibi stressed that he filed a plea motivated by the persistence of his constituents and

VIENNA: Kuwait Ambassador to Austria and

Permanent Delegate to the UN Office in Vienna

Sadeq Maarafi welcomed the decision of the non-

OPEC countries to cut their oil output by 558,000

on the global market as it will help end the glut in oil

supplies," he said in statements Saturday night fol-

lowing the OPEC and non-OPEC Ministerial Meeting.

"The decision, to take effect on January 1 for a

renewable six-month period, will ensure fair prices

for both producers and consumers. "The implemen-

tation of today's decision and the OPEC decision on

November 30 to cut its output by 1.2 million bpd will

be overseen by a ministerial committee chaired by

Kuwait and including Algeria, Oman, Russia and

"This historic decision will have a positive impact

campaign staff members, and claimed that the results were miscounted.

Car on fire

Four Arab expats escaped death when their vehicle burst into flames yesterday on the Fifth Ring Road. Security sources said firemen rushed to the scene and controlled the blaze. No injuries were reported. Meanwhile, an investigation was opened to determine the cause of the fire.

"Today's decision opened a new chapter in the

fruitful cooperation between OPEC and non-OPEC

countries in the short and long run," Marrafi said,

expecting the global market to respond soon to such

the Kuwaiti diplomat said the meeting was co-

chaired by Dr Mohammed Bin Saleh Al-Sada -

President of the OPEC Conference and Minister of

Energy and Industry of Qatar, and Alexander Novak -

Minister of Energy of the Russian Federation. It gath-

ered representatives of 11 non-OPEC countries and

agreed to add Russia and Oman to the membership

of the OPEC ministerial committee. The committee is

expected to meet soon under the chairmanship of

Kuwait's newly-appointed Minister of Oil Essam

On the OPEC and non-OPEC Ministerial Meeting,

decisions by the marker oil producers.

Abdulmohsen Al-Marzouq, he added.

fth Ring d to the Sheikh Khaled

Suleiman Al-Fahad

POLICE BANNED FROM GIVING UNAUTHORIZED MEDIA STATEMENTS

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah

KUWAIT: A decision to ban Interior Ministry officers from making unauthorized publication and to maintain the secrecy of work was issued under the instructions of the Deputy Prime Minister Interior Minister Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah and Undersecretary Lieutenant General Suleiman Al-Fahad yesterday. The decision stipulates that members of the police force, whether uniformed or civil, are not allowed to:

- Write, give statements, publish any opinions, research or columns, give interviews or publish anything on social media until after obtaining permission.

- Give any information related to crimes to any media outlet until obtaining special permission from the relations and security information department.

- Providing the media with any pictures, papers or data about their work, except through the relations and security information department.

- Inviting media members to accompany them while carrying out security missions, which should maintain complete secrecy.

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Al-Anbaa PAGE 158

By Dr Nermin Al-Houti

Solution of the second state of the second sta

As the story progresses, the doctor realizes his patient's love for reading and suggests her to write about self-recovery. During the treatment, three females suffering from cancer are murdered while being under treatment. These crimes attract the attention of our main character and she starts working towards identifying the culprit with the help of the media. Soon, the culprit is identified. The culprit had become a nurse after her daughter died of cancer. She assumes that killing cancer patients is a way

Through the novel, Husseini gave a scientific cultural and literal dose to the readers

to aid them by ending their suffering. Later, the condition of our main character worsens, and she discovers that the doctor is married and has a family, but believes that love is the meeting of souls without the body knowing about it.

Through the novel, Husseini gave a scientific cultural and literal dose to the readers as he explained every detail very innovatively. For example, Ricin, which was used in the killing, was explained through the characters as part of their conversation. Husseini also used things such as palm reading, through which he wanted to prove that no matter how advanced a man gets, when he loses hope, he seeks for mysterious ways to revive that lost hope.

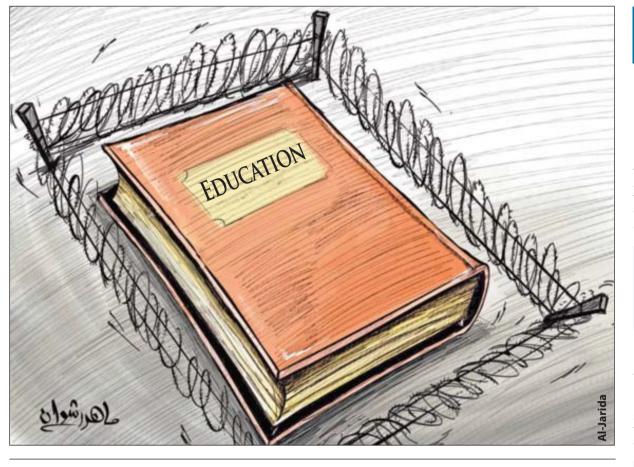
Novelist Mohammad Al-Husseini made a clear change in the art of writing, through the maturity of the characters. His writing definitely made the reader experience the events in the novel in a realistic way. Husseini created a process of coalescence between the reader and the words 'souls exchange kisses'. "Our mother is our life's main asset, if she goes away, our lives turn into a city of asylums," said Husseini.

— Translated by Kuwait Times

الهيئة العامة للرياضة - إدارة الرياضة للجميع

تقيم الحملة الوطنية للتوعية بمرض السرطان

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الانجاء

MUNICIPALITY DONKEYS

They used to be restless

because of the 'luxury',

comfort and abundant

food they enjoyed

By Dr Saleh Al-Ojairi

Al-Anbaa

he Municipality Department was established in 1930 and the services it provided included garbage collection and transporting it using locally made wooden carts drawn by donkeys. Each cart was operated by a garbage collector.

During those days, the municipal donkeys were very

spoiled and lived a 'comfortable' life at special ranches, where workers cleaned and fed them. They also had limited working hours. I still remember reading the municipality's statement of annual expenses and revenues issued in 1936.

The statement included the cost of feeding donkeys, purchasing fodder and paying donkey attendants' salaries.

Some other spoiled donkeys used to be ridden by well-off people, and each of them had a special worker to take care of it and lead it while carrying the master and shading the master under the soaring sun or rain. Such spoiled donkeys, namely those of the municipality, used to bray a lot, making very loud noises. They also used to kick each other all the time. They used to be restless

because of the 'luxury', comfort and abundant food they enjoyed.

On the other hand, other donkeys used in transporting heavy loads such as gypsum, clay, mud and water were very 'underprivileged' and were hungry most of the time. They were less fortunate. They had scarred backs resulting from their heavy

loads and worked monotonously and constantly without breaks, except on Eid days when they were dyed with henna and rented out to children who wanted to ride them for fun, paying the owner a baiza per ride!

— Translated by Kuwait Times

Crime

Report

WALKING WOMAN ARRESTED

KUWAIT: Traffic department sent a woman who was walking on Taawon Road, telling motorists she can predict the future. The woman who was stopping cars was approached by a patrol, she told them she has a message from Allah and knows all what is being planned for the coming years including earthquakes and calamities in 2017. She was sent to criminal detectives for questioning.

Bedoon mows down Egyptians

A bedoon rammed three Egyptians with his car following a dispute between them over a financial matter. All three Egyptian men were taken to hospital for treatment. The suspect fled the scene. Police are investigating.

Reckless drivers busted

Police raided an empty lot in Sulaibiya area where youth were 'drifting'. Upon arriving at the lot, several youth in various vehicles dispersed and those remaining were arrested. Drifting, or driving cars in a reckless manner to demonstrate skills or daring is a common practice among youth in the Arabian Peninsula and is a regular cause of youth deaths in the region.

Armed man in chalets area

Ahmadi police responded to a call from a woman who reported that a man was threatening her with a firearm in the chalets' areas in southern Kuwait. Police found the woman in a hysterical state as the suspect escaped. Detectives are investigating.

Drugs found

An Egyptian man who works as a medical representative was sent to the Drugs Control General Department for possessing illicit pills, heroin and shabu. A security source said when a patrol stopped the suspect, he immediately said "I am a representative and the pills with me are not illicit." The man was searched and drugs were found along with drug paraphernalia. In another case, an Indian man was arrested in Farwaniya in possession of 10 grams of heroin.

Sorceress busted

An Ethiopian woman admitted that she attempted to prevent the marriage of her sponsor's daughter because she hates her. A security sources said a citizen went to Abdallah Al-Mubarak police station and told them she caught her maid shredding her daughters clothes, then as she turned the mattress in the room, she found strange objects. The maid said she hates the girl and attempted to prevent her marriage through sorcery. —Translated from the Arabic press

KFH OFFERS WHALY BOATS TO VOLUNTARY FOUNDATION

KUWAIT: The Environmental Voluntary Foundation has received a number of Whaly Boats from Kuwait Finance House (KFH) as part of the bank's endeavors to optimally assume the social responsibility and support the efforts of Kuwait Dive Team

aquatic world and the safety of the marine environment.

KFH is keen on supporting programs that serve the community and spread awareness among people in efforts to keep the environment safe, healthy and clean. The bank organized many events for children in collaboration with schools and the Ministry of Education to raise their awareness of the importance of the environment. KFH attaches great importance to the environmental issues in Kuwait, and calls for boosting the synergy among all respective authorities to keep Kuwait clean and pollution free.



VIVA SPONSORS CAN'S MARATHON

KUWAIT: VIVA, Kuwait's fastest-growing and most developed telecom operator, announced its sponsorship of the Marathon organized by Cancer Aware Nation, under the slogan "Our steps are prevention", to foster the awareness about the cancer disease. The Marathon was held on Saturday 10 December 2016 which started from Yacht Club and ended at the Green Island.

On this occasion, Ayman Salem Al-Mutairi, Senior Corporate Communications at VIVA commented: "This event that combines between health and sport meets our CSR plans, as VIVA always keen to support different activities that aim to serve the society and spread the awareness among its members." After the marathon's

conclusion, VIVA has been recognized by organizers, and VIVA's representative Hessah Al-Sabea received the trophy.

Since its inception in 2006 under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the Amir of the State of Kuwait, CAN organized several activities, which reflected positive impact about the danger of the cancer disease and its prevention methods.

VIVA's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activities can be reviewed on the company's website at https://www.viva.com.kw/csr. This offers a description of each CSR initiative that VIVA has supported, or taken on since its inception.

KFH participates in several environmental awareness activities and events in collaboration with the concerned authorities such as the Environmental Voluntary Foundation and Kuwait Dive Team. The Whaly Boats help in lifting waste and neglected materials, not to mention assist in the protection and rehabilitation mission of Kuwait's





KUWAIT: Fireman Fahad Al-Furaih returned home recently from Germany where he spent six months for treatment. Furaih had suffered an amputated leg while on duty. He was received by Kuwait Fire Services Directorate (KFSD) officials including Director General Lieutenant General Khalid Al-Mikrad, Deputy Director General for Fighting Affairs Major General Jamal Al-Blaihees, Deputy Director for Prevention Affairs Brigadier Khalid Al-Fahad and Sheikh Duaij Al-Khalifa Al-Sabah.



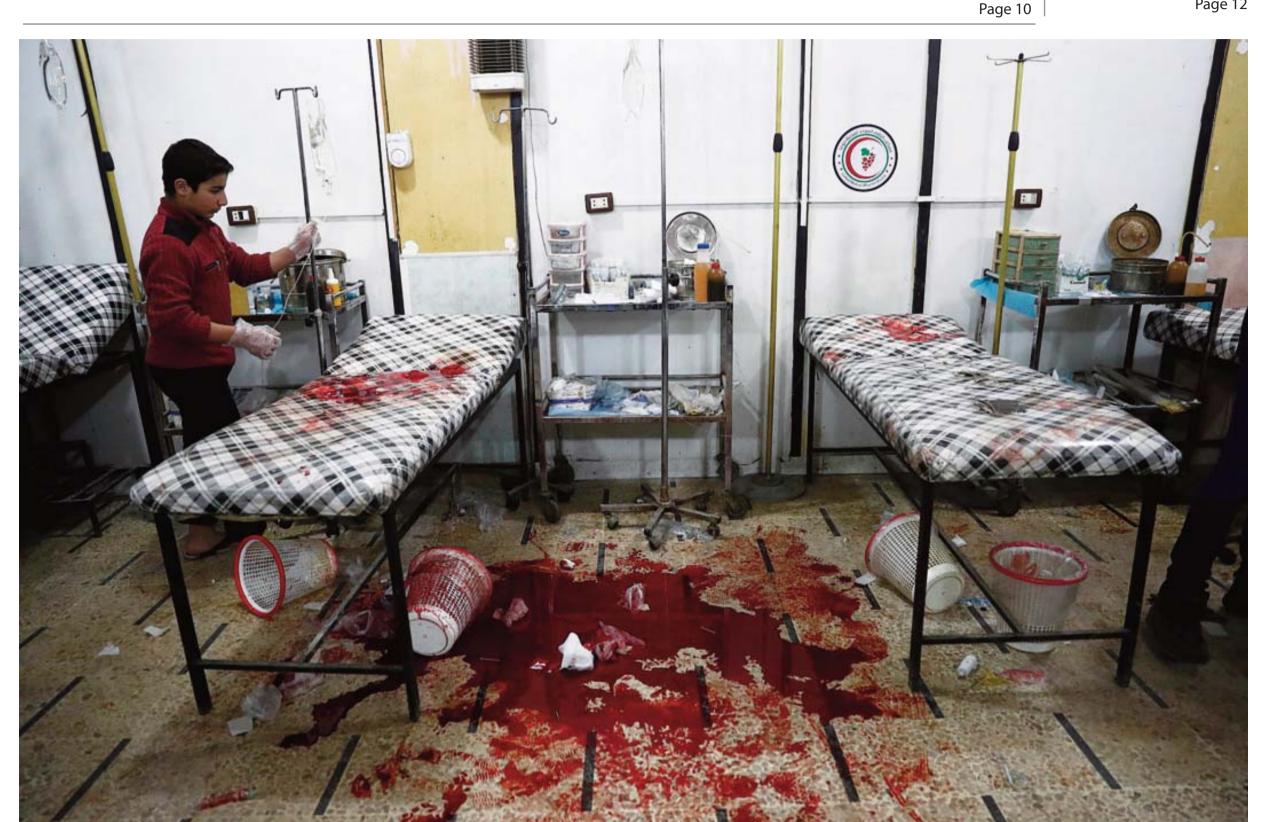


Gentiloni named as Italy's new prime minister



S Korea prosecutors charge two senior ex-Park officials

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SYRIA ARMY ADVANCES IN ALEPPO

IS RECAPTURES PALMYRA AFTER ARMY WITHDRAWS FORCES

ALEPPO: Syria's army pushed forward in Aleppo yesterday as thousands fled rebel-held areas but its forces lost ground to the south where the Islamic State group recaptured the ancient city of Palmyra. After a sudden withdrawal by regime forces, IS jihadists made a lightning-fast advance across Palmyra, sparking new worries for its remaining ancient treasures. Forces loyal to President Bashar Al-Assad have been focused since mid-November on second city Aleppo, where they have retaken about 85 percent of the one-time rebel bastion in the city's east.

Yesterday, they pounded the shrinking rebel enclave in Aleppo's southeast with artillery and air strikes, seizing a large part of the Maadi district, a monitor said. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said more than 10,000 people had fled the remaining rebelheld districts since midnight, heading to government-run west Aleppo and newly retaken

areas in the city's north and centre. An estimated 120,000 people have poured out of east Aleppo since late November, according to the Britain-based monitor. State news agency SANA said at least 4,000 people had fled rebel districts in just hours yesterday and were taken by bus to temporary shelters. Heavy bombardment on the east could be heard through the night, rattling windows across the city in the west, an AFP correspondent said.

Army withdraws from Palmyra

US and Russian officials were expected to continue talks in Geneva yesterday on trying to reach a ceasefire in Aleppo, but a week of intense diplomatic efforts have failed to stem the fighting. Backing from Moscow, which launched an air war in support of Assad last year, has been crucial in the Syrian army's ability to make gains across the country.

Russian raids overnight bolstered Syrian

soldiers fighting off an IS offensive on Palmyra, the renowned UNESCO World Heritage site in central Syria. But the jihadists launched a fresh attack yesterday, the Observatory said, recapturing all of Palmyra after Syrian armed forces pulled out.

"Despite the ongoing air raids, IS retook all of Palmyra after the Syrian army withdrew south of the city," said Observatory head Rami Abdel Rahman. The IS-linked Amaq news agency also reported that IS regained "full control" of the city yesterday after taking the citadel, which overlooks Palmyra from a strategic hilltop.

Capturing Palmyra from IS in May was considered a major symbolic victory for Assad's forces-and for its Russian ally. Russia has come under severe criticism in the West for its continued political and military support for Damascus as the regime pursues its all-out assault on east Aleppo. Moscow says it is consulting with

Washington on the terms of a ceasefire in the city after a full rebel withdrawal, but there has been no sign of an agreement so far.

'Yes to peace'

Pope Francis yesterday made a heartfelt call for an end to violence in Aleppo and across war-ravaged Syria. "I appeal to all to choose civilization: no to destruction, yes to peace, yes to the people of Aleppo and Syria," he said. At least 413 civilians have been killed in east Aleppo since the November 15 start of the offensive, according to the Observatory, and 139 killed in rebel rocket fire on the city's west.

With such heavy fighting, the retaking of Aleppo by Assad's forces appears to only be a matter of time. "It looks now as if sadly Aleppo will fall," British Defense Secretary Michael Fallon told BBC television yesterday. The loss of east Aleppo will deal the biggest blow to Syria's opposition since the start of the country's civil war in 2011. "We're now past the point where the opposition has any hope of pulling things back," said Yezid Sayigh, a senior associate at the Carnegie Middle East Center in Beirut. Assad "will have in effect broken the back of the armed opposition... and the idea that the regime can be overcome militarily will be finally put to rest." After meetings in Paris on Saturday, Western and Arab powers called for talks between the regime and opposition to end the war.

US Secretary of State John Kerry, who called the regime's bombings of Aleppo "war crimes", said the time was ripe for a return to negotiations. Now that the rebels "are about to lose Aleppo, conceivably... I think the best thing they can do is get to the table and negotiate. Because they can still win a political settlement that honors the fight and all they've invested," Kerry said. —AFP

BRITISH FM'S 'PROXY WARS' **COMMENT MISREAD: SAUDI**

RIYADH: The press took out of context comments by Britain's foreign secretary about "proxy wars" waged by longtime ally Saudi Arabia, the Saudi foreign minister said yesterday, deeming the matter closed. In a video reported last week, Boris Johnson at a conference in Rome accused Saudi Arabia and its regional rival Iran of "puppeteering" and "playing proxy wars".

A video of his comments was posted on the Guardian website. "I have no doubt that his comments as reported in the press were misconstrued," Saudi Foreign Minister Adel Al-Jubeir told reporters at a joint news conference with Johnson in Riyadh. "If you look at the actual video of what was said, it was not as implied in the press," Jubeir said.

The British minister was on an official visit to the kingdom, during which he met King Salman. The Guardian report came on Thursday, a day after British Prime Minister Theresa May attended a summit with the leaders of Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states in Bahrain. Downing Street had to pull Johnson back into line, saying the comments reflected his "personal position".

"There are no mixed messages that we are getting from Britain," Jubeir said, noting that Saudi-British ties go back more than a century. "We don't have any doubt in where Britain stands, and Britain has no doubt in where we stand," he said as Johnson sounded agreement. "I believe that the matter is closed," the Saudi minister said. Johnson thanked Jubeir for his comments. A former mayor of London less than six months into his ministerial job, Johnson is a colorful and captivating speaker who has made a series of diplomatic blunders.

'Positive things'

Asked at the press conference if he would apologize, Johnson said he was "here to emphasize the friendship" between the two countries. But he added: "We believe in a candor in our relationship", emphasizing the word "candor". "And now, if you don't mind, is the time for us to talk about the positive things that we're doing together," Johnson continued. May and the Gulf leaders agreed at their

Bahrain summit to form a "strategic partnership" to foster defense and other ties. Sunni-majority Saudi Arabia and Shiite-dominated Iran support opposite sides of the war in Syria and also in Yemen, where Riyadh has since March last year led a coalition bombing campaign against Iran-backed Houthi rebels. On Saturday, Tehran summoned the British ambassador to protest against "interference" by May, over comments she made at the GCC summit. She said her country would help "push back against Iran's aggressive regional actions". In a joint statement, GCC states and Britain said that they "oppose and will work together to counter Iran's destabilizing activities".

Iran and Britain reopened their respective embassies in 2015 following an international agreement to curb Iran's nuclear program in exchange for the lifting of sanctions. Johnson yesterday echoed May's comments supporting the agreement with Iran, while also cautioning that the world needs to be "clear-eved" and vigilant about Iran's role in the region. —AFP



RIYADH: Saudi Minister of Foreign Affairs Adel Al-Jubeir (R) and British Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs Boris Johnson (L) arrive for a joint press conference. —AFP

TRUMP EYES ACCOMPLISHED EXECUTIVE FOR STATE

WASHINGTON: President-elect Donald Trump has found an accomplished American executive in Rex Tillerson, but one whose longstanding support for free trade, international law and an expansive US presence in the Middle East largely doesn't fit with what Trump has pitched to supporters.

A native of Wichita Falls, Texas, Tillerson came to Exxon Mobile Corp as a production engineer straight out of the University of Texas at Austin in 1975 and never left. Groomed for an executive position, Tillerson came up in the rough-and-tumble world of oil production, holding posts in the company's central United States, Yemen and Russian operations.

His nomination as the country's top diplomat would be the nascent Trump administration's most concrete outreach yet to Russian President Vladimir Putin. Success in Russia required aligning the company's interests with those of the Russian government, mettle and good relations with Putin. Exxon steadily expanded its Russian business even as its rivals faced expropriation and regulatory

obstacles, and in 2013 Putin bestowed the Order of Friendship on Tillerson.

In 2006, Tillerson won the battle to succeed former Exxon CEO Lee Raymond. Under the Texan's leadership, oil prices broke records and Exxon's profits helped make it the most valuable public company in the world, with a security force totaling thousands of employees, direct channels with governments worldwide and a strong aversion to American sanctions or limitations on where it could operate.

Tillerson has used Exxon's enormous profits to explore new regions for oil and gas and to invest in new acquisitions like XTO Resources, a company that had helped pioneer drilling for natural gas in formations of shale in the United States. But over the years oil has become more difficult and expensive to find as large, easy-to-tap reservoirs in stable countries were slowly depleted. Exxon and other giant oil corporations found it ever more difficult to replace the oil they sold every day with new resources, and they were forced to look in every

obstacles, and in 2013 Putin bestowed the Order of more difficult and hostile regions for oil and gas.

Hands-off approach

"Energy made in America is not as important as energy simply made wherever it is most economic," he said in 2007 in a speech to the Council on Foreign Relations. "We are free-market, free-trade advocates," he said in another speech to the group five years later, declaring that the greatest boon for American energy security would be support for oil production and trading worldwide.

While Tillerson advocates for a hands-off approach to markets, he's backed continued American engagement in the Middle East. After the Iraq war, Exxon agreed to develop a large project in still-unstable southern Iraq at terms that less favorable to Exxon than most deals. In 2011, Tillerson announced an expansive relationship with Russia's Rosneft that will spend years and billions of dollars developing technology to explore and produce oil and gas in icy waters in the Russian Arctic. While the revolutionary gains from shale fracking have poised the US to supply far more of its own energy, Tillerson has said it would be a mistake to step back. "The question you have to ask is, 'Well then, who steps into that void," he said, suggesting it would be a "large consuming country" such as China.

While his predecessor was a firm skeptic about the link between fossil fuel combustion and climate change, Tillerson has softened the company's position on the issue, even if he's unconvinced by the most dire predictions of the consequences. At an industry conference in 2007, Tillerson acknowledged Earth's climate is changing, the average temperature is rising and greenhouse gas emissions are increasing. He also noted that climate remains a complex area of scientific study.

Exxon remains under fire for its past efforts to undercut climate change - even as recently exposed internal documents show the company's own scientists recognized climate change's legitimacy as early as the 1970s. — AP



BATON ROUGE: President-elect Donald Trump speaks at a "Get Out The Vote" rally to stump for Republican senate candidate, Louisiana Treasurer John Kennedy, and other congressional candidates. — AP

REPUBLICANS REJECT REPORTS THAT RUSSIA HELPED TRUMP WIN

WASHINGTON: Republicans on Saturday rejected reports of a secret CIA assessment finding that Russia sought to tip the US presidential election in Donald Trump's favor, as a Democratic Senate leader called for an investigation. "The intelligence is wrong," Republican National Committee spokesman Sean Spicer told CNN. "It didn't happen."

He was referring to a New York Times report saying US intelligence agencies had "high confidence" that Russian hackers infiltrated the Republican National Committee's computer systems as well as those of Democratic Party organizations, but released information stolen only from the Democrats. News about the CIA report, first reported by The Washington Post on Friday, drew an extraordinary rebuke from the president-elect's camp. "These are the same people that said Saddam Hussein had weapons of mass destruction," Trump's transition team said, launching a broadside against the spy agency. Trump said the election was over and that it's "now time to move on and 'Make America Great Again." However Senator Chuck Schumer, set to become Democratic minority leader in January, called for a congressional probe into the matter. "That any country could be meddling in our elections should shake both political parties to their core," he said Saturday. "It's imperative that our intelligence community turns over any relevant information so that Congress can conduct a full investigation." The debate simmered as US media reported that ExxonMobil President and CEO Rex Tillerson-a businessman with ties to Russian President Vladimir Putin-is Trump's likely pick for secretary of state. Democratic Senator Bob Menendez, a senior member of the Foreign Relations Committee, slammed the idea of Tillerson as top diplomat as "alarming and absurd." "With Rex Tillerson as our Secretary of State, the Trump administration would be guaranteeing Russia has a willing accomplice in the president's cabinet guiding our nation's foreign policy," he said in a statement. And Republican Senator John McCain said on CNN Saturday that Tillerson's ties to Putin were "a matter of concern to me." "I'd have to examine it," he said, adding: "Vladimir Putin is a thug, bully and a murderer, and anybody else who describes him as anything else is lying."

FEARING TRUMP POLICIES, FOREIGN DREAMERS ADVISED TO END TRAVEL 'WE WOULDN'T WANT TO EXPOSE THEM TO AN UNCERTAIN SITUATION'

NEW YORK: Immigrants who were brought to the US illegally as children, but were protected from deportation by President Barrack Obama, are being warned by some advocates to make sure they are not traveling abroad when Donald Trump is sworn in as president on Jan 20. Some advocates, lawyers and universities are concerned that Trump might immediately rescind an Obama program that had allowed these young immigrants to work and travel for humanitarian, educational or employment purposes. That could lead, they fear, to some people traveling abroad being barred from re-entering the US.

"We are recommending all travel be completed by or before Jan 20 in the event laws or procedures experience a drastic change," said Angelica Salas, executive director of the Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles. "We wouldn't want to expose them to an uncertain situation should they not be allowed back to the US."

Trump made illegal immigration the cornerstone of his campaign, promising to build a wall along the Mexican border and deport millions of people living in the country illegally. His actual plans, though, have yet to be revealed. Recently, he has said he wants to focus on people who have committed crimes. During a recent Time magazine interview, Trump expressed sympathy for the 741,000 people in Obama's Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, which started in 2012.

"We're going to work something out that's going to make people happy and proud," Trump said. "They got brought here at a very young age, they've worked here, they've gone to school here. Some were good students. Some have wonderful jobs. And they're in never-never land because they don't know what's going to happen." Advocates are still being cautious.

'It's nerve-wracking'

Nancy Lopez-Ramirez, a 20-year-old student born in Mexico who is planning a trip there as part of a City College of New York class, said she is glad the group is returning by Jan 15. "My mom is like 'I am concerned with you not coming back, I want you to be able to come back," she said. "It is nerve-wracking but I think that at the end it is going to be worth it," said the political-science student, who was brought to the US when she was 4. pants in the program "that if they are outside of the United States as of January 20, 2017, there is no assurance they will be allowed to return to the US." Trump can rescind the promised protection right away through an "operational memo" because Obama implemented it through one, said William Stock, president of the American Immigration Lawyers Association. He said the program's participants should not consider traveling overseas unless they absolutely need to.

US Customs and Border Protection spokesman Anthony Bucci said his agency "cannot speculate" when he was asked how long would it take for CBP officers to deny entry

to the U.S. to program participants if Trump eliminated the protection. US Citizenship and Immigration Services records said that as of Dec. 31, 2015, about 22,340 people in the DACA program were approved for the "parole" that allows them to travel outside the US. Trump called the program an "illegal amnesty" during his campaign. Tatyana Kleyn, an associate professor at City College who organized the upcoming Mexico trip, said interest in it actually surged among students after the presidential election. "So right now our bus fits 18 and we are bringing 20," she said. "It feels like a last chance." —AP



'Help Trump get elected'

The reports of Russian interference in the White House vote follow President Barack Obama's order for a review of all cyberattacks that took place during the 2016 election cycle. According to The Post, individuals with connections to Moscow provided anti-secrecy website WikiLeaks with emails hacked from the Democratic National Committee, Democratic candidate Hillary Clinton's campaign chief, and others. WikiLeaks steadily released those emails in the months before the election, damaging Clinton's White House run. "It is the assessment of the intelligence community that Russia's goal here was to favor one candidate over the other, to help Trump get elected," a US official briefed on an intelligence presentation to key senators told the newspaper. "That's the consensus view."

CIA agents told the lawmakers it was "quite clear" that electing Trump was Russia's goal, according to officials who spoke to the Post. Russian hackers did not limit their hits to the Democrats, The New York Times reported. "We now have high confidence that they hacked the D.N.C. and the R.N.C., and conspicuously released no documents" from the Republican organization, one senior administration official told The Times.

Question marks

The CIA's assessment falls short of a formal US assessment produced by all 17 intelligence agencies, The Post said. Intelligence agents cannot prove that Russian officials directed the identified individuals to give WikiLeaks the hacked Democratic emails. WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange has denied links with Russia's government. California Republican Congressman Devin Nunes, chair of the House Intelligence Committee and a member of the Trump transition team, said he "does not believe the evidence shows that the Russians interfered in the elections in order to help Trump," a spokesman told AFP. However Adam Schiff, the top Democrat on the same committee, said "the integrity of our elections is hindered" when Trump and his transition team "minimize or dismiss the intelligence assessments."— AFP City College, part of the City University of New York, is one of the institutions advising students in the DACA program to return before Inauguration Day. So is California State University, which told administrators to tell partici-

SAN FRANCISCO: In this Thursday, Nov 10, 2016, file photo, high school students protest in opposition of Donald Trump's presidential election victory. — AP

REPUBLICANS SWEEP LOUISIANA RUNOFFS, 2016 ELECTIONS END



BATON ROUGE: Louisiana state treasurer John Kennedy hugs his wife Becky after addressing supporters at his election watch party, after being elected to the senate seat vacated by Sen. David Vitter, R-La. — AP

ALGERIAN JAILED OVER FACEBOOK POEM DIES

ALGIERS: A British-Algerian journalist died yesterday three months into a hunger strike to protest a two-year jail term for offending Algeria's president in a poem posted online, his lawyer said. "I can confirm the death of the journalist Mohamed Tamalt in Bab el-Oued hospital after a hunger strike of more than three months and a three-month coma," Amine Sidhoum said on Facebook.

The prison service, in a statement said Tamalt had died of a lung infection for which he was receiving treatment since it was detected on December 4. Tamalt, a dual national, launched the hunger strike in protest after his arrest near his parents' house in the capital Algiers on June 27. The 42-year-old blogger and freelance journalist who ran a website from London where he lived was charged with "offending" President Abdelaziz Bouteflika and "defaming a public authority" in the poem which he shared on Facebook. A court in Algiers sentenced him two years in prison on July 11 and fined him 200,000 dinars (\$1,800), and an appeals court upheld the ruling a month later.

Human Rights Watch had urged Algerian authorities to release him in August when he was reportedly in critical condition. "The Algerian authorities should quash the case against Tamalt and send the message that free speech will be respected in Algeria," it said at the time. — AFP **BATON ROUGE:** The 2016 campaign season has finally ended, with Louisiana's runoff election cementing Republican control of the US Senate. The GOP also is holding onto the two U.S. House seats that were undecided going into the state's runoff election. Republican state Treasurer John Kennedy's victory Saturday gives the GOP a 52-48 edge in the Senate starting in January. His runoff campaign focused on his support for President-elect Donald Trump and opposition to the Affordable Care Act.

Voters also chose Republican Clay Higgins, a former sheriff's captain known as the "Cajun John Wayne," in the 3rd District representing southwest and south central Louisiana. Republican state Rep. Mike Johnson won the 4th District, covering northwest Louisiana. Kennedy entered as the front-runner and never relinquished the position, even when the field swelled to two dozen contenders in November. In the runoff, he defeated Democrat Foster Campbell, a state utility regulator who was such a long-shot that national Democratic organizations gave him little help.

It was Kennedy's third U.S. Senate run since 2004 and this time he won in a landslide, taking 61 percent to Campbell's 39 percent in the low-turnout election. "With 52 seats in the U.S. Senate, we are excited for Republicans to confirm a conservative Supreme Court justice and begin working with President-elect Trump to pass an agenda of change for the American people," a statement from Republican National Committee co-chair Sharon Day said. Kennedy declared that he represents change in Washington.

"I believe that our future can be better than our present, but not if we keep going in the direction the Washington insiders have taken us the last eight years," he said. "That's about to change, folks." Louisiana's open primary system pits all candidates against each other and sends the top two vote-getters into a runoff when no one gets more than 50 percent.

No stone unturned

Trump and Vice President-elect Mike Pence both traveled to Louisiana to rally for Kennedy, and despite Campbell's slim chances, he did get donations from around the country, aimed at bolstering resistance to the Trump presidency. "We worked as hard as possible. We left no stone unturned," Campbell said in his concession speech. "I make no excuses. We did everything humanly possible."

The results keep Louisiana with one Democratic representative among its six congressman and two senators. The Senate seat was open because Republican David Vitter decided against running for a third term after losing the governor's race last year. Both Kennedy and Campbell have been involved in Louisiana politics for decades.

Kennedy, an Oxford-educated lawyer from south Louisiana, is in his fifth term as treasurer, and has repeatedly been in the headlines while clashing with Louisiana's governors over state finances. He sprinkled campaign speeches with examples of government-financed contracts he considered outrageous, like money"to study the effects of Swedish massage on bunny rabbits."

Campbell, a cattle farmer and populist former state senator from north Louisiana who railed against "Big Oil," talked openly about man-made climate change and argued for increasing the minimum wage. Though a Democrat, he opposed abortion and ran as supportive of gun rights. Two House seats were open because Republicans Charles Boustany and John Fleming unsuccessfully sought the Senate seat instead of re-election.

The 3rd District race's presumed frontrunner had been Scott Angelle, a Republican member of the Public Service Commission and well-known public official for nearly 30 years. But Higgins - who made attentiongrabbing Crime Stoppers videos as a sheriff's captain - capitalized on disenchantment with career politicians to trounce Angelle with only a fraction of his money and a bare-bones organization. — AP



BUCHAREST: A Romanian woman casts her ballot at a polling station in Bucharest during parliamentary elections. — AFP

Romanian left seeks comeback ONE YEAR AFTER NIGHTCLUB FIRE

BUCHAREST: Romanians voted yesterday in parliamentary elections that are forecast to see the corruption-tainted left stage a remarkable comeback, a year after a deadly nightclub fire forced them from office. Mass protests after the fire on October 30, 2015 that claimed 64 lives-and which was blamed on corruption-forced premier Victor Ponta and his Social Democrats (PSD) to resign. But now, 13 months later, the PSD is expected to be in pole position to return to power, with pre-election opinion polls suggesting it will come first with around 40 percent of the vote.

It remains to be seen if it can form a majority government, however. Much will depend on which of the smaller parties make it into parliament. The rival centreright National Liberal Party (PNL) and the Save Romania Union (USR, newly created by a mathematician-turned-activist, are seen garnering a combined 35-40 percent. The European Union's second-poorest country has been run for the past year by a caretaker government under technocrat Prime Minister Dacian Ciolos, 47, a former European commissioner.

The PNL and the USR have said they would support Ciolos staying on. He is happy to do so but wants to remain an independent, vowing continued budgetary discipline. But the PSD wants to install instead party head Liviu Dragnea, 54, as premier. However, Dragnea is serving a suspended sentence for electoral fraud, which legally bars him from office, while President Klaus Johannis, 57, has refused to appoint anyone with legal problems as premier. This would also exclude a comeback by Ponta, 44, currently on trial-in fact he was already in the dock as prime minister-for alleged tax evasion and money laundering, charges he denies.

Bent officials

The inferno inside the Colectiv club was blamed on bent officials turning a blind eye

tragedy prompted a push to clean Romania up. The National Anti-Corruption Directorate (DNA) has been highly active and visible, bringing ministers, senators, lawmakers and other public officials to justice. A recent survey suggested that 95 percent of Romanians want tackling corruption to be a priority for the next government But there are worries this will not happen if the PSD returns to power. The clean-up has "disproportionately hit the Romanian left," said Tsveta Petrova from risk consultancy Eurasia Group. "As a result, should a left-led coalition come to power, it will try to slow down this campaign."

Promises,

But the PSD is still forecast to become the largest party, thanks to solid support among older Romanians and in rural areas of the southeastern European nation of 20 million people. However, 27 years after the summary execution of Dictator Nicolae Ceausescu and the end of Communism, voter apathy is rife, with turnout forecast to be as low as 40 percent.

Both sides, while trading insults and generally avoiding serious political discussion during the campaign, have pledged spectacular hikes in wages and pensions as well as tax cuts. Such promises, however unaffordable, go down well in a nation where more than half of rural households have no running water and one in four people lives in poverty. Three million people have emigrated.

At the same time, however, the nationalist and anti-EU rhetoric seen in other countries in the region like Hungary and Poland has been largely, if not entirely, absent. "Change has to start with all of us," voter Livia Gheorghe, a student, told AFP. "So I am going to vote and I hope that my vote counts and that the political class finally changes, too." "All the current politicians should go," said Florin, an engineer. Polling stations for Romania's

INTERNATIONAL

'URGENT NEED FOR A FULLY FUNCTIONING GOVERNMENT

ROME: Paolo Gentiloni was named yesterday as Italy's new prime minister following reformist leader Matteo Renzi's resignation in the wake of a crushing referendum defeat. Gentiloni, who served as foreign minister under Renzi, was asked by President Sergio Mattarella to form a new centre-left government that will guide Italy to elections due by February 2018.

A close ally of the outgoing premier, Gentiloni now has to put together his own government team ahead of a parliamentary approval vote expected on Wednesday. In a brief statement, Gentiloni said there was an "urgent need for a fully functioning government" to address a series of pressing international, economic and social issues.

Chief among those is a looming crisis in the troubled banking sector and ongoing relief efforts after a series of deadly earthquakes between August and October. Mattarella turned to Gentiloni after opposition parties rebuffed overtures about a possible national unity government. The president rejected opposition demands for an immediate election.

"Not by choice but out of a sense of responsibility I will be forming a government based on the outgoing majority," Gentiloni said. Renzi, who had been in power for two years and 10 months, resigned last week after voters overwhelmingly rejected a package of constitutional reforms on which he had staked his future. The populist Five Star Movement, which has led calls for immediate elections, said it would boycott Wednesday's vote because the new government would have no legitimacy. "This government is not even worthy of a vote against it," said Giulia Grillo, head of the Five Star group in the Senate.

Puppet premier?

Gentiloni, 62, is very close to Renzi and will be seen by the opposition as a puppet premier keeping the seat warm for former boss, who is planning a comeback at the next elections, whenever they are. In a statement on his Facebook page, Renzi, 41, admitted it had been a wrench to leave office and vowed to pursue his reform agenda.

"It was painful to pack the cartons yesterday evening, I'm not ashamed to say: I'm not a robot," he wrote. "Only those who try to change things can help a country as beautiful and difficult as Italy." Five Star, Italy's biggest opposition party, and the far-right Northern League are demanding a vote as early as possible. But Mattarella, who enjoys extensive executive powers during government crises, has ruled that the current electoral laws must be revised first.

Theoretically that could happen quickly but the process of harmonizing the rules governing elections to the two houses of parliament, the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate, could also drag on for months. As things stand, the lower house would be elected by a system under which the largest party is guaranteed a majority of seats while the Senate would be voted in under a proportional representation system. Most observers agree that this is a recipe for chaos.

Small investors' fury

The situation could be simplified at the end of January, when the constitutional court is due to rule on the legitimacy of the new win-

ner-take-all system for the Chamber of Deputies. Gentiloni had taken over as foreign minister in October 2014, replacing Federica Mogherini who is currently serving as EU foreign policy chief.

He is a longstanding friend and soulmate of Renzi's and cynics will say that the silver-haired, grey-suited politician's primary qualification for the job is that he poses no threat to the former premier's comeback plans. Gentiloni's first tricky task as prime minister is likely to be overseeing a rescue of troubled bank Monte dei Paschi di Siena (BMPS).

A state-funded salvage operation is seen as inevitable following the European Central Bank's refusal on Friday to allow more time for a private bailout. Under EU rules, state funds can be injected into troubled banks only if private creditors accept losses. In the case of BMPS, this could hit many small investors who hold the bank's junior bonds. Imposing losses at smaller banks last year caused outrage in Italy and damaged Renzi's standing. — AFP



ROME: Paolo Gentiloni, left, leaves the Italian lower Chamber yesterday. - AP

MEXICO ARMY FACES GRUELING BATTLE AGAINST OPIUM POPPIES

IN THE SIERRA MADRE OCCIDENTAL MOUN-TAIN RANGE: The soldiers ripped the opium poppies with their hands and tossed them in four bonfires, clearing a hill in Mexico's lush northwestern mountains in less than two hours. But their work in the heart of the country's "Golden Triangle," a tri-state region of heroin and marijuana production, was far from over.

plant new seeds to replace what they just lost. It takes only three months for poppies to grow. "It's tiresome to see so many poppies every day," the fresh-faced, 24-year-old commander said as he trekked back toward the unit's tent camp.

As Mexico marks on Sunday 10 years since the government deployed troops to crack down on drug cartels, the army faces an uphill battle in its

Opium poppies are mostly grown in the southern state of Guerrero and the Golden Triangle-which straddles the states of Sinaloa, Durango and Chihuahua. Farmers in the Golden Triangle started to grow more poppies than marijuana since several US states began to legalize pot consumption in 2012, Cruz said. Cartels used to pay the farmers around \$60 per kilo of marijuana, but the price has now dropped by half, he said. The price of a kilo of opium gum has jumped from around \$980-\$1200 to \$1,765. The half-hectare field destroyed by Hernandez's unit could have produced half a kilo of brownish gum, enough to make three kilos of heroin. The farmers slice the bulbs with a razor blade, allowing the sticky gum to trickle out overnight to be collected the next day. The raw material is then sold in a sort of "market day," Cruz said. In June, Mexico's government and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) released the first estimate of opium poppy cultivation, with aerial and satellite images finding 24,800 hectares across Mexico between 2014-2015. A second analysis is underway to make a year-on-year comparison. But army figures show poppy eradication nationwide increased from 14,613 hectares in 2013 to 26,249 in 2015. It stood at 19.848 hectares in the first 11 months of this year. In the Golden Triangle, 9,078 hectares were destroyed in 2015 and 6,145 this year, far more than marijuana. A US Drug Enforcement Administration report says heroin seizures more than doubled to 2,524 kilos at the US-Mexico border between 2010-2015. The government has stepped up eradication efforts, increasing fumigation flights in the Golden Triangle to four missions in 2016, each lasting 20 to 25 days, compared to three operations last year. The region's special unit was created in July 2014 to focus solely on plant eradication. Reconnaissance flights or satellite images spot the fields. When fumigation flights are not available, soldiers do the work by hand. Small teams like the one led by Lieutenant Hernandez spend three months in the mountains looking for marijuana or opium poppies. They set up 10 tents between trees, braving chilly nights and spending the day destroying plants. But they never arrest growers, who either flee or deny owning the fields. - AFP

to a lack of fire precautions. Poor medical care exacerbated the death toll. For many Romanians it was the final straw, and the

18.8 million registered voters close at 1900 GMT, with exit polls and projections expected afterwards. — AFP

JAMMEH TO CONTEST **ELECTION IN COURT**

BANJUL: Gambia's incumbent head of state Yahya Jammeh will contest in court the election victory handed to opposition candidate Adama Barrow, his party has said. In a shock rejection of his defeat at the polls, Jammeh cited in a speech broadcast late Friday "unacceptable errors" by election authorities. He was referring to a readjustment of the votes counted in the December 1 presidential election.

Jammeh's declaration was "a prelude to a petition that the (ruling) APRC Party is in the process of filing before the Supreme Court of the Gambia against a fraud decision of the IEC (Independent Electoral Commission)," his party said in a statement released late Saturday.

Jammeh had said Friday that he had previously accepted the electoral results "believing that the Independent Electoral Commission was independent and honest and reliable", but would now "reject the results in totality." Jammeh's swift concession of defeat on December 2 had stunned observers and led to celebrations in the country.

Constitutionally Jammeh has 10 days after the election result is declared to file a complaint, but that deadline-December 12 — is a bank holiday, meaning he may

have an extra day in lieu. His lawyers might also argue he has 10 days after the recount declaration, according to legal experts. The Supreme Court has not sat in more than a year, so judges will have to be appointed before they can consider the president's legal complaint, potentially delaying Barrow's inauguration.

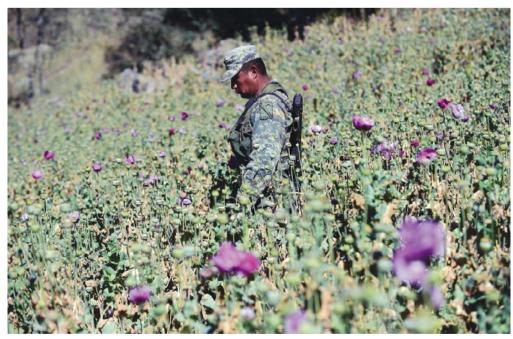
Jammeh, a devout Muslim who seized power in 1994 in the former British colony, warned Gambians not to take to the streets to protest his decision, raising concerns from rights groups. "President Jammeh's rejection of the election results and his statement that he will not tolerate protest risks leading to instability and possible repression," said Sabrina Mahtani, Amnesty International's West Africa Researcher. Latest official figures gave Barrow 43.29 percent of the votes in the presidential election, while Jammeh took 39.64 percent.

The turnout was 59 percent. Those figures reflect the correction issued Monday by election authorities, showing a slimmer-than-thought victory for Barrow, of just over 19,000 votes. Barrow on Saturday called on Jammeh to drop his challenge, while the UN, US and other foreign authorities lambasted Jammeh and urged Gambians to keep the peace. — AFP

After the troops destroyed the 0.5-hectare field on Thursday, Lieutenant Juan Pablo Hernandez Zempoaltecatl pointed to another one on a steep hill past a row of pine trees, and more down the Sierra Madre Occidental mountain range. His 18-man unit has destroyed 39 fields amounting to 15 hectares since they set up camp two weeks ago following a day-and-ahalf trek up hills infested with snakes and venomous spiders.

Hernandez estimates that his unit faces 20 more days of grueling work to clear the remote area while spending chilly nights in small tents in the wild. But once they've destroyed all the bulbs, Hernandez expects farmers to quickly

four-decade-old struggle to eradicate a growing opium poppy production. The poppies are grown by local farmers, who extract opium gum from bulbs and sell it to gangs such as the Sinaloa drug cartel, which transforms the raw material into heroin. "Every time we destroy a field ... the locals come back to plant after our personnel has left the area," said Colonel Cipriano Cruz Quiroz, chief of staff of a special narcotics eradication unit based in Badiraguato, Sinaloa state. "They don't see us in a good light but they tolerate us. They have their work and we have ours. They plant and we destroy," said Cruz, whose base is in the hometown of imprisoned Sinaloa cartel kingpin Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman.



SINALOA: A Mexican soldier pulls up poppy flowers as part of the army's struggle to eradicate growing opium production, in the community of Surutato. — AFP

MACEDONIA VOTES HOPE TO END POLITICAL CRISIS

SKOPJE: Macedonians were voting yesterday in an early general election in a bid to end a deep political crisis that has roiled the small Balkan country for nearly two years. The vote was called as part of a European Union-brokered deal between Macedonia's four main political parties after a mass surveillance scandal erupted in February 2015 and sparked rival street protests.

According to electoral officials, voting at 3,490 polling stations was going on smoothly and without major incidents. In order to ensure credibility, a voter photo appears next to the name on voter lists, a State Electoral Commission member told AFP. On a sunny day in Skopje, the elderly were among the first to cast their ballots along with young couples with children at a polling station in the city centre.

"I expect this agony to end," after the elections, 55-year old Zoran Milevski said, referring to the political crisis. "Whoever wins I hope will bring back stability," he told AFP at a school-turned-polling station, adding that new government should focus on

the economy. Electoral officials said turnout was 9.59 percent three hours after polling stations opened at 7:00am (0600 GMT), similar to the one in the last parliamentary elections held two years ago.

The scandal led Nikola Gruevski of the nationalist VMRO-DPMNE party to step down, after nearly 10 years in power, to pave the way for a snap election. Yesterday's vote, which was twice delayed owing to opposition and international concerns of fraud, pitches the ex-PM against his nemesis, Social Democrat Zoran Zaev. It was Zaev who released tapes last year that appeared to show the government wiretapping thousands of people, including iournalists and religious officials, as well as corruption at the highest level.

Gruevski denied the claims and accused Zaev of planning a coup with foreign support. "Zoran Zaev underestimates the citizens of Macedonia... He underestimates everyone with his games," the defiant former premier told a flag-waving crowd of supporters in a Skopje suburb on Thursday night. Zaev has pitched the vote as a choice between "doom or life" and pledged to stop an exodus of leading to an agreement giving the minority group young people from the former Yugoslav republic, which remains one of Europe's poorest countries.

Unpredictable

Although critics describe 46-year-old Gruevski as a corrupt authoritarian who has clamped down on democracy and media freedom, his party topped opinion plls ahead of the election. There also remained a substantial number of undecided voters, who could swing the result in the country of two million people.

"This election is one of the most unpredictable to take place in Macedonia," Zaneta Trajkoska, director at the Institute of Communication Studies. told AFP. "Whoever wins the election will have huge challenges and issues to solve." A handful of ethnic Albanian political groups are vying to become the junior partner in the new ruling coalition, in a country where a guarter of the population is Albanian. Albanian insurgents fought Macedonian forces in an uprising 15 years ago, more rights.

'Under pressure'

Macedonia aspires to join both the EU and NATO but accession has been blocked by Athens owing to a dispute over the country's name-Greece has a northern region also called Macedonia. The latest EU progress report on Macedonia said democracy and rule of law had been "constantly challenged" in particular by "state capture", meaning the considerable influence of private interests on decisions of the state.

Analysts however suggest Europe has pushed aside concerns because of Gruevski's role as a "gatekeeper" in the refugee crisis, in which hundreds of thousands of migrants have entered landlocked Macedonia from Greece on their way to western Europe. The refugee wave has put added pressure on the already strained budget in Macedonia, where the average net wage is around 360 euros a month and unemployment stands at nearly 24 percent. —AFP

Kuwait Times 🌆______ INTERNATIONAL

MONDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2016

30 DEAD AS KENYA TANKER EXPLODES

NAIROBI: More than 30 people died when from among the wreckage of charred cars a tanker carrying flammable materials crashed into other vehicles and burst into flames outside the town of Naivasha in Kenya late on Saturday, officials said. "At 5:00 am the death toll was 33 but the search is still on," Pius Masai of Kenya's National Disaster Unit said yesterday.

He added that rescuers were continuing to comb the area for bodies. Masai said the accident involved "over 11 vehicles burnt" when the tanker rammed into others on the road and caught fire. Kenya's Red Cross said the driver lost control of the tanker which then crashed into other vehicles and "burst into flames". A passenger minibus and a police truck were among the vehicles gutted by the ferocious flames.

The dead include 11 officers of the General Service Unit, a paramilitary police force. In a statement issued by Kenya's State House, President Uhuru Kenyatta said "the tanker responsible for the deaths should not have been on that particular road at that hour" and called for a full investigation into a "tragic breach" of the rules restricting the movement of large trucks on certain roads and at certain times.

The accident occurred at Karai at the bottom of a long slope on the busy Nairobi-Nakuru highway, the main crosscountry road leading from Kenya's capital to the west of the country and on to Uganda. Police and witnesses said the truck with Ugandan registration plates was travelling fast when it hit a speed bump and then lost control.

At least 50 people injured in the accident have been admitted to a private hospital in Naivasha. Witnesses described a fireball engulfing the vehicles with passengers inside. After firefighters put out the flames, rescue workers collected bodies

strewn across the highway.

'Like a horror movie'

"It's a terrible incident, people are burnt, some in their cars and others as they tried to escape," said a police officer on the scene. George Rono was driving on the highway when he saw the tanker crash into other vehicles. "We survived by luck because we saw it happen," Rono said. "We heard vehicles hooting simultaneously, then a loud burst that was followed by fire, that's when I swerved my car and jumped out, when fire started spreading, but luckily it didn't get to where we were."

Rono's passenger, who did not want to be named, described the intensity of the blaze. "The fire was so huge you couldn't move closer until the fire brigade came and helped put it out. All the vehicles around here were burning," he said. Some survivors were treated on the scene by civilians and the Red Cross while others were taken to hospital. Corpses were put in body bags and loaded into pick-up trucks.

"It is like a horror movie," said Jane Muthoni, a shopkeeper who works close to the scene of the accident and rushed there to try to help people escape their cars. "It will haunt me for a long time, imagining that huge fire where people were burning, and now I have seen some seated in their vehicles dead," she said.

The busy highway is notorious for deadly accidents. In 2009 more than 100 people were killed and 200 injured on the same road after a petrol tanker overturned and local people gathered to collect the leaking fuel when a fire ignited. Given the scale of Saturday's disaster it is expected that the death toll may rise. The accident comes as Kenya is in the throes of a nationwide doctors' strike. — AFP



NAIROBI: Kenyan Vice President William Ruto (2nd-R) visits the crash site of a truck that rammed into several vehicles before bursting into flames near Karai on the busy Naivasha highway. — AFP



NIGERIAN CHURCH COLLAPSES, **160 DEAD: HOSPITAL DIRECTOR**

CAMERAS BEING SEIZED, JOURNALISTS TOLD TO LEAVE

LAGOS: Metal girders and the roof of a crowded church collapsed onto worshippers in southern Nigeria, killing at least 160 people with the toll likely to rise, a hospital director said yesterday. Mortuaries in the city of Uyo are overflowing from Saturday's tragedy, medical director Etete Peters of the University of Uyo Teaching Hospital told The Associated Press. The Reigners Bible Church International was still under construction and workers had been rushing to finish it in time for Saturday's ceremony to ordain founder Akan Weeks as a bishop, congregants said.

Hundreds of people, including Akwa Ibom state Gov Udom Emmanuel, were inside when metal girders crashed onto worshippers and the corrugated iron roof caved in, they said. Emmanuel and Weeks, who preaches that God will make his followers rich, escaped unhurt. Screaming survivors were streaming out and there were cries from injured victims when computer program analyst Ukeme Eyibio rushed to the scene.

"There were trapped bodies, parts of bodies, blood all over the place and people's handbags and shoes scattered," Eyibio said in a telephone interview. He had parked his car outside the complex to make a phone call, heard a deafening explosion he thought was a bomb only to see that the church had disappeared, he said. Eyibio and three others managed to drag 10 wounded people from an overflow area for of worshippers just outside the collapsed church but they did not enter the main structure because a construction worker among them warned of the danger of a further collapse. The worker called his boss at Julius Berger construction company, who sent a crane to help lift debris off bodies.

While they waited for the crane, Eyibio tried to help a man whose legs were trapped under a steel girder. "I rushed to my car, got out the tire jack and used that to get the beam off his legs," he said. "We managed to get him out but we saw others dying all around us," Eyibio, 27, said. "I'm so traumatized I could not sleep last night for the horrors repeating themselves in my mind."

Coverage compromised

Many uncounted victims are in private mortuaries scattered across Uyo, youth leader Edikan Peters said. He said some people are secretly taking the bodies of relatives to their homes because mortuaries are overcrowded and some do not have refrigeration. A crane is being used to lift debris believed to be hiding the bodies of more victims, said Peters. Peter said he tallied 90 have delayed a trial. — AP

bodies before he was told to stop counting on Saturday night.

Journalists at the scene charge that church officials are trying to prevent them from documenting the tragedy, trying to seize cameras and forcing some to leave the area. The governor's spokesman, Ekerete Udoh, said the state government will hold an inquiry to investigate if anyone compromised building standards. Buildings collapse often in Nigeria because of endemic corruption with contractors using sub-standard materials and bribing inspectors to ignore shoddy work or a lack of building permits.

In 2014, 116 people died when a multi-story guesthouse of the Synagogue Church of All Nations collapsed in Lagos, Nigeria's largest city. Most victims were visiting South African followers of the megachurch's influential founder T. B. Joshua. Two structural engineers, Joshua and church trustees have been accused of criminal negligence and involuntary manslaughter after a coroner found the building collapsed from structural failures caused by design and detailing errors. But Lagos state government efforts to bring them to court have been foiled by repeated legal challenges that

FROZEN: NO CHRISTMAS CHEER FOR **MIGRANTS ON BELGRADE STREETS**

7,000-euro journey

in March, but migrants have continued to cross

the region in smaller numbers, often brought

Afghanistan, said he does not want to go to a

reception centre because the authorities "will send us back to Bulgaria where again we will

have to pay money" to smugglers. Darwich, who

said he is 17, started his journey a year ago. It

cost him 7,000 euros (\$7,380) obtained from the

sale of his family's land. Others finance their

or Hungary, which unlike Serbia are EU member

states. "They caught us near the border. They

beat us and sent us back," claims Ihsan Ullah, a

15-year-old Afghan. Ullah says Serbs treat them

better. His desired destination is London where

Some have tried to cross illegally into Croatia

journey by selling livestock or shops.

Mohamed Darwich, from eastern

there by traffickers.

warehouse, its walls blackened with smoke, several dozen youngsters huddle together under blankets in a bid to fend off the freezing temperatures as the Serbian winter sets in. Most have left home and family in Pakistan and Afghanistan to seek safety or work in Europe, but have found themselves caught in stateless limbo as successive European nations have slammed shut their doors.

We are waiting for Christmas Day. Maybe they will open the borders," says Waseem Afridi, a 23-year-old Pakistani stuck in this frigid cul-desac on the path to the European Union. About 1,000 migrants are sleeping rough in downtown Belgrade, the UN refugee agency says, many settling in the warehouse squeezed between the central railway station and a luxury apartment construction site on the Sava river bank.

During the night they brave temperatures falling below zero degrees Celsius (32 degrees Fahrenheit). "It is getting colder every day," says Afridi who comes from Pakistan's tribal areas bordering Afghanistan. The acrid air inside the warehouse irritates eyes and throat. For heat, the migrants burn whatever they can find. The lucky ones put carpets on the glacial concrete, while others use cardboard. Those who get up from their blankets, tired-looking, try to warm up with a hot tea and eat some bread. Those first up

BELGRADE: Inside an abandoned Belgrade head towards two fuming barrels filled with he has an uncle who has financed his odyssey. heated water to wash up.

'We are stuck here'

It is not possible to verify whether their sto-The young men, some of whom are still ries that could enable them to obtain refugee teenagers, refuse to go to one of the 13 official status are true. Afridi says that in Pakistan he reception centers which accommodate some took part in polio vaccination campaigns that 5,300 people, according to the Serbian refugee displeased the Taleban. Hashim Zia-Ulhag, travagency. Serbia lies on the so-called Balkan route elling with his two younger brothers from eastthat has been taken by hundreds of thousands ern Afghanistan, claims that back home he was of migrants from the Middle East, Asia and Africa accused of having worked for a road construction company cooperating with Westerners. since 2015. The route was effectively shut down

In any event the 25-year-old feels he had no other choice but to leave. "If I had a solution to my problems, would I have left my wife, my fouryear-old son, my mother and my father?" Unlike Afridi he is not counting on Christmas goodwill. "Europe is not what it used to be. They were not treating refugees like this," he says.

"The attacks in France and Belgium made things worse.... We are stuck here." Wrapped in a blanket, Mohamed Khan, a 23-year-old Pakistani student speaking perfect English, is angry. "Europeans can say that they are for human rights. But, where are human rights when it is minus five, minus seven, minus 10" degrees Celsius? Khan asked. He refuses to explain why he left Peshawar in northwestern Pakistan. "Nobody leaves his country without a reason," he simply says. — AFP

UKRAINIAN CHILDREN LEARN TO THE ECHOES OF SHELLING

MARINKA: Two long bells mean children stacks of sandbags to make sure that no must pack their blankets and clothing and run into a bomb shelter at this dilapidated school on the frontline of Ukraine's smoldering war. The drills in the government-held town of Marinka that was once home to 10,000 people have been held monthly since the conflict broke out with pro-Russian insurgents in April 2014.

And sometimes there has been actual shelling. One rebel assault on the town killed 20 people in June last year. "In the early days, I used to get frightened when every shot was fired," 15-year-old Tanya Mokraya told AFP. "I would cry and be unable to sleep. But now I am used to it. I often walk home from school to the sound of automatic gunfire," the 10thgrader said.

Military outpost

Three hundred children used to attend the Marinka school before Ukraine was hurled into its worst military crisis since World War II. The building itself looks more like a well-fortified military outpost than a school. The doors are pockmarked with bullet holes while the walls are covered with posters warning about landmines that litter the surrounding fields.

one gets hurt by stray shrapnel. And the entrance is guarded by military policemen wearing body armor and carrying machineguns. The kids are forced to stay inside until the fighting that periodically breaks out stops.

Many families fled Marinka after the June 2015 attacks — never to return. Mokraya herself went to five different schools across government-held parts of Ukraine after the fighting broke out. She returned to Marinka in September and now attends half-empty classes taught only by teachers who are willing to brave the conflict. "I am sad that the school has become kind of boring and there are so few children. But it is good that it is open at all," Mokraya said.

'Furious with army'

"Last month the school came under fire. All the floors were hit and more than 40 windows were shattered," Ukrainian military spokesman Oleksandr Kindsfater told AFP. "It is not the first time the rebels have targeted this school. It comes under constant fire." Kindsfater accuses the rebels of launching strikes to keep the locals fearful and angry that the Ukrainian army has been unable to protect them. —AFP

BELGRADE: Mohamed Darwich, a 17-year old migrant from Afghanistan, poses in a makeshift shelter at an abandoned warehouse. — AFP

The windows are protected with

2 SUICIDE BOMBERS DIE IN BLASTS NEAR MARKET IN NIGERIAN CITY

MAIDUGURI: Two suicide bombers died when they exploded yesterday in a crowded area near a market in Nigeria's northeastern city of Maiduguri, injuring 17 people, rescue officials said. Survivor Abubakar Musa said he also saw among the victims the bodies of soldiers, who were guarding a nearby electric power installation.

A male and female suicide bomber detonated themselves minutes apart, spokesman Sani Datti of the National Emergency Management Agency said of the attack blamed on the Boko Haram Islamic extremist group.

It birthplace is Maiduguri. The blasts occurred near Maiduguri's Monday Market, just weeks after the state government ordered the reopening of all roads leading to the market. They have been closed for nearly two years over security concerns following previous bombings at the market that killed dozens of people.

On Friday, two women suicide bombers exploded in a market at Madagali, 150 kilometers southeast of Maiduguri, killing 57 people and wounding 177 including 120 children. Since Nigeria's military has dislodged insurgents from towns and villages this year, Boko Haram has been attacking soft targets. Suicide bombings and attacks on military camps continue, though Nigeria's government claims it has the insurgents on the run. President Muhammadu Buhari declared the Islamic uprising "technically defeated" a year ago. On Friday, he vowed Nigeria's military is working "at slamming the final nail in the coffin of Boko Haram."

The seven-year insurgency has killed more than 20,000 people, forced 2.6 million from their homes and created a massive humanitarian crisis. Boko Haram, which has one branch allied to the Islamic State group, wants to install an Islamic state in Nigeria, West Africa's oil giant of 170 million people divided almost equally between a mainly Christian south and predominantly Muslim north.

More blasts in Somalia

In other news, more than 20 people were killed yesterday in a suicide truck bombing in the Somali capital Mogadishu, police said, in a fresh strike claimed by the Al-Qaedalinked Shabaab group. —Agencies



KYRGYZSTAN VOTES IN DIVISIVE CONSTITUTIONAL REFERENDUM

Kyrgyzstan went to the polls yesterday to vote on a raft of amendments to the constitution promoted by the country's leader, several of which have been slammed by rights groups. The Central Election Commission said that polls had opened across the Central Asian country at 0200 GMT for a vote analysts say is likely to see the changes passed.

Kyrgyzstan, a mountainous majority-Muslim republic of six million, is the most democratic of the so-called "stans" but also the most politically volatile. In just 25 years of independence the country has experienced two revolutions unseating presidents in 2005 and 2010 and ethnic violence. This is the seventh

BISHKEK: Citizens in ex-Soviet time the country is putting constitutional changes to a vote.

"Past changes to the basic law have shown that our politicians and their lawyers do not know how to make reforms," Zainidin Kurmanov, a political analyst and former parliamentary speaker told AFP. "There is no certainty that anything worthwhile will emerge from these amendments," he said. In October, two parties exited the coalition government headed by Kyrgyz President Almazbek Atambayev's Social Democratic Party of Kyrgyzstan in opposition to the proposed changes.

If passed, the country's prime minister will gain new powers over budget-related legislation and will not need parliamentary or presidential approval to "between a man and a woman" rather appoint and dismiss ministers. Atambayev has repeatedly denied accusations he will drop down into the strengthened premier's role when his single six-year term ends next year. A bylaw created when the constitution was last amended in 2010 said the existing constitution should remain until 2020 but parliament and the judiciary endorsed the vote.

LGBT propaganda

Other amendments that appear to threaten individual rights have drawn criticism at home and abroad. One highlighted by the Council of Europe's Venice Commission defines marriage as

than "two persons" as previously. Kyrgyzstan has come under fire from the West since 2014 for considering an LGBT propaganda bill echoing one passed in key ally Russia, but the law has not progressed beyond the draft stage.

Another amendment rights groups have railed against removes the government's obligation to consider the opinions of international rights bodies regarding citizens' complaints of rights violations. Critics have argued the government has not explained the changes to the public, but backing from pro-government media and the absence of an effective 'no' campaign means they are likely to pass. Bolot Osmonov, 58, who

works as an engineer in the capital Bishkek said he would vote in favour of the amendments yesterday.

"I support the amendments and I support Atambayev. In five years he has shown he doesn't steal. His family aren't in government positions. These changes will bring more stability," Osmonov told AFP. A 47-vear-old taxi driver Zhomart Bolotbekov told AFP he would not be voting, however. "It seems elections is all we do, but they don't change anything. Why should I go?" Kyrgyzstan is one of the two poorest countries to emerge from the former Soviet Union with a strong dependence on cash transfers sent home by hundreds of thousands of Kyrgyz working in Russia. —AFP

S KOREA PROSECUTORS CHARGE TWO SENIOR EX-PARK OFFICIALS

North may take advantage of political turmoil

SEOUL: South Korean prosecutors indicted a former senior presidential aide and a former vice minister, an official said yesterday, as part of their investigation of a corruption scandal that has led to President Park Geun-hye's impeachment in parliament.

Friday's overwhelming parliamentary vote to remove Park from office puts her fate in the hands of nine judges of the Constitutional Court, which has 180 days to decide whether to uphold the motion or, by rejecting it, reinstate Park to office. Park's powers have been suspended and assumed by Prime Minister Hwang Kyo-ahn, who has ordered a high state of military alert for any attempt by rival North Korea to take advantage of the political turmoil.

Park's deputy national security advisor, Cho Tae-yong, spoke by telephone with his US counterpart, Avril Haines, who said the US government looked forward to working with Hwang, the presidential Blue House said in a statement. Park,

whose father ruled the country for 18 years after seizing power in a coup in 1961, has been accused of colluding with a friend and a former aide, both of whom prosecutors indicted earlier, to pressure big businesses to donate to foundations set up to back her policy initiatives.

Park, who is serving a single five-year term that was to end in February 2018, has denied wrongdoing but apologized for carelessness in her ties with her friend, Choi Soon-sil. Prosecutors yesterday again characterized Park as a co-conspirator, although she has immunity from prosecution as long as she remains in office. They made a similar assertion on Nov 20.

If the Constitutional Court affirms the parliamentary vote, Park would become the first democratically elected leader of Asia's fourth-biggest economy to be forced from office. South Korea's finance minister warned yesterday that the impeachment could weigh on the economy if

sentiment was undermined. "Amid so much global uncertainty, this political situation is further weighing on the economy and a downturn in sentiment could be another problem," Finance Minister Yoo II-ho told a news conference.

Protests

The two former officials whose charges were reported by a prosecution official yesterday included a former senior economic aide, Cho Won-dong, accused of colluding with the president in trying to pressure a South Korean conglomerate, CJ Group, to dismiss a group vice chairman. Cho told a parliamentary hearing on Wednesday he had found the arm-twisting wrong but he had to deliver the president's message to the conglomerate.

The chairman of food-to-entertainment conglomerate CJ Group, Sohn Kyung-shik, told a separate hearing that Cho had met him and asked the group to remove the vice chairman from her position. The second newly charged person was a former vice culture minister, Kim Chong, indicted for suspected abuse of power and coercion for exerting influence over a staterun firm to make a contract with a sports management company controlled by the president's friend, Yonhap and other outlets reported. A spokesman in the presidential Blue House declined to comment.

The scandal blew up in October and has drawn large street protests in Seoul for the past seven Saturdays, with the crowds calling for Park to step down immediately. A candle-lit rally on Saturday drew a smaller crowd of about 120,000 at its peak, police said, although organizers put the total number of participants at 800,000.

North Korean state media has been scathing in its coverage of the scandal. Yesterday, it said North Korean leader Kim Jong Un guided a special operations drill targeting the South. Pictures in the North's Rodong Sinmun newspaper showed what appeared to be a mockup of South Korea's presidential Blue House as a target. The



This undated photo released by North Korea's official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) yesterday shows North Korean leader Kim Jong-Un (front C) during a combat drill of the service personnel of the special operation battalion of the Korean People's Army Unit 525. — AFP

N KOREA ARMY DRILL TARGETS SOUTH'S PRESIDENTIAL OFFICE

SEOUL: South Korea warned yesterday of "fatal" consequences for Pyongyang's leadership if provoked into conflict, after North Korean leader Kim Jong-Un oversaw a military drill simulating an attack on Seoul's presidential Blue House. Kim watched with binoculars as North Korea's special operation forces conducted an exercise aimed at "destroying specified targets of the enemy", including the Blue House, the North's KCNA news agency said.

The ruling Workers' Party newspaper Rodong Sinmun also carried a two-page report on the drill, showing pictures of a building resembling the Blue House being overrun by North Korean troops and set ablaze. One photo showed Kim roaring with laughter as he watched the simulated attack. "Well done, the enemy troops will have no space to hide themselves, far from taking any counteraction," state-run KCNA quoted Kim as saying.

quences if confronted by the North. "If the enemy conducts a provocation based on its rash judgment, we will strongly and firmly retaliate with a fatal blow against the North Korean leadership," the defense ministry's joint chiefs of staff said in a statement. There are growing concerns of fresh provocations by Pyongyang following Friday's impeachment of South Korean President Park Geun-Hye which has left the country without a recognized leader.

Prime Minister Hwang Kyo-Ahn, who has temporarily taken on the role and authority of acting president, held an emergency cabinet meeting and ordered the military to be extra vigilant against the North. North Korea has conducted two nuclear tests already this year and multiple missile launches in its push for a weapon capable of delivering a nuclear warhead to the US mainland. The UN Security Council slapped its toughest sanctions yet on the





SEOUL: Protesters march toward the presidential house during a rally against impeached President Park Geun-hye. — AP

United States, which has about 28,500 troops stationed in South Korea, was in close contact with South Korea and remained a strong ally, the White House said late on Friday. —Reuters

No date was given for the military exercise in yesterday's report. The South Korean military "strongly condemned" the drill, warning there would be fatal conse-

North last month over its fifth nuclear test in September, capping the North's annual coal exports-its top external revenue source. — AFP

INDONESIA NABS WOMAN, OTHERS IN THWARTED JAKARTA BOMB PLOT

they safely detonated a bomb on the outskirts of the capital after arresting a female would-be suicide bomber and other suspected Islamic militants who were allegedly planning to attack the presidential palace this weekend. The thwarted plot is likely to cause particular concern in Indonesia because of the possibility that women with militant network associations are now being recruited into more active roles, including plotting and carrying out attacks.

"This marks a new chapter of terrorism in Indonesia, where the suicide bombing was to be carried out by a woman," terrorism analyst Ridwan Habib said in an interview with Indonesian TV. Umar Surya Fana, the police chief of Bekasi, a Jakarta satellite city, said the militants were followed by a police counterterrorism squad as they drove to Jakarta from Solo in central Java. The city is known for its radical mosques and Islamic boarding

JAKARTA: Indonesian police said schools. Police said two men were arrested after dropping the 27-yearold woman at the boarding house with the pressure cooker bomb. A fourth suspect, a man, was arrested in Solo, said Jakarta police spokesman Argo Yuwono. The bomb potentially could have caused damage within a wide area, Yuwono said. People living within a 300-meter (yard) radius of the boarding house were evacuated during the police operation on Saturday.

> Police believe the militants were planning to bomb a presidential guard-changing ceremony on Sunday that is a tourist attraction in Jakarta, Fana said. The woman's will, which was retrieved by police after the group stopped at a post office to mail it to her family, stated her desire to take part in "amaliyah," an Arabic term used by extremist groups for attacks or suicide bombings.

"They deliberately chose the target on a Sunday, when many families are hanging out around the national monument and near the palace, with the intention of causing a lot of casualties," said Habib, the analyst. Police said those arrested are suspected to be part of a militant network responsible for a bomb-making lab raided last month in West Java province that was operating under the direction of Bahrun Naim, an Indonesian fighting with the Islamic State group in Syria.

He was linked to the attack in January in Jakarta that killed eight people, including the attackers, and several unsuccessful attacks in Indonesia since then. Those arrested in last month's raid planned to bomb targets in Jakarta, including the parliament and the Myanmar Embassy. Muslim-majority Indonesia has carried out a sustained crackdown on militants since the 2002 bombings on the tourist island of Bali by al-Qaida-affiliated radicals that killed 202 people. But a new threat has emerged in the past several years from IS sympathizers. — AP



BEKASI: Officers stand guard around a house after it was raided by police. — AP



NEW DELHI: Indian children's right activist and Nobel Laureate, Kailash Satyarthi (C) gestures towards children at an event in New Delhi yesterday. — AFP

OVERSEAS CASINOS CLEAN UP DESPITE CHINA'S CASH CURBS

SAIPAN: For evidence of the odds stacked against China's battle to stop the flight of cash battering its currency and draining its reserves, look no further than the tiny Pacific island of Saipan, which has hit the jackpot with a flood of Chinese money at its new casino.

Thousands of miles from the Chinese mainland, the USadministered island of 50,000 people is festooned with signs written in Chinese and stuffed with Chinese supermarkets, restaurants and karaoke parlors serving the 200,000 Chinese visitors that arrived this year. Private jets bring big spenders so free with their cash - and \$100 million credit lines - that the modest Best Sunshine casino, owned by Hong-Kong listed Imperial Pacific, wildly outperforms the top casinos in Macau, the world's biggest gambling hub. Best Sunshine's 16 VIP tables can turn over \$3.9 billion a month, while the world's biggest, the Venetian Macao, manages about \$2.5 billion per month on 102 VIP tables, and the MGM around \$2.9 billion on 161. "Never have I dealt with so much money in 36 years in casinos," said one executive working in the casino, who could not be named due to company policy.

Back in Beijing, policymakers are trying to keep that money on the mainland. Capital outflows, both legal and illegal, have dragged the yuan to eight-year lows this year, prompting China to eat through more than a fifth of its foreign currency reserves since mid-2014 and impose a series of measures to stem the outflows.

Such measures, plus an anti-corruption crackdown that began in early 2014, has dealt a blow to Macau, the selfgoverning Chinese territory linked by a thread to the mainland province of Guangdong. Macau's gaming revenues have more than halved since then, as high rollers from the mainland gave it a wide berth. But whacking the mole in Macau has made it pop up elsewhere, where China's writ doesn't run; in Saipan, the Philippines, Cambodia and Australia.

Manila's Solaire casino registered a 61 percent increase in VIP turnover in the third quarter, while the number of junket operators bringing in foreign high rollers has more than doubled. Half of its VIP gamblers come from China. NagaCorp in Phnom Penh has seen a 13 percent increase in Chinese visitors in the first half of 2016, with VIP turnover up 11 percent for the first nine months.

House wins

China has fought to suppress the demand, detaining marketing employees from Australia's Crown Resorts in October for "gambling offences", and arresting South Korean casino managers last year for "enticing" Chinese to gamble overseas. "We have always asked that Chinese citizens leaving the borders respect the laws and rules of relevant countries, and not get involved in gambling or gamble themselves," Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Lu Kang told a daily news briefing in Beijing. But the casinos are getting ready for more.

NagaCorp is building additional facilities and a luxury retail complex, while Solaire, where VIPs play in opulent ocean-front rooms, is also unrolling new amenities to lure VIPs. Imperial is spending \$3 billion to build a 14-storey resort in Saipan after winning a 40-year exclusive monopoly license. Its towering bamboo scaffolding already dwarfs the low-rise local buildings. — Reuters



TURKEY DEFIANT AS KURDISH GROUP CLAIMS...

Continued from Page 1

They should know that they will not get away with it ... They will pay a heavier price."

HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah yesterday sent a cable of condolences to Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan over the terrorist blasts. In his cable, the Amir prayed for the dead and wished swift recovery to those injured in the attack. HH the Amir stressed Kuwait's strong condemnation of such a criminal act that targeted innocent people and violated all heavenly religions and human values, voicing support of all measures taken by Turkey to respond to such terrorist acts that aim to undermine its security and stability.

The Amir also reiterated Kuwait's rejection of all forms and manifestations of terrorism, while backing the international community's fight against terrorism. HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah also sent the Turkish president similar cables.

The Kuwaiti government also sharply condemned the explosions. An official source at the foreign ministry said in a statement that Kuwait stands by Turkey and supports its measures to preserve its security and stability. The source reiterated Kuwait's unshakable and principled position against all forms and manifestations of terrorism and violence. The source also voiced sincere condolences to Turkey's government and people over the victims of the bombings, and wished swift recovery to the injured.

The attacks were claimed by the Kurdistan Freedom Falcons (TAK), which is seen as a radical offshoot of the outlawed Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK). "A revenge squad from TAK carried out simultaneous attacks outside Istanbul Vodafone Arena stadium and Macka park at around 10:30 pm local time (1930 GMT)," said a statement posted on TAK's website. "Turkish people are not the direct target of TAK," it said, accusing the government of "fascism" against the Kurdish people.

The group has claimed three major attacks in Turkey this year: two in Ankara - one on Feb 17 that left 28 dead, and another on March 13 that killed 34 - as well as a car bombing in Istanbul on June 7 which claimed 11 lives. Turkish officials had earlier said initial findings pointed to the PKK which has waged a bloody campaign against the Turkish state since 1984.

In a ceremony for five of the victims at the city's police headquarters, Erdogan and Prime Minister Binali Yildirim met with the families, looking on silently as the flagdraped coffins were brought in. "Sooner or later we will have our revenge," Interior Minister Suleyman Soylu told the mourners. "The arm of the law is long". Erdogan later chaired an emergency meeting of cabinet ministers in Istanbul to discuss the situation. On the streets, people gathered outside the stadium to lay flowers, many holding Turkish flags and shouting "Down with the PKK!" and "Our homeland is indivisible!" "They won't be able to divide Turkey, they won't be able to break it into pieces," one man told AFP, who gave his name only as Muhammad. But there was also anger. "God curse the PKK!" said one woman mourner in her 50s.

Deputy Prime Minister Numan Kurtulmus said the attack had targeted police. "Experts say at least 300-400 kilogrammes of explosives had been used. There was a pit where the car detonated," he said on CNN Turk television. Forensic experts were yesterday collecting evidence at both the stadium and the park, an AFP correspondent said, while municipal workers could be seen clearing up the area and replacing road signs damaged in the stadium blast. Thirteen people have been detained over the blasts.

Footage broadcast shortly after the attack showed a car outside the stadium engulfed in flames, as well as wrecked police vehicles, with witnesses saying the force of the blasts shattered windows in nearby homes. "I heard two explosions in less than one minute, followed by the sound of gunshots," one witness told AFP on condition of anonymity. The stadium is located on the shores of the Bosphorus, close to the Ottoman-era Dolmabahce palace that houses the premier's office. It is also about a kilometer from the busy Taksim Square, a magnet for tourists.

Besiktas is one of Istanbul's most popular football clubs, and its fans are known for their anti-establishment views. They famously played a big role in the 2013 protests against Erdogan, who was prime minister at the time. In a statement, Besiktas vowed to "stand firm against the vile attackers who will never achieve their goal."

The twin attacks drew international condolences and condemnation, with NATO chief Jens Stoltenberg denouncing the bloodshed as "horrific" and the US embassy in Turkey tweeting: "Our hearts and prayers are with the people of #Istanbul tonight." German Chancellor Angela Merkel spoke with Erdogan by phone, with the two agreeing to step up anti-terror cooperation. "The chancellor asked the president to convey her sympathies to the victims' loved ones and offered help, if needed, to care for those who were injured," spokeswoman Ulrike Demmer said in a statement. "The chancellor and the president agreed to intensify their cooperation in fighting terrorism," she added, without providing details.

Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu also condemned the bombings but said he expected Turkey to reciprocate when the Jewish state also came under attack. "Israel condemns all terrorism in Turkey and expects that Turkey will condemn all terrorist attacks in Israel," he said. The two countries recently normalized ties after a bitter six-year diplomatic row over a Gaza-bound flotilla.— Agencies

GULF STATES TAKE SHINE OFF CUSHY...

Continued from Page 1

But high-paying public sector jobs that demand little of workers have led to bureaucratic inertia and an absenteeism culture that governments turned a blind eye to during the Gulf's boom years. In 2011 a Kuwait government report found that half the country's state employees were absent from work between January and March, costing the country's treasury more than KD 10.5 million (\$35 million).

Since oil prices plunged in 2014, however, Gulf monarchies have curbed subsidies and laid off staff as they try to trim budget deficits and build economies less reliant on hydrocarbons. In the wealthier Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries of Kuwait, Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates, where populations are small, more than 75 percent of employed nationals work in the public sector, according to the IMF. The ratio is also high in oil-giant Saudi Arabia - which racked up a record budget deficit of nearly \$100 billion last year - while in Oman, about 50 percent of employed nationals work in the public sector. Bahrain has the lowest proportion of nationals working in the public sector, at 35 percent.

In one of the most dramatic efforts to shake government agencies out of their slumber, the ruler of Dubai, Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, carried out an early morning spot check on the city state's management in August, found empty desks, and sacked nine senior officials. Pictures of Sheikh Mohammed wandering the sparsely populated offices of the Land Department were widely published in local newspapers.

Qatar, in an apparent effort to codify the responsibilities of government employees and get them working harder, last month passed a law that raised pay for workers who have achieved higher levels of education and enforced a merit-based promotion scheme. The nation's young emir has warned citizens that the state "can no longer provide for everything" and local newspaper editorials mock lazy civil servants referred to jokingly by Qataris as "people of the couch". Neighboring Saudi Arabia in September scaled back financial perks for public sector employees in one of the most drastic measures yet by the oil-rich kingdom to save money at a time of low oil prices. Lured by a generous salary and his own office overlooking the Arabian Gulf, 26-year-old Ahmed, who declined to give his second name, joined Qatar's ministry of transport last year after graduating from Qatar University. On his first day, Ahmed said, he was surprised to find colleagues without clear responsibilities carrying documents from one office to another. "Many workers, even managers, were engaged in watching television or sleeping," he said.

One colleague advised him to get to know the "tea boys" - Nepali waiters who deliver tea to offices - so he could find out when his boss had left and do the same. Other skiving tactics included leaving a jacket on the back of his chair so a casual observer would assume he was first to arrive at the office and programming emails to send themselves in the afternoon so managers thought he was still at work. But superiors started to clamp down on those evading work, Ahmed said, after Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani, Qatar's emir, called on Nov 1 for Qataris to move off social welfare and "into action" in the face of low energy prices.

After Arab spring protests in 2011, rich Gulf states spent billions of dollars raising salaries and investing in subsidies and infrastructure. Wars and social turmoil spurred efforts in countries like Saudi Arabia to boost employment of their citizens and crack down on illegal hiring of foreign workers. But today austerity is unnerving citizens for whom affluence and stellar growth are the norm. Reforms are proving sensitive politically consequential even - and there are fears that further cuts to sumptuous welfare states could heighten public anger.

In May oil workers in Kuwait went on strike against a proposed overhaul of the public sector payroll system. An election last month filled the country's parliament with opposition lawmakers opposed to wage cuts and taxes. Omani medics from state-funded colleges in November held a two-week strike after their salaries were cut. Ending the legacy of public sectors being an engine of job creation, analysts say, is vital to avoid rising unemployment in years ahead if oil revenues decline again and nationals are still not working in the private sector. But Gulf youth may still expect to be entitled to a share of the national wealth whether in the form of public sector jobs with high wages or breaks from future taxes. — Reuters

CAIRO CHURCH BOMBING KILLS 25

Continued from Page 1

The bombing hit around 10:00 am at the Saint Peter and Saint Paul Church, which is adjacent to Saint Mark's Cathedral, the seat of the Coptic pope Tawadros II. A bomb made of 12 kilos of TNT appeared to have been behind the explosion, security officials said. The blast shattered the church's glass windows and scattered pews through the main prayer hall, scorching its marble pillars. Bloodstains could be seen on the floor, where shoes and other belongings lay scattered.

HH the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a cable of condolences yesterday to Sisi, expressing his deepest sympathies for the victims of the blast. The Amir voiced Kuwait's vehement condemnation of such criminal acts that threaten Egypt's security and stability, and wished those wounded in the attack a speedy recovery. HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah sent cables of similar sentiments to the Egyptian president. The Kuwaiti government also voiced vehement condemnation of the "terrorist" blast. An official source at the foreign ministry said in a statement that such "terrorist" acts would never undermine Egypt's resolve to fight terrorism resolutely. The source reiterated that Kuwait stands by Egypt in its fight against terrorism, and supports all its security measures to preserve its security and stability. The source offered heartfelt condolences to Egypt's leadership, government and people over the victims of the church explosion, and wished swift recovery to those injured in the blast. "I was leaving the church and then I heard a loud explosion and there was a lot of smoke and people started running and screaming," Jackline Abdel Shahid, one of the survivors of the blast, told AFP at the scene. "The ambulances started coming, and they kept bringing out body parts. The floor was covered in blood, and the whole church was stained with blood, broken glass everywhere, everyone screaming, torn clothes," she said.

Gebrail Ebeid, who has been headed to services when the bombing took place, accused Egypt's government of not doing enough to protect the Christian community. "This is the government's responsibility. The explosion happened inside the church," said Ebeid. "Where were the security forces? They're filling the streets now, but it's too late," he said. Several dozen people gathered outside to protest after the bombing, chanting for the resignation of Egypt's interior minister. They briefly scuffled with police as they tried to push through the cordon.

It was the worst attack on the Coptic Christian community since a 2011 suicide bombing killed more than 20 worshippers outside a church in the coastal city of Alexandria. "This latest attack should be a wake-up call to the authorities that their actions to prevent attacks on Coptic Christians have long been inadequate," Amnesty International said in a statement.

AMIR TELLS NEW ASSEMBLY SPENDING CUTS...

Continued from Page 1

The Amir said the measures must be accompanied by steps to stop squandering of public funds and exhausting national resources and direct them towards the right places. He however called for sparing low-income people from financial measures and for taking social justice into account.

The Amir said he would not have liked to ask Kuwaitis to surrender something they have always enjoyed, but he added that he is confident that Kuwaitis, like their ancestors, are ready to sacrifice. Sheikh Sabah also and the eventual winner Kandari. But Hammad later withdrew and alleged that there was a secret deal between the government and the Islamic Constitutional Movement (ICM) to elect Harbash, who strongly denied the allegation. In the first voting, Harbash received 32 votes against Kandari's 31, and because no one secured an absolute majority of votes, which is 33, the voting was repeated, and this time the result was reversed and Kandari was declared the winner. In the second round of voting, the winner needed only a simple majority to win, according to the Assembly's internal charter.

Almost the same thing happened in electing the secretary. MPs Safa Al-Hashem, the only female in the house, Waleed Al-Tabtabaei and Oudah Al-Oudah contested for the post. No one secured an absolute majority in the first round, and in the second, Oudah came first and won. Hashem then blasted the government for not siding with her to elect the first Kuwaiti woman as part of the three persons who sit on the Assembly's podium, which would have been a highly positive point for Kuwait internationally. However, the opposition won the last position available, which is the observer of the house. Islamist MP Nayef Al-Merdas won the post after two other contenders withdrew from the race. Meanwhile, 10 MPs submitted two separate amendments to the nationality law, which call for preventing revoking citizenships without a final court ruling. The amendments also ban the government from deporting any person after revoking his citizenship without a final court ruling. The Assembly then elected members of its committees.

warned against the growing dangers and terrorism around Kuwait and urged caution. The Amir also recalled that national unity can safeguard Kuwait against dangers.

After his impressive victory, Ghanem extended a hand of cooperation to all sides in the Assembly. But Roumi strongly lashed out at the government, while Muwaizri urged the speaker to forget the practices of the previous Assembly. After the result, social media was full of sarcastic comments about the new opposition group, as 27 MPs had met and decided to vote against Ghanem, but only a few did so.

Online activists said they were severely disappointed by the turn of events and how some lawmakers won on the pledge of voting against Ghanem, but then failed to fulfill their promises. The result also cast a thick cloud of doubt over how cohesive the opposition MPs are and whether they will remain united on all issues.

In the election of deputy speaker, MP Saadoun Hammad first said he wanted to contest against Harbash Interior Minister Magdy Abdel Ghaffar rushed to the area after the blast and Prime Minister Sherif Ismail called on security services to quickly find those responsible. "The nation's Muslim and Christian citizens stand together against this black terrorism," Ismail said in the statement. Sisi condemned what he described as "the abhorrent terrorist attack", saying in a statement: "Egypt will only emerge stronger and more unified from these events."The president also called the pope to offer his condolences.

Sheikh Ahmed Al-Tayeb, the head of Egypt's top Sunni Muslim authority Al-Azhar, said the "vile terrorist explosion" was "a great crime against all Egyptians". The church that was targeted "is deeply loved by many Coptic faithful in Cairo and it has a regular parish presence," said Bishop Angaelos, the General Bishop for the Coptic Church in Britain. He said services had been held in the church on Sunday morning, while Saint Mark's Cathedral was being renovated. "It's an easier target because its entrance is outside the precincts" of the cathedral. — Agencies



<u>Kuwait 👞 Times 🎫</u>

ANALYSIS

MONDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2016



South Korea crisis: What'll North do?

Focus

These are euphoric but anxious days for South Korea, as the heady impeachment of a deeply unpopular president leaves the country without a recognized leader at a time of military tensions with nuclear-armed North Korea. And with Pyongyang smarting from a fresh round of UN sanctions and never shy about embarking on a dangerous game of brinkmanship, the one thing the country doesn't want to display is vulnerability.

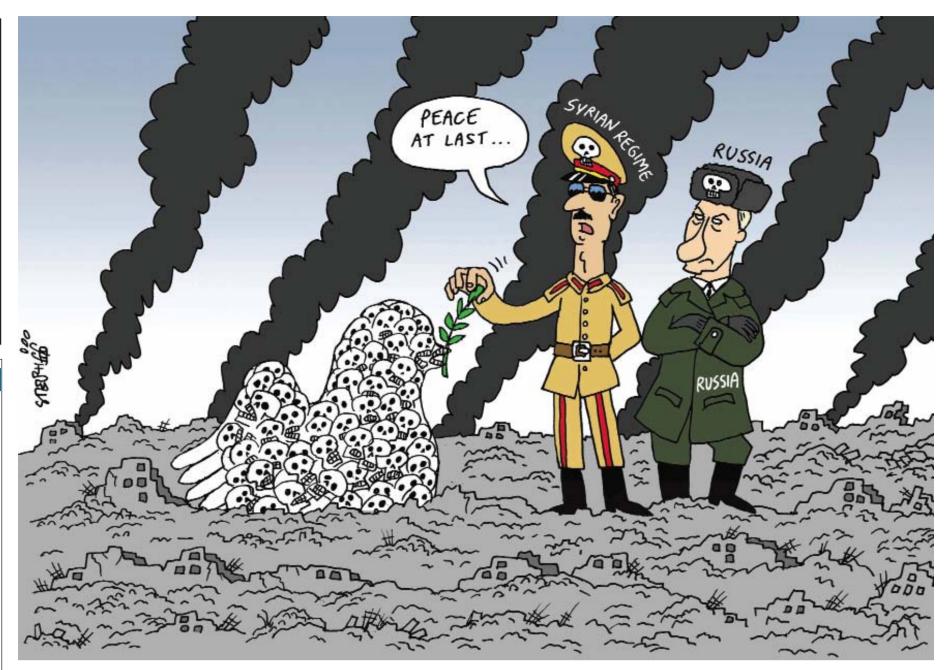
But so considerable are the powers vested in the executive in South Korea that Friday's impeachment stripping them away from President Park Geun-Hye inevitably leaves a sizeable vacuum that must seem all too tempting to provocateurs in Pyongyang. It's a concern that was swiftly addressed by Prime Minister Hwang Kyo-Ahn, the unelected former prosecutor who has temporarily taken on the role and authority of acting president.

At an emergency cabinet meeting on Saturday, Hwang said he had instructed the military to be extra vigilant to any move by the North to exploit the current situation. "The government is carrying out all measures necessary to prevent any government vacuum and ease the people's anxiety," Hwang said. "Up until now ... no special development from North Korea has been reported. But all civil servants should work with a sense of tension for the time being," he added.

'Vegetable president'

North Korean state media, which has issued highly personal attacks on Park in the past, has clearly enjoyed witnessing her downfall and the attendant political chaos. On Saturday, the ruling Workers' Party newspaper Rodong Sinmun called the impeached Park a "vegetable president", and said her continued refusal to resign was the act of "an old witch and psychopath without equal".

But is ridicule likely to lead to provocation? Most analysts believe the North will resist the temptation and adopt a wait-and-see strategy - not only towards the situation in the South, but also towards Washington and the incoming administration of US president-elect Donald Trump. North Korea has a tendency to try and test new US presidents, but Trump is such an unknown guantity - especially on foreign policy - that it might



ASSAD STILL FAR FROM REGAINING HIS STATE

When President Bashar Al-Assad turns from the wreckage of Aleppo to assert his authority across a fractured Syria, it will be as a figure who is virtually unassailable by rebels, but still faces great challenges in restoring the power of his state. The expected fall of Aleppo would mean rebels have almost no chance of ousting Assad, but their revolt has left him in hock to foreign allies, resigned to the loss of swathes of his country for the time being and with tough pockets of resistance still to crush. "Certainly it is not the end of the war ... But when you take Aleppo, you control 90 percent of the fertile areas of Syria, the

... But when you take Aleppo, you control 90 percent of the fertile areas of Syria, the regions that hold the cities and markets, the populated regions," said a senior pro-Damascus official in the region.

However, the battlefield victories that seem - for now - to have secured Assad's rule have been won in large part not by his own depleted military, but by Russian warplanes and a shock force of foreign Shiite militias backed by Iran. Assad will rely on Moscow and Tehran to take back more territory, and to hold and secure it, meaning he will have to balance his own ambitions with theirs. At the same time, as the insurgents lose ground and as the jihadists among them grow more dominant, conventional warfare may give way to an era of guerrilla attacks and suicide bombings within areas held by the government. sectarian dimensions that will resonate for generations; the uprising identifies itself with the Sunni Muslim majority, and the state led by a minority Alawite draws on the backing of Shiite Islamists. Worst of all, nearly six years of war have killed hundreds of thousands of Syrians, displaced around 11 million, of whom nearly half have fled the country, and laid waste to much of the infrastructure needed to resurrect a shattered economy.

In rebuilding, Assad will also have to contend with Western sanctions on much of his government and with isolation from some of his main previous trading partners - the European Union, Turkey, Gulf monarchies and Jordan. The Gulf states in particular may also continue to fund insurgents. "Syria has suffered such wounds that there will always be, in my expectation, a day of reckoning," said Nikolaos Van Dam, a former Dutch diplomat and author of a book about Syrian history and politics, speaking about the future of Assad's state. crumble, rendering the country a failed state and a danger to the world for decades to come. Convincing enough allies - including Moscow and Tehran - to see him in that light has been Assad's "political masterpiece", said Rolf Holmboe, research fellow at the Canadian Global Affairs Institute and a former Danish ambassador to Syria.

But to his detractors, Assad is the man who burned Syria rather than allowing power to slip from his grasp, a dictator whose prisons are wallowing in the blood of his opponents and whose cities lie ruined by the bombs of his military. In Assad's swift use of force against protesters in 2011 and his deployment of artillery and air power against Syrian towns and cities, critics see his reliance on the example of his father, Hafez al-Assad, who ruled from 1970-2000.

Hafez's crushing of an Islamist insurgency that began in 1976, culminating with the massacre of thousands in the city of Hama in 1982, set the template for his son's Damascus University in the early 1980s, long before the death of an elder brother put him in line to succeed his father as president. "He was like any other person: Very humble, very nice, very modest because he was not supposed to be president," he said. Assad's early years as president after succeeding his father in 2000 raised hopes of political and economic reforms, but they mostly faltered, something that was blamed at the time on an old guard of security chiefs.

Raqqa written off for now

The president and his allies have focused their campaign on the populous, fertile, west of his country and few people expect him to lavish limited military resources on quickly retaking the eastern deserts or Euphrates valley area from Islamic State. The senior pro-Damascus official said that Assad had for now written off Raqqa, which has become the de facto Syrian capital of Islamic State, often referred to by the Arabic term Daesh, regarding the jihadist group as Washington's problem to fix. "The regime forgot about Raqqa a long time ago and made it the responsibility of the Americans. Let those alarmed by Daesh go and remove it," the official said. Still, Assad himself signalled in a December television interview that in the end he intended to restore Damascus' sway across the country. —Reuters

choose to hold off for a while.

"It'll want to spend time feeling out the policy directions of the Trump administration," said Yang Moo-Jin, a professor at the University of North Korean Studies in Seoul. "In the meantime, it's unlikely to stage a fresh nuclear test which might set Trump on a hardline course early on," Yang said.

Enough test data

North Korea has conducted two nuclear tests already this year, and multiple missile launches in its push for a weapon capable of delivering a nuclear warhead to the US mainland. "North Korea's weapons testing timeline is primarily driven by its ambitions to increase military capabilities, and the recent tests give its scientists and engineers much technical data to work with," said Leif-Eric Easley, a research fellow at the Asan Institute for Policy Studies in Seoul. "So Pyongyang may wait to see if a pro-engagement politician emerges from South Korea's political tumult," Easley said.

Park took a hard line with Pyongyang throughout her presidency, refusing to offer any concessions unless the North made a tangible commitment to denuclearization. In a shock move, she even closed down the Kaesong joint industrial zone - a rare North-South cooperative project that had survived previous crossborder crises. North Korean leader Kim Jong-Un "knows exactly what he is doing," said Koh Yu-Hwan, a political science Professor at Dongguk University. "There is no reason for him to stage provocative acts and change the atmosphere in the South in favour of conservatives," Koh said.

The North is also preparing for a series of key anniversaries, including the 75th and 105th birthdays of late leaders Kim Jong-II and Kim II-Sung in February and April respectively, as well as the 85th anniversary of the army's founding on April 25. In the past, such dates have been marked by strategic weapons' tests, but Yang predicted that Pyongyang would avoid being overly confrontational. "I think the festive mood will favor stability over disturbance," he said.

How long?

The problem is that the political uncertainty in South Korea could carry on for much longer than Pyongyang is willing to wait. Park's impeachment has to be approved by the Constitutional Court - a process that could take six months. If it confirms her ouster then a presidential election must be held, but that could take another 60 days. — AFP

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. Aggravating this, the war has taken on

Indispensable

To his supporters, Assad is the one, indispensable figure standing between his country and absolute chaos, the resolute leader of a war against foreign-backed jihadists who wish to slaughter minorities and launch attacks on other states. Without him, they say, what remains of the Syrian armed forces and security services will response to the Arab Spring protests in 2011 and the subsequent war. "They have no other solutions and that's it. They implemented the same manual. They took it from the drawer and implemented it," said Ayman Abdel Nour, a former friend and pro-reform political appointee of Assad who left Syria in 2007.

For Abdel Nour, Assad at war was a far cry from the man he first knew at

FALL OF ALEPPO WILL BE PIVOTAL MOMENT

The fall of Aleppo will be a pivotal moment in Syria's war, boosting regime hopes of regaining control over the entire country and dealing a probable knockout blow to rebels. Analysts say the virtually inevitable regime victory in Syria's second city will give the government of President Bashar Al-Assad a comfortable upper hand. "Aleppo is the real turning point of the war. It's the equivalent of Stalingrad," Syria expert Fabrice Balanche said, referring to the Soviet Union's bloody victory in the Russian city that changed the course of World War II.

"Without Aleppo, (Assad) was a half-president," said Balanche, an analyst at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy. But "with this victory, he can present himself as the president of the whole of Syria". Rebels seized eastern Aleppo in mid-2012, just over a year after anti-government protests broke out nationwide. East Aleppo became a powerful symbol of resistance for Syria's opposition, with a local administration that endured years of fierce bombardment and a suffocating government siege that began in July this year. But when the government launched an all-out assault in mid-November, backed by intense artillery fire, the warweary eastern districts all but collapsed. Regime troops and allied militia now control at least 85 percent of the one-time rebel stronghold. "The myth of a moderate rebellion in Aleppo capable of representing a political and military alternative to the regime - it's over," Balanche said.

'Break opposition's back'

Yezid Sayigh, a senior associate at the Carnegie Middle East Center in Beirut, told AFP a regime victory in Aleppo would "tip the balance" in its favor. "We're now past the point where the opposition has any hope of pulling things back," he said. Recapturing Aleppo holds tremendous political importance for the government, which saw the rival opposition-run authorities in the city's east as a major challenge to its legitimacy. It would also ring the death knell for the armed uprising. Assad "will have in effect broken the back of the armed opposition... and the idea that the regime can be overcome militarily will be finally put to rest", Sayigh said.

After losing Aleppo, rebels will be largely confined to northwest Idlib and scattered pockets in Damascus and Daraa provinces, with little hope for support from their Turkish, Western or Gulf backers. Kurdish forces will hold parts of northern and northeast Syria, and the Islamic State jihadist group will have to defend territory in the north and east. In turn, Assad's regime will fully control Syria's three main cities - Aleppo, Damascus and Homs.

It will hold almost all of the country's main population centers, many of its airports and the border with Lebanon. But analysts say the government will not stop there. "The end of the rebellion in Aleppo will free up around 30,000 troops to launch new offensives," Balanche said.

'Snowball effect'

One likely target is Eastern Ghouta, a key rebel enclave east of Damascus. Douma, the largest town there, "does not want to meet the same fate as east Aleppo", Balanche said. The regime may also move to seize Al-Bab, an IS-held town on a key route between Aleppo and the border with Turkey. Turkish forces and their rebel allies have advanced towards the town, but Damascus cannot afford to lose that race. "It's too close to Aleppo and it would open the way for rebels to head towards Raqqa," Balanche said.

Sayigh said the regime may now work on securing the entire western length of the country from the northern border with Turkey to Jordan in the south. Beyond that there are two possibilities, he said. "One is (that) the regime turns east and starts pushing towards Raqqa to demonstrate its usefulness to the West and Russia as a key partner against IS." Otherwise it could focus on securing Aleppo, "bottling the opposition up in Idlib province and then chipping away at the edges", Sayigh said.

Joshua Landis, director of the Center of Middle East Studies at the University of Oklahoma, said a victory in Aleppo would "likely have a snowball effect and build regime capabilities and morale". "Once Syrian militias believe that the rebellion's days are counted, they will likely be more inclined to negotiate ways to surrender that provide protection to their fighters and dependents." — AFP

WHERE NEXT FOR SYRIA?

While seizing control of Aleppo will not end the Syrian war, Bashar Al-Assad's regime and its Russian and Iranian allies have more control now than at any time since the conflict began, experts say. The United States, European powers and Gulf states gathered Saturday for talks with opposition representatives in an increasingly desperate bid to find a way to end the nearly six-year-old war. But their powerlessness was palpable. The meeting ended with US Secretary of State John Kerry pleading with the regime, Russia and Iran to show "a little grace" and end the "indiscriminate" bombing of Aleppo, which looks set to fall into the hands of Assad's forces soon.

Retreating rebels now control only a pocket of Syria's second city, whose fate is seen as pivotal to the outcome of the conflict that has killed more than 300,000 people. Calls from Western leaders to stop the fighting and diplomacy at the UN have amounted to nothing with Assad and Russian President Vladimir Putin seemingly intent on pushing their advantage. "The idea of the operation is to do what was done in Chechnya... crush the rebellion and show them that they can do nothing against Russian forces," said Moscow-based analyst Pavel Felgenhauer.

The West appears resigned to the fall of Aleppo and to the idea that the regime will have control of the west of the country, from Aleppo to Damascus and the central province of Homs and the coastal Latakia province. "The partition of Syria is happening," French Foreign Minister Jean-Marc Ayrault conceded. A European diplomat, speaking on condition of anonymity, said there was a "de facto division of Syria". "The Russians are to the West and the Western powers of the anti-jihadist coalition are to the East," he said.

In Paris, the Western countries stressed that although the Assad regime was in the strongest position it had been in since the war began in 2011, taking control of Aleppo would still leave large parts of the country beyond its control. Extremists from Fateh al-Sham, the former Al-Qaeda affiliate previously known as Al-Nusra Front, and the Islamic State group - as well as US-backed Kurdish militias in the north - retain control of many areas. "What sort of peace is it if it's only the peace of cemeteries?" Ayrault asked.

Fruitless meetings

Russian and American officials will meet again in Geneva to discuss the fighting, but even Kerry admitted his expectations of those talks were "constrained". "I know people are tired of these meetings, I'm tired of these meetings," he told reporters before the Paris gathering. "But what am I supposed to do? Go home and have a nice weekend in Massachusetts, while people are dying? Sit there in Washington and do nothing?"

Analysts say the timeframe and conditions of talks will be set in Damascus and Moscow, whose armies are in the ascendency despite allegations of war crimes and mounting civilian deaths. "Aleppo is a critical turning point," Robin Wright, a researcher at the United States Institute of Peace, told US National Public Radio (NPR). "Assad looks ever stronger."

Assad or Extremists?

Joshua Landis, director of the Center for Middle East Studies, also called Aleppo "a major turning point" that left the West and other countries which oppose Assad with few options. Once the city falls, the largest remaining rebel bastion will be Idlib province, controlled by a coalition dominated by extremists from a former Al-Qaeda affiliate. — AFP



RONALDO DECLARED 20M EUROS IN SWISS BANKS

MADRID: Cristiano Ronaldo declared income of over 225 million euros in 2015, including 20 million euros held in 22 Swiss bank accounts, a Spanish newspaper reported yesterday as the Real Madrid star battles accusations of tax evasion. The Portuguese international earned 203.7 million euros outside of Spain and 23.5 million inside the country, according to a copy of his 2015 tax return obtained by daily newspaper El Mundo. The figures match the details of the player's income published Thursday by the player's management company Gestifute, which argued they show Ronaldo was in compliance with Spain's tax authority. But El Mundo provided a more detailed breakdown of his finances. It said he had 20 million euros in Swiss banks-the vast majority, more than 17 million euros, in three accounts at Swiss private bank Mirabaud. The rest of his money in the country was held in 19 accounts in regional Swiss bank St. Galler Kantonalbank. The player had just 33,452 euros in five bank accounts in his native Portugal, the newspaper added. —AFP

TOKYO STARTS CONSTRUCTION OF MAIN OLYMPIC STADIUM

TOKYO: Construction of the main stadium for the Tokyo 2020 Olympics officially started yesterday, more than a year after the original blueprints were torn up following public outcry over skyrocketing costs. The stadium is due to be completed by the end of November 2019, five months behind schedule. "I believe, after four years, many athletes will challenge their physical limits at this stadium and empower spectators and the society," Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said at a ceremony to mark the start of building work. Japan approved the new stadium plans in September after Abe scrapped the initial design by the late Iraqi-British architect Zaha Hadid as costs soared beyond \$2 billion. The 149 billion yen (\$1.29 billion) price tag for architect Kengo Kuma's proposal comes in just under the cap for the contractors, led by construction giant Taisei Corp. The new venue is being built on the site of the former national stadium which was used for the 1964 Tokyo Olympics. Concerns that ballooning costs could hit a staggering \$30 billion-four times the initial estimate and almost triple that of the 2012 London Olympics — have forced organisers to rethink plans for several venues.— AFP

UK'S YAFAI WINS WBA SUPER-FLYWEIGHT TITLE

MANCHESTER: Khalid Yafai became Britain's 13th reigning world champion by winning the WBA super-flyweight title on Saturday, beating Luis Concepcion of Panama by a unanimous points decision. The

judges called the fight 120-108, 119-108 and 117-110 in favor of Yafai, who knocked down Concepcion in the 10th round and made the cleaner punches overall. Concepcion arrived in Britain as the champion, but was stripped of the title after failing to make weight and wasn't fighting to regain it. It was one of two world title fights on a packed card at Manchester Arena, with the heavyweight contest between IBF champion Anthony Joshua and Eric Molina the other. In another heavyweight fight, Dillian Whyte beat fellow Briton Dereck Chisora on a split decision following an evenly matched slugfest that acted as an eliminator for the WBC title, currently held by Deontay Wilder. Both fighters were out on their feet by the end, though neither was knocked down despite some huge shots.— AP

HOLLOWAY TAKES INTERIM FEATHERWEIGHT TITLE

TORONTO: Max Holloway scored a knockout over Anthony Pettis 4:50 into the third round for the interim featherweight championship in the co-main event at UFC 206 on Saturday night.

It was the first time a UFC belt was on the line for just one fighter. It became an interim featherweight title bout for Holloway when Pettis failed to make weight on Friday, coming in 3 pounds over the 145-pound limit. Pettis was fined 20 percent of his purse as a result. During his post-fight interview in the octagon, Pettis said he broke his right hand with his first punch in the first round.

Earlier, Cub Swanson won a unanimous decision over Dooho Choi (30-27, 29-28, 30-27) in an entertaining featherweight bout. Emil Meek got the main card started by defeating Lethbridge, Alberta, native Jordan Mein by unanimous decision (29-28) in his UFC debut. Toronto's Misha Cirkunov forced Nikita Krylov to tap out at 4:38 of the first round with a guillotine choke. Cirkunov improved to 4-0 in UFC and moved into the top 10 at the light heavyweight level.

"I definitely belong in the top 10," Cirkunov said. "I'm on an eight-fight win streak since I dropped my coach. I'd like to fight Mauricio Shogun Rua. If I fight a big name like that, more than just Toronto will

see my potential. The whole world will see my potential." Olivier "The Quebec Kid" Aubin-Mercier was the first Canadian to emerge victorious, defeating Drew Dober in a lightweight bout. The Montreal native forced Dober into submission with rearnaked choke, causing the referee to stop the fight at 2:57 of the second round.

"I'm still at the point where I can improve," Aubin-Mercier said. "(Dober) was a really tough opponent, my toughest opponent so far, so I got a little emotional after the win." In her UFC debut, Viviane Pereira beat Valerie "Trouble" Letourneau of Montreal by split decision (29-28, 28-29, 29-28) in the lone women's strawweight bout on the card. Letourneau, who fell to 3-3 in UFC, was initially supposed to fight Poliana Botelho, but Botelho was dropped from the card in October.

Rustam Khabilov beat Bolton, Ontario, native Jason Saggo by unanimous decision, 30-27, in the first of two lightweight bouts on the evening. John "The Bull" Makdessi didn't fare much better in the

second lightweight bout. Makdessi, of Montreal, was knocked out by a spinning heel kick to the chin from Lando Vannata. In a bantamweight bout, Mitch Gagnon of Sudbury, Ontario, fell to Matthew Lopez in a unanimous decision (29-28, 29-28, 29-27). — AP



MANCHESTER: Britain's IBF Heavyweight champion Anthony Joshua, left, fights American Eric Molina in Manchester, England, Saturday. — AP

JOSHUA RETAINS IBF TITLE, SETS UP BOUT WITH KLITSCHKO

MANCHESTER: Anthony Joshua had just outclassed Eric Molina to retain the IBF world heavyweight title when the undefeated British boxer was finally given a proper fight.

AN ODD, SHORTENED WORLD CUP LUGE STOP WINDS DOWN IN CANADA

WHISTLER: Those competing in World Cup and teammate Fennell was maybe the luge races Saturday night got only one run instead of the customary two, because delays in getting the sleds to the track this weekend was a legitimate chance for forced some schedule changes.

biggest casuality. Fennell used to race for Canada, knows the Whistler track well and him to collect some critical World Cup

Tucker West of the US apparently didn't mind. West won the men's World Cup race for the second straight weekend, finishing in 50.109 seconds for his third career victory on the circuit. Wolfgang Kindl of Austria was second in 50.153 seconds, and Andi Langenhan of Germany was third in 50.243 seconds. "He is on top of the world," USA Luge women's racer Summer Britcher said of West, as he draped himself in an American flag on the podium after the race. "You can see it." West's win capped a strange World Cup week in Whistler, where most athletes waited around all week and were unable to train while their sleds were stuck in transit because of a snowstorm. "This was a crazy week," West said.

West didn't get on the Whistler ice for practice until Saturday. John Fennell didn't even get that. Fennell, like all other athletes who rely on Nations Cup qualifying races to get a chance at being in the World Cup field, couldn't get on the track at the Whistler Sliding Center this week. Shipping problems meant most competitors planning to race in Whistler didn't have their sleds until Friday night, leading to a very condensed World Cup schedule - with all training and races being squeezed into Saturday.

BIGGEST CASUALITY

To make that happen, Nations Cup runs were canceled. That meant a lot of sliders were in Whistler this week for nothing. "I feel terrible for all of the athletes who have traveled to Whistler who will receive no time on the ice and will only be allowed to be spectators," USA Luge veteran Chris Mazdzer said. Mazdzer didn't like the move by International Luge Federation officials,

points that could have gotten his first year with the Americans rolling.

Instead, he got nothing. No points, and now probably no chance of qualifying for the world championships later this season.

"I'm feeling angry, frustrated, upset," Fennell said. "I don't think it's the right decision. Zero World Cup points is huge for me."

Fennell had his sled with him in Whistler all week, while many sliders didn't get theirs until Friday night - a truck involved in the shipping of sleds from last weekend's World Cup in Lake Placid, New York got stuck in a snowstorm and it took several days to get the sleds rerouted and on the move again. But since so many sliders did not have equipment, Fennell and others who had their sleds were told to keep them off the ice.

"This was my best chance to do well this season and show coaches and the organization what I'm capable of, and it was a waste of time, effort and money," Fennell said. "I'm walking away empty-handed."

Canada's Alex Gough walked away in a very different mood. Gough won the women's race Saturday night on her home track, finishing the single-heat competition in 38.796 seconds. Germans took second and third, with Natalie Geisenberger finishing in 38.848 and Tatjana Huefner in 38.850.

For the US, Emily Sweeney was fourth, Erin Hamlin sixth and Britcher took seventh. "This was a very interesting week," Sweeney said. In doubles, Toni Eggert and Sascha Benecken of Germany prevailed in 38.542 seconds.

Fellow Germans Tobias Wendl and Tobias Arlt were second in 38.570, and Peter Penz and Georg Fischler of Austria were third in 38.642. —AP

Wladimir Klitschko strode into the ring at Manchester Arena, shook hands with Joshua, and the announcement many boxing fans wanted was made. Joshua vs. Klitschko, Wembley Stadium in London, April 29.

Maybe then, the boxing world will get to find out how good Joshua really is. Molina certainly wasn't in his league in Saturday's fight, with the American knocked down by a straight right from Joshua midway through third round before the referee stepped in to end the fight.

There was just under a minute left in the round. Joshua was the aggressor throughout and it was always a matter of when he would unload on Molina to collect his 18th straight win since turning professional after winning an Olympic gold medal at the London Games in 2012. "I was slow and patient and that's all I needed to do," Joshua said. The WBA had already sanctioned a fight between Joshua and Klitschko for the spring, but it was left to Joshua's manager, Eddie Hearn, to announce the date and location from the center of the ring. Molina was still getting treated by his corner. "Do you want to see a big fight?" Klitschko asked the crowd. "Do you want to see a fight where two Olympic champions are involved? Do you want to see a fight AJ vs. WK? "You got it." In a sign of the respect between the two fighters, who have been sparring partners in the past, Klitschko turned to Joshua and said: "I love you, you are awesome."

After nearly a decade of ruling the heavyweight division, Klitschko lost his IBF, WBO and WBA belts with a surprise defeat to Tyson Fury in November 2015. The Ukrainian boxer hasn't fought since, with a rematch against Fury postponed twice.

When Klitschko gets in the ring with Joshua, it will end an 18-month wait to get a chance to restore his reputation.

"This guy wants his belt back," Joshua said, pointing to Klitschko. "Let the best man win."

The 34-year-old Molina has lost both his shots at a world title, having also been knocked out by WBC champion Deontay Wilder last year. He fought defensively and never threatened Joshua, whose left jab rocked back the American in the first round. Joshua dominated the second round without finding the big shot, but it wasn't long in coming.

A straight right from Joshua sent Molina to the canvas near his corner. Molina got to his feet but was being hit by a flurry of punches when the referee called a stop in another anticlimactic finish to a Joshua fight. Joshua hasn't been taken beyond seven rounds in a professional bout. "We move on," said Joshua, who defended his IBF belt for the second time. "This is not the end of the story." - AP

CRAWFORD CRUISES TO WIN OVER MOLINA IN EIGHTH

OMAHA: Champion Terence Crawford easily defended his WBO and WBC belts by stopping brawler John Molina in the eighth round of their junior welterweight title fight on Saturday.

Crawford dominated the fight from the opening bell landing precision head shots and bruising body blows through the first seven rounds then taking out the challenger with a series of rights late in the eighth round.

"I showed everything in this fight," said Crawford, who improved to 30-0.

"Give credit to John Molina because he came to fight."

The 29-year-old Crawford was rarely tested in his third fight of 2016 in front of his hometown fans as he landed 109 punches through eight rounds compared to just 22 for Molina. The 2014 fighter of the year said he wants his next fight to be against Filipino champion Manny Pacquiao.

"I would love to fight Pacquiao, but it is a business. Right now I want to fight anyone with a title. I want them belts. "If I can't get Pacquiao, I want the belts." Molina showed determination and big heart but he was no match for the quick hands and smooth footwork of Crawford who was the heavy favourite coming into the fight at CenturyLink Center arena. Crawford pinned a defenceless Molina in the corner, then landed three straight right hands before the referee stepped in and stopped the slaughter as the challenger slumped to the canvas.

Crawford started 2016 with an impressive fifth-round knockout of Henry Lundy in February and followed it up five months later with two knockdowns while cruising to a one-sided decision over Viktor Postol to unify the titles in Las Vegas.

The 33-year-old Molina dropped to 29-7. He earned a shot at the titles by upsetting former champion Ruslan Provodnikov in June. But Molina did not come close to making the 140-pound weight for his title shot so he would have been denied the belts if he had done the impossible and won. —AFP



OMAHA: Terence 'Bud' Crawford is declared winner over John Molina Jr. after a WBO junior welterweight boxing bout at the CenturyLink Center in Omaha, Neb., Saturday. Crawford won by TKO in the eighth round. — AP



WHISTLER: Natalie Geisenberger of Germany races down the track during a women's World Cup Luge event, Saturday in Whistler, British Columbia. —AP



VENERABLE ISTANBUL FOOTBALL SIDE WITH OPPOSITION STREAK

ISTANBUL: Besiktas football club of claimed the bombings. "Terrorists... Istanbul, is one of Turkey's oldest sports organisations with an impassioned fan base known for their opposition to the authorities

Twenty nine people, mainly police officers, were killed on Saturday in double attacks outside its stadium that followed the club's home Super Lig match against Bursaspor in the brand new Vodafone Arena opened earlier this year.

Besiktas won the match 2-1, boosting its title hopes to make the club joint leaders with local rivals Basaksehir. But now the night of December 10, 2016 will be remembered not for football but for a tragedy that will forever leave a mark on the club's history, which goes back to the Ottoman Empire. So far no-one has

attacked our heroic security forces who ensure that both our fans and Bursaspor's supporters are safe. We will stand firm against the vile attackers who will never achieve their goal," the club said in a statement.

The club said that among those killed was Vefa Karakurdu, a senior police officer in charge of security at games who was a member of its congress, and Tunc Uncu who worked at its official merchandise shop.

The attacks took place around the perimeter of the gleaming new stadium that is the pride and joy of the club's fans who call their beloved side the Kara Kartal (Black Eagle). Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan had in April inaugurated the brand new waterfront stadium on the Bosphorus and the team has played to packed stands ever since.

Besiktas in 2013 played for the last time at their old stadium in the same historic location on the shores of the Bosphorus just above the Ottoman-era Dolmabahce Palace.

That stadium-which was named after the second president of modern Turkey Ismet Inonu-was knocked down and the over 40,000 capacity Vodafone Arena built in its place.

OPPOSITION STREAK

The club was founded as a gymnastics club under the Ottoman Empire in 1903 and its full name is still Besiktas Gymnastics Club (BJK). Its focus rapidly

became football but like most Turkish clubs it proudly remains a multi-sports club. The club's famously leftist and antiestablishment fan club Carsi are seen as natural foes of Erdogan and like to chant slogans against his rule.

Carsi members played a key role in 2013 protests against Erdogan over the development of an Istanbul park that represented one of the biggest challenges to the Turkish strongman.

Thirty five members of the group were put on trial on widely-ridiculed charges of trying to stage a coup but all were acquitted in late December 2015.

To the amusement of fans, the April 4 opening of the stadium did not take place at a game but at a ceremony in front of almost empty stands. Some said this was due to fears Erdogan could be booed by fans at a match.

The club won the Super Lig title last season with its star player Mario Gomez of Germany who was top scorer in the Super Lia.

But Gomez shattered fans by leaving in the close season, saying he could not carry on due to the political situation in the wake of the failed July 15 coup.

Luminaries from the past of Besiktas including English former manager Gordon Milne, 79, who guided the club in a stellar period from 1987-1994, and taking consecutive titles in 1990, 1991 and 1992. The club's fans are also known for their irreverent humour including slogans like "it's not about you and me, it's Besiktas!". — AFP

EMOTIONAL BRAZEL SCORES WIN OF CAREER AT HONG KONG OPEN

HONG KONG: Unheralded Australian Sam Brazel wept yesterday after clinching the Hong Kong Open in thrilling style with a birdie at the final hole, sealing by far the biggest victory of his career. The world number 480 defeated Spanish Ryder Cup star Rafa Cabrera Bello-ranked 447 places above him-on the 18th after Brazel agonisingly missed a birdie on the 17th.

Brazel, 37, whose partner died suddenly from bacterial meningitis in 2009, cried as he dedicated the improbable victory to his family, saying: "This is for you guys."

Asked if he had a message for his loved ones, his voice again cracked as he added: "I'd just say thanks for the support over many years. "It's been a bit of a tough ride."

Brazel had never won a four-round tournament before yesterday, and until he gained his Asian Tour card in 2013 was grinding out results on lower-level circuits such as the Queensland Sunshine Tour in Australia. He admitted he was still in shock from his giant-killing total of 267, which also saw off a challenge from US Masters champion Danny Willett, who had held the lead at one point but ended in sixth place on 271. "I certainly didn't expect to be in here this afternoon but I'm thoroughly impressed that I am!" he said as he faced the media. "I was supposed to be taking a 9.30 flight back to Australia tonight but I don't think I'll be making that!"

He had earlier said winning the \$2 million Hong Kong Open would "mean the world" to him-and his fellow Australian golfers including Scott Hend mobbed him on the final green to douse him in champagne. Hend, the Asian Tour Order of Merit winner, called the victory "life-changing" for Brazel, adding: "You beauty!" Cabrera Bello, who has not won on the European Tour since the 2012 Dubai Desert Classic, had to settle for second place, finishing with a round of 268. Australia's Andrew Dodt and England's Tommy Fleetwood were tied third on 11 under par at 269.

The first prize cheque of \$333,330 more than trebled Brazel's earnings for the season on the Asian Tour, and until Sunday the highlight of his career was fourth place at the World Classic Championship in Singapore last year. Brazel had been tied at 12 under par with Cabrera Bello going into the last hole, but a stunning second shot from the fairway saw the Australian within 15 feet of the flag.

The Spaniard was also on to the green in two shots but could not make the putt, while Brazel sunk his to thunderous cheers. Brazel said he had been a "nervous wreck" on the back nine as a host of players jockeyed for the leadership.

But his nerves did not appear to affect his play, with three consecutive birdies on holes 11, 12 and 13, seeing him move into the lead-and a remarkable tee shot on the par-three 12th which rolled to within a foot of the hole was possibly the pick of the bunch.

Elsewhere, defending champion Justin Rose, who was struggling with a bad back, was never in contention and ended the week with at two under par 278.

And US Ryder Cup star Patrick Reed, who came third last year, admitted he had had a "rough" time, ending at just one under par on 279. — AFP

X UBS



MARSEILLE: Yuzuru Hanyu of Japan, left, celebrates his gold medal with Shoma Uno of Japan with bronze medal after the Men Skating Program during ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final in Marseille, southern France, Saturday. — AP

HANYU, MEDVEDEVA RETAIN TITLES DESPITE FLAWS

MARSEILLE: Japan's Yuzuru Hanyu became the first skater to win four straight men's Grand Prix Final titles on Saturday as Russian teenager Evgenia Medvedeva defended her women's crown. Olympic champion Hanyu took gold despite a fall which saw the 22-year-old place just third in the free skating final in Marseille. American Nathan Chen landed four quadruple jumps in his free skate to move up from fifth to silver medal position with Japan's Shoma Uno taking a second consecutive bronze. The three men's favourites-Hanyu, Spaniard Javier Fernandez and Canadian Patrick Chan-all had bad tumbles during the elite six-skater competition. "I don't know what happened today. I was feeling a little tired, every jump was hard," said Hanyu who scored 293.90 points in total, over ten points ahead of Chen (282.85), who put the US men back on the podium for the first time since 2009, with Uno scoring 282.51. Reigning two-time world champion Fernandez (268.77) and former three-time world champion Chan (266.75) saw their challenges collapse to fourth and fifth respectively. American Adam Rippon finished sixth. Chen, 17, gave a remarkable performance with the top score of 197.55 points for his free skate to Polovtsian Dances-ten points better than Hanyu achieved for his skate to Hope and Legacy by Joe Hisaishi. But Hanyu nevertheless held his top place from the short programme to become the second man to win four titles after Russian Yevgeny Plushenko, but first to win four in a row. 'The programme is on the theme of hope and legacy and this is like my life, or my skating life," explained former world champion Hanyu. "Some people hate me, lots of people love me, so sometimes I am sad and sometimes I am happy. These two halves are what the programme shows."

CANADA'S 'MARATHON MAN' ACHIEVES AFGHAN AMBITION

BAMIYAN: Crossing the finish line of



HONG KONG: Hong Kong Open golf tournament winner Sam Brazel of Australia, left, and Asian Tour's Order of Merit winner Scott Hend of Australia pose with their trophies in Hong Kong, yesterday. Brazel birdied the 18th hole to narrowly edge Rafa Cabrera Bello of Spain to capture the Hong Kong Open yesterday, his first title on the European Tour. — AP

SARACENS RUN RIOT IN EUROPEAN CUP

PARIS: Defending champions Saracens romped to a six-try, 50-3 win over English rivals Sale on Saturday to take a huge step closer to the European Cup quarter-finals.

Boosted by the return from international duty of England stars Jamie George, Owen Farrell, Mako Vunipola, George Kruis and powerful lock Maro Itoje, Saracens claimed their third win in three games.

The bonus point triumph allowed them to open a 10-point lead in Pool 3 although three-time champions Toulon can close the gap when they face Scarlets on Sunday.

George, Marcelo Bosch, Sean Maitland (two), Chris Wyles and Richard Barrington all scored tries for while Farrell added 13 points with the boot before Alex Lozowski took over kicking duties.

A sole Alan MacGinty penalty accounted for all of Sale's points. Saracens director of rugby Mark McCall later backed Farrell to skipper England in the Six Nations should Northampton's Dylan Hartley be banned following his red card in Friday's defeat to Leinster.

"Owen is ready. He's one of those players who leads in every way because he leads from the front," McCall said. "Some of his defending in the second quarter was out of this world. He leads through his actions, but also through his messages and communication with the team."

Ulster edged Clermont 39-32 in a ninetry thriller as Munster and Glasgow also sent out markers. The result saw Ulster go second in Pool 5 on nine points, three behind leaders Clermont, who picked up two bonus points despite the defeat.

There was more French heartbreak when last season's losing finalists Racing 92 went down to a 23-14 defeat by Glasgow.

DEMOLITION

Racing, featuring a glut of internationals including ex-All Black playmaker Dan Carter, currently sit last in Pool 1 with no points Munster are atop the pool after handing Leicester a record European loss, running out 38-0 victors at their nearimpregnable Thomond Park ground.

Racing took the lead against Glasgow through Juan Imhoff, but the Scottish side then took over through two tries from Alex Dunbar and Ali Price, with Finn Russell kicking 13 points before Carter pulled back a converted try near the death.

Munster's demolition of Leicester was thanks to tries from Simon Zebo, Jaco Taute (2) and a penalty try, New Zealander Tyler Bleyendaal hitting four penalties and three conversions.

A see-saw first-half in Ulster's home of Belfast was witness to two ambitious teams willing to run everything saw the lead change hands seven times.

Clermont's Fijian No 8 Peceli Yato opened the scoring, Ulster's Luke Marshall splitting the defence for a straight run-in and then lan Henderson crossing after a Ruan Pienaar cross-kick as Ulster roared back. But slick hands saw South Africanborn France full-back Scott Spedding go over before Paddy Jackson gathered his own grubber to hand the advantage back to the Irish province at the end of an enthralling first 40 minutes, 22-18.—AFP

'REALLY HUGE'

Earlier Medvedeva narrowly missed out on an historic all-time score to win her second women's title as Canadians Tessa Virtue and Scott Moir made a winning return by claiming the ice dancing crown. The 17-year-old Medvedeva earned 227.66 points, just a point off the record total of 228.6 set by South Korean star Kim Yu-na six years ago. Japan's Satoko Miyahara scored 218.33 for second place with Anna Pogorilaya of Russia taking third place with 216.47. Medvedeva was far from perfect with an error on a triple flip at the start of her routine to the music of Alexandre Desplat depriving her of the record score. "I expected more from myself. I wanted to do more and I could have done more," said Medvedeva

But the world champion nevertheless finished nearly 10 points ahead of 18-year-old Miyahara thanks to her incredible performance in Friday's short programme where her 79.21 points eclipsed Mao Asada's record 78.66 two years ago. There were four Russians in the sixskater field with Maria Sotskova finishing fifth and Elena Radionova sixth. Canada's Kaetlyn Osmond was fourth. Virtue and Moir, the 2010 Olympic champions, have come back strong after two seasons off, winning the only title to have eluded them in their long career.

The Canadians scored 197.22 points to take gold ahead of two-time world champion ice dancers Gabriella Papadakis and Guillaume Cizeron of France (192.81) alongside whom they train in Montreal. "For us this title is really huge," said Moir of a championship where they took silver four times. — AFP

Afghanistan's Bamiyan marathon, hand in hand with a young female runner from the country, Canada's famed 'Marathon Man', Martin Parnell felt a double victory.

Just a year earlier he had been diagnosed with blood clot on the brain. Doctors put him in a coma to save his life, and it was unclear if he would ever run again. But while convalescing, he stumbled across news of the first Afghan woman to run a marathon. Inspired, he made a promise to himself.

"I said... if I get better and I can run again, and I can run marathons again, I will come to Afghanistan and run that marathon to support those women that are free to run and are helping to change things," he told AFP.

He was one of a handful of foreigners taking part in the second edition of the ancient city's marathon in the country's central highlands: a loop that starts and ends at the base of the world famous Buddha caves.

The route, at an altitude of almost 3,000 metres, passes dusty villages and is set against a backdrop of dusky-pink cliffs; sheep and donkeys amble freely across the landscape.

Bamiyan is a rare oasis of tranquility, which has largely been spared the wrenching conflict that afflicts the rest of the country.

The marathon, where both sexes compete together in public, has become a symbol of freedom for Afghan women. For Kubra and others like her — 15 women took part in total including six from Afghanistan-just the act of running in public is controversial, widely seen as a subversive act.

Parnell says he advised her to set aside her nerves about taking part and focus on the road ahead, ten minutes at a time. And while it was not his first race after recovering-he competed in Calgary in May-it is one he won't forget. "My best memory is holding hands with Kubra as we ran across the line at 6 hours 52 minutes," the 60-year-old recalls.

RECORD BREAKER

Parnell, known in Canada as the 'Marathon Man', sees the sport as a form of meditation and admits he struggles when he's unable to run. "One of the hardest times was after I was diagosed with the clot. I had double vision and had to sit on my sofa. It was five months before I could start running again," he explains. It hasn't always been his passion, the retired mining engineer came to the sport late in life. Parnell says: "When I started in 2002 it certainly filled a gap that was left after the death of my wife, Wendy, due to cancer. If I hadn't found running maybe I would have turned to something less healthy like alcohol or drugs." Instead he channelled his energy into sporting challenges, running renowned marathons around the world before taking on more gruelling endeavours such as the Canadian Death Race (125 kilometres) and the Lost Souls (160 kilometres).

He is also in the Guinness World Record books after taking part in the longest games of netball (61 hours), lacrosse (24 hours) and five-a-side soccer (42 hours).

His antics are all in aid of charity. After a trip through Africa, he began working with NGO Right to Play, which aims to improve the lives of children through sport.

"A football match in Sudan, a ping-pong game in Ethiopia, in five minutes you're surrounded by 100 smiling kids. I realised sport could be important for them," he explains.

In 2010, he ran 250 marathons-covering some 10,000 kilometres (2,600 miles) - in a year, and raising \$185,000 for charity.

Parnell sees it as everyone's responsibility to do what they can to help those less fortunate. "I believe that in life you don't have to do a lot but you must do something," he explains.

"You must make a difference in the lives of the children or in the lives of other people. Do something to make a difference."—AFP



BAMIYA: This file photograph taken on November 4, 2016 shows Afghan and international marathon runners taking part in a marathon on a course that took participants past the destroyed Buddha statues in Bamiyan province. Crossing the finish line of Afghanistan's Bamiyan marathon, hand in hand with a young female runner from the country, Canada's famed 'Marathon Man', Martin Parnell felt a double victory. Just a year earlier he had been diagnosed with blood clot on the brain. - AFP



PAKISTAN COACH ARTHUR PLOTS DEMISE OF FORMER TEAM AUSTRALIA

MELBOURNE: The merry-go-round of coaching jobs in international cricket inevitably leads to awkward reunions but few could be more thorny than Mickey Arthur's encounter with his old team Australia.

Three years after being sacked as the side's head coach, the South African will hope to guide Pakistan to a breakthrough test series win Down Under, with the first match starting in Brisbane on Thursday.

Coaches rarely get to choose the manner of their exit but Arthur's dismissal was especially acrimonious, and the trigger for a high-profile severance claim against his former employers Cricket Australia

He was less than two years into the post when his tenure began to unravel during the 2013 tour of India where Michael Clarke's team were whitewashed 4-0.

Four players were stood down for a test during the infamous 'homeworkgate' scandal and months later, opening batsman David Warner punched England's Joe Root at a bar on a boozy night out during the Champions Trophy tournament in London.

With team discipline appearing in complete disarray, Arthur was dismissed three weeks before the Ashes and replaced by Darren Lehmann, who remains Australia's coach.

A resident of Perth for over six years,

Arthur said he felt no extra motivation in beating the home side.

"We just want to win every test series we play," the 48-year-old told local media in Brisbane.

But he was aggrieved by the dismissal and the blow smarted for years. A leak of his testimony during his legal challenge against Cricket Australia painted the team as dysfunctional and riven by a personality clash between captain Clarke and vice captain Shane Watson.

He later described his coaching environment as "suffocating" in a book last year and said Lehmann was the ultimate benefactor of his dismissal, given the autonomy that Arthur said he personally craved but was never afforded.

Three years on, Arthur faces an Australian team emerging from another crisis but with head coach Lehmann given the chance to right the ship.

CHANGED PERSONNEL

Arthur may have intimate knowledge of the Australian system, but the personnel have changed.

Of the team he coached to a fourth consecutive test loss in India in 2013, only captain Steve Smith, wicketkeeper Matthew Wade, Warner and spinner Nathan Lyon are likely to face Pakistan at the Gabba.

While coaching Pakistan to a 2-0 test series loss in New Zealand last month, Arthur would have noted with interest how South Africa were able to humble Australia 2-1 on home pitches, without pace spearhead Dale Steyn and regular captain AB de Villiers.

He would have recognised the criticism that rained down on the Australian team from pundits and former players and washed away chairman of selectors Rod Marsh and a string of under-performing players.

Most familiar to Arthur, however, may be Australia's ability to regenerate and come roaring out of the abyss. Within a year of his sacking, Australia whitewashed England 5-0, enjoyed a rare series win in South Africa and re-captured the top ranking in tests.—Reuters

PACIORETTY HAS FOUR GOALS AS CANADIENS CRUSH AVALANCHE

goals and Brian Flynn scored twice during a six-goal first period as the Montreal Canadiens routed the Colorado Avalanche 10-1 in the NHL on Saturday. Flynn, Pacioretty and Artturi Lehkonen each scored against Calvin Pickard in the opening 7:12, and then Pacioretty, Paul Byron and Flynn each had a goal among the first four shots on Semyon Varlamov. Pacioretty completed his hat trick in the second period and added another in the third to give the captain seven goals in his last four games. Alexander Radulov and Jeff Petry also scored for Montreal, which has shown no drop-off without injured scoring leader and first-line center Alex Galchenyuk. Montreal outshot the Avalanche 36 -16. Montreal's six-goal first period was its first since Dec. 17, 1992 against the Quebec Nordiques in an 8-3 win.

FLYERS 4, STARS 2

Brayden Schenn scored three powerplay goals to lead Philadelphia to its eighth straight victory. Jakub Voracek added an empty-netter and also had three assists for the Flyers, who matched Montreal for the longest winning streak in the NHL this season. Philadelphia last won eight straight games from Jan. 6-19, 2002. Devin Shore had both goals for the Stars. Steve Mason made 21 saves for his seventh straight win. Kari Lehtonen made 18 saves for the Stars, falling to 1-11-3 against Philadelphia.

BLUE JACKETS 6, ISLANDERS 2

Jack Johnson, Cam Atkinson and Seth Jones each had a goal and an assist and Columbus beat New York for its sixth straight win. Josh Anderson, Brandon Saad and Lukas Sedlak also scored for Columbus and Sergei Bobrovsky had 25 saves. Josh Bailey and John Tavares scored for New York, which had earned a point in a season-high five straight games (4-0-1). Jaroslav Halak made 32 saves until he was

MONTREAL: Max Pacioretty had four the Hurricanes. Cam Ward made 16 saves.

KINGS 4, SENATORS 1

Trevor Lewis had a goal and an assist, and Jeff Carter and Alec Martinez scored on the same power play early in the first period of Los Angeles' victory over Ottawa. Peter Budaj made 19 saves and earned an assist, and Marian Gaborik scored his first goal since Feb. 12 to cap the Kings' final home game before a threeweek, nine-game stint on the road until New Year's Eve. Mike Condon stopped 15 shots, and Zack Smith scored for Ottawa, which has lost four of six. The Senators struggled to beat Budaj, the longtime Montreal goalie, in the second stop of their swing through California. Veteran forward Chris Neil played his 1,000th game for Ottawa, joining Daniel Alfredsson and Chris Phillips as the only Senators to reach the mark.

FLAMES 6, JETS 2

Dougie Hamilton scored twice during a four-goal second period and added an assist to lead streaking Calgary over Winnipeg. The Flames vaulted into first place in the Pacific Division with their sixth consecutive victory - the team's longest winning streak since last December. Mikael Backlund had a goal and two assists, while Sam Bennett, Lance Bouma and Sean Monahan also scored for Calgary. Chad Johnson made 26 saves. Nikolaj Ehlers and Jacob Trouba had the goals for the Jets, who have lost three in a row. Michael Hutchinson turned aside 25 of 29 shots in 40 minutes before giving way to Connor Hellebuyck, who made six saves.

MAPLE LEAFS 4, BRUINS 1

Auston Matthews and Zach Hyman scored in the second period, Frederik Andersen made 32 saves and Toronto beat Boston. James van Riemsdyk scored in the third for Toronto, which was 0-2-1 in its last three games. Connor Brown added an empty-netter and Andersen improved to 6-0-0 in his career against Boston. Brad Marchand had the Bruins' goal, and Tuukka Rask stopped 16 shots. Former Bruins defenseman Matt Hunwick had two assists.



MUMBAI: England's batsman Joe Root, right, bats on the fourth day of the fourth cricket test match between India and England in Mumbai, India, yesterday. —AP

INDIA CLOSE IN ON VICTORY AFTER KOHLI'S 3RD DOUBLE TON

MUMBAI: India captain Virat Kohli struck a sublime double century before his bowlers picked up six England wickets to put the hosts

SCOREBOARD

pulled after the Blue Jackets scored four consecutive goals in the third period.

PENGUINS 4, LIGHTNING 3

Evgeni Malkin and Sidney Crosby both scored their second goals on third-period power plays, helping Pittsburgh rally to beat Tampa Bay. It was the first meeting between the teams since the Stanley Cup champion Penguins beat Tampa Bay in a seven-game Eastern Conference final last season. Pittsburgh, which won its fifth straight game, got three assists each from Phil Kessel and Kris Letang. The Penguins are 6-6-1 when trailing after two periods.Tampa Bay's Jonathan Drouin had the first of his two goals shortly after getting cut by a high stick. Valtteri Filppula also scored for the Lightning, who are 1-6-1 over their last eight games.

SHARKS 4, HURRICANES 3

Logan Couture and Kevin Labanc scored less than 2 minutes apart in the second period and San Jose bounced back from consecutive losses by beating Carolina. Patrick Marleau scored 12 seconds into the game and Paul Martin added his first goal of the season for the Sharks, who had allowed late tiebreaking goals in their previous two games. Backup goalie Aaron Dell made 30 saves to earn his third win in four starts this season. Lee Stempniak and Derek Ryan scored power-play goals and Joakim Nordstrom added a shorthanded tally but it wasn't enough for

Western Conference

Central Division

8 4 78

8 4 78

8 4

11 4

11 12 6 74

10 15 1 57

Pacific Division

1

5 90

2 67

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division

6 3 91

16 13 2 81

11 2 71

9 13 5

w

17

16

12

16 11

14 9 5 76

19

Edmonton 14 11

Vancouver 12 14

Los Angeles 14

Chicago

St. Louis

Nashville

Colorado

Calgary

San Jose

Anaheim

Arizona

Montreal

Dallas

Minnesota 14

Winnipeg 13 15

L OTL GF

3 80

72

78

68

62

PANTHERS 4, CANUCKS 2

Aaron Ekblad gave Florida a three-goal lead early in the third period and it held on against Vancouver. The Panthers got their first home win under interim coach Tom Rowe. Aleksander Barkov had a goal and an assist, and Vincent Trocheck and Derek MacKenzie also scored for Florida. Roberto Luongo made 37 saves, and Jaromir Jagr recorded an assist and now has 1,883 points, four behind Mark Messier for second on the NHL career list. Daniel Sedin and Jack Skille scored in the third period for the Canucks. Jacob Markstrom stopped 38 shots.

COYOTES 4, PREDATORS 1

Alex Goligoski and Lauren Dauphin scored 1:57 apart in the first period and Arizona beat Nashville. Brendan Perlini added his first career goal, Martin Hanzal also scored and Mike Smith made 42 saves for the Coyotes, who were 0-3-3 since their last win against at Edmonton on Nov. 27. Arizona scored four goals for the first time since Nov. 8 after totaling four in its previous four games. Roman Josi scored and Pekka Rinne made 30 saves for the Predators, who have lost four of five (1-3-1). — AP

NHL results/standings

San Jose 4, Carolina 3; Calgary 6, Winnipeg 2; Arizona 4, Nashville 1; Toronto 4, Boston 1; Montreal 10, Colorado 1; Pittsburgh 4, Tampa Bay 3; Florida 4, Vancouver 2; Columbus 6, NY Islanders 2; Los Angeles 4, Ottawa 1; Philadelphia 4, Dallas 2.

•		Ottawa	16	10	2	69	73	34	
		Boston	15	12	2	69	70	32	
	PTS	Tampa Bay	14	13	2	81	81	30	
69	38	Florida	13	12	4	70	77	30	
76 55	36 32	Detroit	13	12	3	70	76	29	
93	29	Toronto	11	10	5	78	81	27	
78	28	Buffalo	10	11	6	56	72	26	
93	28								
85	21		Met	ropol	itan	Divisio	n		
		Pittsburgh	18	7	3	97	84	39	
86	34	NY Ranger	s 19	9	1	100	70	39	
61	33	Columbus	17	5	4	87	56	38	
74	33	Philadelph	ia 17	10	3	100	94	37	
83	33	Washingto	n 16	7	3	69	59	35	
70	30	New Jersey	/ 12	9	б	69	77	30	
83	26	Carolina	11	11	б	69	76	28	
83	23	NY Islande	rs 11	11	5	71	81	27	
		Note: Over	rtime l	osses	(OTL)) are w	orth o	one po	int
		in the stan	dings	and a	re no	t inclu	ded ir	n the l	oss
62	41	column (L)							

on course for a series-clinching victory in the fourth and penultimate test at the Wankhede Stadium yesterday.

Trailing 2-0 in the series, England needed a win in Mumbai to keep alive the series but the tourists now require something extraordinary to even save the match following Kohli's batting masterclass.

India piled on 631 in their first innings on the fourth day, a lead of 231 runs over England, after Kohli's third double century of the year. The touring side were 182 for six in their second innings at stumps, still trailing by 49. Jonny Bairstow was unbeaten on 50 with nightwatchman Jake Ball falling for two in the last over before the close.

Paceman Bhuvneshwar Kumar dismissed first-innings centurion Keaton Jennings for a golden duck and left-arm spinner Ravindra Jadeja sent back England captain Alastair Cook for 18 and Moeen Ali for nought to leave England tottering at 49-3 at tea. Joe Root and Bairstow hit brisk fifties during their stand of 92 for the fourth wicket before the former fell leg before to off-spinner Jayant Yadav for 77.

The wickets of Ben Stokes, who made 18, and Ball to off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin towards the end further dampened England's hopes of saving the match.

Bairstow was given out by umpire Bruce Oxenford first on 32 and then on 37 but the England wicketkeeper managed to overturn the decisions both times on review.

KOHLI DOUBLE

Earlier, the 28-year-old Kohli was out for a career-best 235 and added 241 for the eighth wicket, the highest for India, with Yadav, who scored 104, his maiden test hundred. Kohli, who was on 147 overnight, and Yadav continued to torment the England bowlers who went wicketless in the first session after India resumed on 451 for seven. The right-handed batsman has now scored a double hundred in all three series India have played in 2016 — in West Indies, against New Zealand and now against England. Kohli, who has already scored 640 runs in the series at an average of 128, drove Ball for a straight four on the fifth delivery of the day to get past 150, signalling another harrowing session for the England bowlers. Kohli, who hit 25 fours and a six in his knock, got past his 200 with a single to midwicket off leg-spinner Adil Rashid but his celebration was quite muted compared to when he completed his hundred on Saturday.

He raised both his hands while completing the run and took off his helmet before acknowledging the applause from the sizeable Sunday crowd at the ground, overlooking the Arabian Sea. Kohli accelerated after the fall of Yadav and was out caught at the cover boundary off Chris Woakes. Yadav, whose previous highest score was 55, hit 15 boundaries in his knock and looked in discomfort only against a couple of short deliveries from the England fast bowlers. Rashid finished with four wickets. - Reuters

Scoreboard at stumps on the fourth day in the fourth Test between India and England yesterday in Mumbai, India.

England 1st innings 400 (K. Jennings 112, J. M. Ali 50; R. Ashwin 6-112, R. Jadeja 4-109)	Buttler 76,	2); M. Ali 53-5-174-2; A. Rashid 55.3-5-192-4; J. 47-1(w-1); B. Stokes 10-2-32-0; J. Root 10-2-31-2	
India 1st innings (Overnight: 451-7)		47 NW 17, 5. Stokes 10 2 52 0, 5. Noot 10 2 51 7	
L. Rahul b Ali	24	England 2nd innings	
M. Vijay c&b Rashid	136	A. Cook lbw b Jadeja	18
C. Pujara b Ball	47	K. Jennings Ibw b B. Kumar	0
V. Kohli c Anderson b Woakes	235	J. Root Ibw b Yadav	77
K. Nair Ibw b Ali	13	M. Ali c Vijay b Jadeja	0
P. Patel c Bairstow b Root	15	J. Bairstow not out	50
R. Ashwin c Jennings b Root	0	B. Stokes c Vijay b R. Ashwin	18
R. Jadeja c Buttler b Rashid	25	J. Ball c P. Patel b R. Ashwin	2
J. Yadav st Bairstow b Rashid	104	Extras (b-13 lb-2 nb-2)	17
B. Kumar c Woakes b Rashid	9	Total (for 6 wickets, 47.3 overs)	182
U. Yadav not out	7	Fall of wickets: 1-1 K. Jennings, 2-43 A. Cook, 3	-49 M. Ali,
Extras (b-5 lb-8 w-3)	16	4-141 J. Root, 5-180 B. Stokes, 6-182 J. Ball.	
Total (all out, 182.3 overs)	631	To bat: C. Woakes, A. Rashid, J. Anderson, J. But	tler
Fall of wickets: 1-39 L. Rahul, 2-146 C. Pujara	3-262 M.	Bowling: B. Kumar 4-1-11-1; U. Yadav 3-0-10-0	; R. Jadeja
Vijay, 4-279 K. Nair, 5-305 P. Patel, 6-307 R. Ash	vin, 7-364	18-3-58-2(nb-1); R. Ashwin 16.3-1-49-2; J. Yada	av 6-0-39-
R. Jadeja, 8-605 J. Yadav, 9-615 V. Kohli, 10-631	B. Kumar	1(nb-1).	
Bowling: J. Anderson 20-5-63-0; C. Woakes 16	-2-79-1(w-		

RONALDO AWAITS FOURTH BALLON D'OR CORONATION

PARIS: Come 8 pm (1900 GMT) today, what looks to be a poorly kept secret will officially be out-Cristiano Ronaldo will bag his fourth Ballon d'Or as the world's top footballer.

The Real Madrid and Portugal star won the Champions League for the second time in three seasons and third time overall after one title with Manchester United in 2008.

He then led Portugal to their first major title at Euro 2016 — albeit he went off early through injury in the win over France.

As has been the case for almost a decade now, the 31-year-old's main rival will be Lionel Messi of Barcelona-but the Argentine maestro has had by his own exalted standards a less than stellar year both for club and country with the top prizes eluding him on both fronts.

Ronaldo was spotted midweek in training having dyed his hair gold in advance and for his club coach, there can only be one man for the crown this year.

"For me there is no debate. The Ballon will be for him," Zinedine Zidane said after his talisman's hattrick saw off Atletico Madrid last month to underpin their domination in La Liga. "He showed it last season and he shows it again and again. We expect a lot of him but he stands above everyone."

Despite such effusive praise, Ronaldo, rested at the weekend ahead of the Club World Cup in Japan, has had some negative headlines-not least pertaining to accusations of tax evasion.

Denying any wrongdoing, he responded by publishing his financial records on Thursday-showing last year he earned a

bumper 227.2 million euros (\$240 million). "You believe I am worried? He who owes nothing, fears nothing," Ronaldo told broadcaster RTP.

An international consortium of media organisations has claimed the superstar hid 150 million euros from image rights in the British Virgin Islands.

This year marks the end of six years of joint awards by founders France Football and FIFA, which will revert to bestowing a "Best" accolade of its own on January 9 to both male and female players.

The Ballon d'Or will henceforth be decided by a vote of 173 journalists while national team captains and managers will no longer have a say. Argentina and Barcelona star Messi landed a record fifth crown last year. A win will lift Ronaldo to within one award of Messi's record haul of five. Ronaldo first won the award in 2008 after Premier League and Champions League triumphs with Manchester United.

But it was only in 2013 he added his second and he made it a hattrick the following year. The first Ballon d'Or was won by Stanley Matthews, at the time with Blackpool, who beat Alfredo Di Stefano for the inaugural title in 1956. Up to 1994 only European players were eligible. The first non-European to win it was the following year, AC Milan's Liberian star George Weah.

From 2007 it honoured the world's best player, with FIFA under former president Sepp Blatter entering into a deal with France Football in 2010 to merge the Ballon d'Or with FIFA's best world player honour. —AFP



MONDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2016



KUWAIT TIMES NBA POWER RANKINGS

By Ahmad Jabr

KUWAIT: In addition to its usual coverage of NBA news, Kuwait Times introduces a new feature this year: the NBA Power Rankings. It is a weekly list ranking each team based on its performance during the week. The actual record for each team (put between brackets, for games played as of yesterday) does play a role in the assessment process but is not the main factor for deciding each team's ranking, thus making it different from league standings. This week's ratings saw changes in the top ten as two Western Conference teams are making unlikely strong pushes in December.

THATL



1- Golden State Warriors (20 - 4) Last week:

1 - The Warriors nearly lost their top spot in this week's ranking following their loss to the Grizzlies Saturday night after they struggled with shooting and passing, but it is hard to overlook their commanding performance in the previous few days. In Monday's rout of Indiana, Klay Thompson scored 60 points in 29 minutes, and was on pace to score a 100 according to Elias Sports Bureau's research.



2- Toronto Raptors (17 - 7) Last week: 3 - The Raptors won nine of their last 10 games, and led the NBA in offensive rating, net rating and

three-point percentage during that span (they lead the league in offense overall). After beating the Celtics on Friday, they set their sights on possibly taking the lead in the Eastern Conference's standings with a relatively easy schedule ahead.



3- Cleveland Cavaliers (17 - 5) Last week: 4 -

Following his team's win against the Hornets Saturday night, LeBron James became the only player in NBA history with 27,000 points, 7,000 assists and 7,000 rebounds, and the only forward ever to reach the 7,000 assists' mark. We're not done talking about LeBron's accolades yet: he also climbed to ninth on the NBA's all-time scoring list last week.



4- San Antonio Spurs (19 - 5) Last week: 2 -All good things come to an end, including the Spurs' undefeated record on the road. After calling his team out following its loss to the Bulls in Chicago on Thursday, Coach Gregg Popovich's squad responded by scoring 130 points to defeat the Nets two nights later.



5- Houston Rockets (17 - 7) Last week: 6 -

Not only did the Rockets overcome Russell Westbrook's seventh straight triple-double to beat the Thunder on Friday, but they also cruised past the Mavs one night later for their sixth straight win. Hot shooting from the three-point line remains the key factor behind Houston's wins this season.



6- Memphis Grizzlies (17 - 8) Last week: 8 -Not even the streaking Warriors could stop the

Grizzlies, who dominated on both ends of the floor to beat Golden State on Saturday. But their six-game (and counting) winning streak seems in jeopardy with two back-to-back games against the Cavs tomorrow and Wednesday.



7- Los Angeles Clippers (17 - 7) Last week: 5 - The Clippers needed that big win Saturday against the Pelicans - who were playing without star Anthony Davis - to offset their previous two ugly losses to the Warriors and Pacers. Good news is that they don't have to face a team with a winning record until December 22 against the Spurs.

such games combined, and no other player has more than one (per ESPN Stats and Information).

16- Indiana Pacers (12 - 12) Last week: 16 -

Paul George poured in 37 points and led his team to victory over the Trail Blazers on Saturday, outscoring fellow All-Star Damian Lillard in the process. The Pacers need his shooting touch when they host the Hornets tonight.

17- Atlanta Hawks (12 - 12) Last week: 19 -Dennis Schroder scored a career-high 33 and led Atlanta to overcame a 20-point halftime deficit to beat the Bucks 114-110 on Friday, and that two nights after Dwight Howard and Paul Millsap helped the Hawks snap their season-high seven-game losing streak.

18- Portland Trail Blazers (12 - 13) Last

week: 15 - The Blazers enter Monday ranked sixth in the league in offensive rating and 26th in defensive rating. Currently on a three-game losing streak, it is hard to imagine that their offense will be enough to achieve wins in a tough stretch ahead that features matches against the Clippers, Thunder and Warriors.

19- Washington Wizards (9 - 13) Last week:

26 - John Wall criticized his team after his 52 points were not enough to beat the Magic on Tuesday, and the Wizards responded by beating the Nuggets and Bucks the following two games. More importantly, their defense has improved to fourth best in the league during that two-game span.

20- Los Angeles Lakers (10 - 15) Last week: 17 - Reserve guard Lou Williams' 137 points of the bench in the Lakers' last four games is the most ever scored by a bench player in a fourgame span. Still the Lakers are struggling to figure out a way to end their five-game losing streak entering last night's game against the Knicks.

21- Denver Nuggets (9 - 15) Last week: 24 -

As rookie Jamal Murray continues to develop, it's worth noting another bench player's performance. Wilson Chandler leads the Nuggets in scoring at 18.0 points per game despite starting only two games this season. He has averaged 16.8 points off the bench, third in the NBA behind Lou Williams and Eric Gordon (per ESPN Stats and Information).

22- Sacramento Kings (8 - 15) Last week: 21

- The Kings have lost six of its last ten games, a span during which their defense has improved but their offense remains bad. They could not even capitalize on Utah's 22 turnovers and beat the Jazz on Saturday.

23- Orlando Magic (10 - 15) Last week: 20 In their win over the Wizards on Tuesday, the Magic's entire starting lineup was outscored by Washington's John Wall, who scored 52 compared to 51 by Orlando's starting five. Their current three-game losing streak came after three straight wins, which seems to be a trend, one that is symbolic of their roller-coast-



CLEVELAND: Cleveland Cavaliers' J.R. Smith (5) drives around Charlotte Hornets' Marco Belinelli (21) during the first half of an NBA basketball game Saturday, in Cleveland. — AP

JAMES EXPLODES FOR 44 PTS AS CAVS TOPPLE HORNETS

CLEVELAND: LeBron James scored 17 of his season-high 44 points in the fourth quarter and reached another career milestone as the Cleveland Cavaliers won their fourth straight, 116 -105 over the Charlotte Hornets in the NBA on Saturday. James did it all, adding 10 assists and nine rebounds in 43 minutes. He took over in the fourth, scoring 13 straight during one stretch to help the Cavs hold on. James, who moved into ninth place on the career scoring list Friday, recorded his 7,000th assist in the first half, becoming the first frontcourt player in NBA history to reach the plateau. James is the only player with 27,000 points and 7,000 assists. Cleveland shot a season-best 58 percent from the field and beat Charlotte for the sixth straight time at home. Kemba Walker scored 24 to pace the Hornets, playing the first of five consecutive road games.

CLIPPERS 133, PELICANS 105

Chris Paul had 20 points and a season-high 20 assists, and Los Angeles beat New Orleans with its highest offensive output of the season. It was the first 20-20 game of Paul's career, and he became the first player since at least 1977-78 - when turnovers were first recorded for individual players to have 20 points, 20 assists and no turnovers, according to the Elias Sports Bureau. The Clippers shot a season-best 57.4 percent and made a season-high 17 3-pointers on 36 attempts to end a two-game skid. Jamal Crawford scored 22 points and DeAndre Jordan had 19 points and nine rebounds for Los Angeles, which won for the third time in eight games after opening 14-2. The Pelicans, playing without a resting Anthony Davis, lost their fifth straight. New Orleans gave up its season high in points and fell to 2-9 away from home.

26 points after sitting out a game with an injured finger, and Trey Lyles added 14 points and five rebounds for the Jazz. Utah had 22 turnovers but won for the eighth time in 10 games. Rudy Gay scored 20 points and DeMarcus Cousins had 16 points and 10 rebounds for the Kings, who lost for the seventh time in nine games.

WIZARDS 110, BUCKS 105

John Wall had 24 points and 11 assists, Bradley Beal scored 20 and Washington used a late 11-0 run to beat Milwaukee. Kelly Oubre Jr. added a career-high 19 points for the Wizards, who have won three of four. Giannis Antetokounmpo led Milwaukee with 28 points and 13 rebounds. His two free throws gave the Bucks a 100-95 lead with 4:28 left, but the Wizards rallied while Milwaukee went cold. Wall scored nine points in the fourth quarter. The Bucks, who committed 20 turnovers, have lost three of four.





8- Oklahoma City Thunder (14 - 9) Last week: 7 - Russell Westbrook's seventh straight triple-double recorded on Friday is the longest since Michael Jordan's similar streak in 1989. but it was still not enough for the Thunder to beat the Rockets and extend their winning streak to seven.



9- Chicago Bulls (13 - 10) Last week: 9 - The

Bulls ended a three-game losing straight with a confidence-boosting win against the Spurs on Thursday, and further boosted their confidence by beating the Heat on Saturday although it came in the form of a tough victory over Dwayne Wade's former team.



10- Utah Jazz (15 - 10) Last week: 11 - The Jazz enter Wednesday's game against the Thunder winning eight of their last ten games. and ranking in the top ten in offensive, defen-

sive and net ratings in the league during that span. With his 26 points in Utah's win over the Kings on Saturday, Gordon Hayward became the first Jazz player with 10 straight 20-point games since Karl Malone in 2001-02 (per Elias Sports and Information).



11- Boston Celtics (3 - 10) Last week: 10 -

The Celtics survived a bomb threat - which turned out to be a hoax - in their flight to Oklahoma City on Saturday, but could not survive the Raptors' offense one night earlier in a game in which they sorely missed their injured guard Isaiah Thomas; who was already ruled out of last night's game against the Thunder.



12- Charlotte Hornets (14 - 10) Last week:

12 - Marvin Williams' return to the lineup invigorated the Hornets, but it was Nicolas Batum's impressive play that keyed his team's victories against the Mavs, Pistons and Magic last week. LeBron James was too much though on Saturday, carrying his team to victory with 44 points.



13- New York Knicks (13 - 10) Last week: 18

- Carmelo Anthony is not letting his issues with President Phil Jackson distract him; on the contrary, it seems to be rejuvenating him as he scored 33 points to lead the Knicks to a victory in Sacramento on Friday. They've won five of their last six games entering last night's game against the Lakers.



14- Milwaukee Bucks (11 - 11) Last week: 13 - Giannis Antetokounmpo is the only player in

the NBA who is leading his team in scoring, assists, rebounds, blocks, and steals. The last player to do that for an entire season was LeBron James for the 2008-09 Cleveland Cavaliers (per Elias Sports and Information).



15- Detroit Pistons (13 - 12) Last week: 14 -

In Friday's win in Minnesota, center Andre Drummond scored 22 points and grabbed 22 rebounds; his third 20-20 game this season. In comparison, the rest of the league has four

24- Miami Heat (7 - 17) Last week: 22 -

er season so far.

Miami enters tonight's game against the Wizards on a five-game losing streak, and have lost seven of its last ten. Their defense dropped to 25th in the league during that span, which is problematic considering that they're facing high-scoring teams (Pacers and Clippers) after tonight's match.

25- Phoenix Suns (7 - 16) Last week: 27 - The

Suns, who rank in the bottom ten in offensive, defensive and net ratings, got something to celebrate after ending their three-game losing streak in Friday's win over the Lakers behind 30 points from Eric Bledsoe, who celebrated his birthday on that day.

26- New Orleans Pelicans (7 - 17) Last week:

23 - The Pelicans opted to rest Anthony Davis against the Clippers on Saturday, and everybody sat and watched LA's guard Chris Paul make history by becoming the first player to have 20 points, 20 assists and no turnovers since turnovers were first recorded for individuals in 1977-78 (per Elias Sports Bureau).

27- Minnesota Timberwolves (6 - 17) Last

week: 25 - The Wolves lost to the Pistons on Friday following earlier losses to the Raptors and Spurs, prompting guard Ricky Rubio to proclaim that his team, which lost eight of its last ten games, plays with 'no heart' and 'no desire'.

28- Brooklyn Nets (6 - 16) Last week: 28 -

The Nets suffered an onslaught from the Spurs on Saturday in the first game since the Rockets matched their four-year \$37 million offer sheet to forward Donatas Motiejunas.

29- Dallas Mavericks (5 - 18) Last week: 29 -

Mavs' owner Mark Cuban (who still thinks Russell Westbrook is not a superstar) said Saturday that his team would only consider trading its top-five projected first round pick in this summer's draft in exchange for a topfive player in the entire league. It is unlikely that the Mavs will trade out of what is promising to be one of the deepest drafts in recent memory, however.

30- Philadelphia 76ers (5 - 18) Last week:

30 - Friday's win against the Pelicans ended the 76ers' eight-game losing streak and its franchise record-tying 23-game road losing streak. Their defense has only slightly improved, as they entered Monday ranking 21st in the league in defensive rating.

GRIZZLIES 110, WARRIORS 89

Marc Gasol and Tony Allen scored 19 points each, and Memphis rolled over Golden State for its sixth straight win. The Grizzlies led by as many as 30 points in the second half - the biggest advantage for any Warriors opponent this season. Seven Memphis players finished in double figures. Kevin Durant led Golden State with 21 points, and Stephen Curry added 17. Curry and backcourt mate Klay Thompson (eight points) were a combined 8 of 28 from the field, including 3 of 14 outside the arc. Golden State's four-game winning streak ended. The Warriors had won 16 of 17, the lone loss in that stretch coming in double overtime to Houston on Dec. 1.

BULLS 105, HEAT 100

Jimmy Butler scored 31 points, Dwyane Wade added 28 against his former team and Chicago held off struggling Miami. Butler scored Chicago's final 10 points to help the Bulls come out on top after Miami pulled within one. Wade keyed a big third-quarter run in his second game against the Heat, and the Bulls hung on after handing San Antonio its first road loss two nights earlier. Goran Dragic led Miami with 21 points and 11 assists. An energetic Hassan Whiteside added 20 points after being benched for part of Friday's blowout loss in Cleveland. Tyler Johnson scored 15, but the Heat dropped their fifth straight.

ROCKETS 109, MAVERICKS 87

James Harden had 18 points, 16 assists and nine rebounds as Houston beat Dallas for its sixth straight victory. Eric Gordon added 18 points and Trevor Ariza scored 17 to give the Rockets their first six-game winning streak since Oct. 28 to Nov. 6, 2014. Patrick Beverley scored all 15 of his points in the fourth quarter. Wesley Matthews had 26 points to lead the Mavericks.

SPURS 130, NETS 101

Kawhi Leonard had 30 points in three quarters and San Antonio rebounded from its first road loss of the season with a home romp over Brooklyn. Five other San Antonio players scored in double figures, led by 16 points from Patty Mills. The Spurs set season highs for points, points in a quarter, points in a half, assists and 3pointers in winning their 14th straight at home over the Nets. San Antonio also matched its largest margin of victory, set in a season-opening win over Golden State. The Spurs led by as many as 38 three days after what coach Gregg Popovich deemed a poor effort in a 95-91 defeat at Chicago.

JAZZ 104, KINGS 84

Rudy Gobert had 17 points, 14 rebounds and a season-high six blocks, helping Utah overcome a flood of turnovers to beat Sacramento. Gordon Hayward scored

NUGGETS 121, MAGIC 113

Danilo Gallinari scored 21 points. and Kenneth Faried had 19 points and 10 rebounds off the bench to help Denver defeat Orlando, Jusuf Nurkic added 17 points on 8-of-11 shooting and grabbed eight rebounds for the Nuggets, who lost their previous two games. Will Barton scored 16. The Nuggets outscored short-handed Orlando 64-34 in the paint. Magic center Nikola Vucevic did not suit up because of an injury. Evan Fournier led Orlando with 24 points. Serge Ibaka had 22 points and four blockedshots.

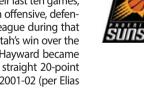
PACERS 118, TRAIL BLAZERS 111

Paul George scored a season-high 37 points and Indiana rallied past Portland after trailing by 20. George made five 3-pointers and Thaddeus Young hit six 3s while putting up 24 points and nine rebounds. Myles Turner added 14 points for the Pacers, who had lost five straight regular-season games to Portland. C.J. McCollum drained a career-high seven 3s and had a season-best 34 points for the Trail Blazers. Damian Lillard scored 33 points, including five 3s. George scored 13 straight points in the fourth quarter for Indiana. He was fouled on the go-ahead basket with 4:36 remaining and completed the threepoint play to give the Pacers a 108-105 lead. — AP

NBA results/standings

LA Clippers 133, New Orleans 105; Utah 104, Sacramento 84; San Antonio 130, Brooklyn 101; Chicago 105, Miami 100; Memphis 110, Golden State 89; Houston 109, Dallas 87; Cleveland 116, Charlotte 105; Washington 110, Milwaukee 105; Denver 121, Orlando 113; Indiana 118, Portland 111

	Eastern Con Atlantic Di					Western Con Northwest D			
	w	L	PCT	GB	Oklahoma City	14	9	.609	-
Toronto	16	7	.696	-	Utah	15	10	.600	-
Boston	13	10	.565	3	Portland	12	13	.480	3
NY Knicks	13	10	.565	3	Denver	9	15	.375	5.5
Brooklyn	6	16	.273	9.5	Minnesota	6	17	.261	8
Philadelphia	5	18	.217	11	Will Hesold	Pacific Div		.201	Ū
	Central Di	vision			Golden State	20	4	.833	
Cleveland	17	5	.773	-					-
Chicago	13	10	.565	4.5	LA Clippers	17	7	.708	3
Detroit	13	12	.520	5.5	LA Lakers	10	15	.400	10.5
Indiana	12	12	.500	6	Sacramento	8	15	.348	11.5
Milwaukee	11	11	.500	6	Phoenix	7	16	.304	12.5
	Southeast [Southwest D	Division		
Charlotte	14	10	.583	-	San Antonio	19	5	.792	-
Atlanta	12	12	.500	2	Houston	17	7	.708	2
Washington	9	13	.409	4	Memphis	17	8	.680	2.5
Orlando	10	15	.400	4.5	New Orleans	7	17	.292	12
Miami	7	17	.292	7	Dallas	5	18	.217	13.5



MIAMI, HEAT

NETS

BROOKLYN





Sounders beat Toronto FC ON PENALTIES TO WIN MLS CUP

TORONTO: The Seattle Sounders claimed their first Major League Soccer Cup by beating Toronto FC 5-4 on penalties after their title game ended 0-0 after extra-time on Saturday.

After Toronto's Justin Morrow hit the crossbar, Seattle defender Roman Torres coolly hammered home the decider as the Sounders finally celebrated victory following seven seasons of near misses.

With zero shots on goal after 120 minutes it looked as if the Sounders, who have reached the playoffs in each of their eight years in the league, would come up short yet again but found the target when it mattered most.

Brad Evans, Andreas Ivanshitz, Joevin Jones and Nicolas Lodeiro also scored in the shootout for Seattle while Sounders goalkeeper capped an evening of spectacular saves by denying Morrow and Toronto captain Michael Bradley.

Frei, who spent five seasons with TFC, returned to torment his former team mates earning MLS Cup most valuable player honours after shutting out a high-powered Toronto attack that had produced 17 goals in five playoff contests.

The Seattle keeper's biggest save, however, did not come in the shootout but deep into extra time when the Swiss dove across the net at full stretch and with his left hand tipped away a looping header from Jozy Altidore.

"It looked like it was going to go in and then all of a sudden here comes this paw and he gets a hold of it," praised Sounders coach Brian Schmetzer.

"It was a tremendous save but there were a couple of other times I thought the ball might have gone in." For TFC and their fans it was a crushing result to a contest they had dominated for 120 minutes but could not breach a Seattle defence that had conceded just three goals in five playoff matches.

"They always had numbers around the goal and in the box," lamented Toronto coach Greg Vanney. "Whenever we got into those areas there were times we just couldn't get that final pass to someone who could finish.

"The few times we hit the goal Frei picks things out." It was perfect ice hockey weather at BMO Field, which in three weeks will host the NHL's Centennial Classic outdoor game, but the bone-chilling temperatures did little to cool down a fired up capacity crowd of close to 36,000.

Toronto made a lively start and enjoyed the run of play in a scrappy opening half. The Reds' best scoring chance came early when Altidore squeezed a shot from inside the area that sliced by the post and a diving Frei in the second minute.

After the break it was Sebastian Giovinco, the other half of Toronto's strike partnership, finally finding space down the left wing coming close when he ripped a shot that just missed the near post.

Toronto nearly ended the drama with an injury time winner when Bradley sent in a corner that Frei narrowly punched clear just before a diving Altidore could get his head on the ball.

But it was Frei's save on Altidore in the 108th minute that Vanney believes robbed his team of a title. "That was one of the great saves that I have seen in a big moment because that goal to me ends the game," said Vanney. "We win if we do that. He saved the game for them." — Reuters



LONDON: Chelsea's Ngolo Kante, second right, competes for the ball with West Bromwich Albion's Darren Fletcher, second left, during the English Premier League soccer match between Chelsea and West Bromwich Albion at Stamford Bridge in London, yesterday. —AP

COSTA GEM SENDS CHELSEA BACK TO THE TOP OF EPL

MERTENS HITS HAT-TRICK AS NAPOLI ROUT CAGLIARI

MILAN: Dries Mertens hit a hat-trick and Marek Hamsik and Piotr Zielinski scored one apiece as five star Napoli romped to a 5-0 win at Cagliari to close to within five points of Juventus. Champions Juventus can take their lead over Roma and AC Milan to seven points with a win in the Turin derby at Torino later. In the meantime, the Old Lady's title rivals are closing in. Both Lazio, who secured a 2-1 win at Sampdoria on Saturday, and Napoli are now five points off the pace and Roma and AC Milan will aim to reduce their four-point gaps to the champions when they play today. Fresh from securing top spot in their Champions League qualifying group and sweeping Inter Milan aside last week, Napoli made a confident start with Jose Callejon, Zielinski and then Mertens testing Marco Storari in the Cagliari net in the opening 11 minutes.

Sarri's men were about to change that in clinical fashion. Just after the half-hour Mertens turned quickly in the area to fire a pinpoint shot past Storari and into the far bottom corner. The visitors suffered a blow when Senegal defender Kalidou Koulibaly limped off injured with an apparent knee injury

But Napoli doubled their lead before the interval when Hamsik slotted home from close range after Insigne had nodded a Callejon cross on to the bar. It was the Slovak's 105th goal for Napoli and leaves him 10 short of tying Diego Maradona's club record of 115.

Storari did well to parry Callejon's firsttimer from an Insigne pass shortly after the restart but couldn't stop Zielinski's rocket from distance on 51 minutes.

Cagliari's heads dropped and a clinical Cagliari had dropped points in only two Mertens capitalised with a brace of goals in of their seven home fixtures, but Maurizio three second-half minutes.

LONDON: Diego Costa fired Chelsea back to the top of the Premier League as the Spain striker's late winner clinched a hard-fought 1-0 victory against West Bromwich Albion yesterday.

Antonio Conte's side had been knocked out of first place by Arsenal on Saturday, but they reopened a three point lead over the Gunners thanks to Costa's superb finish in the closing stages at Stamford Bridge. Costa's 12th league goal in his last 15 appearances gave Chelsea a ninth successive league win for the first time since 2007.

The west Londoners have scored 23 goals and conceded just two in that blistering streak, raising hopes of a Premier League title in Conte's first season in charge.

While this was far from Chelsea's best effort under the Italian, their refusal to be denied by a stubborn opponent suggests they have the required character and class to last the pace in the title race.

Conte made one change from last weekend's impressive win against title rivals Manchester City as Serbia midfielder Nemanja Matic replaced Cesc Fabregas despite the Spaniard's

influential performance at Eastlands. It was 38 years since Albion had Bridge with three points, but Tony Pulis's side arrived in confident mood after winning three of their last four matches. While Chelsea monopolised possession in the early stages, they couldn't break down Albion's well-drilled rearguard and it was the visitors who threatened first when Chris Brunt won a tackle with Marcos Alonso before drilling a powerful strike wide.

Despite his reputation for costly errors, David Luiz has been the model of consistency since returning to Chelsea this season, but the Brazil defender reverted to his old bad habits when he allowed Salomon Rondon to brush him off the ball, presenting the burly Albion striker with a clear path into the penalty area.

REAL WARRIOR

Fortunately for Luiz, Rondon was unable to hit the target and the centre-back was quick to hold up his hand in contrition.

Caught in Albion's defensive web, it was almost half an hour before Chelsea untangled themselves long enough to manage their first shot when N'Golo Kante's scuffed effort deflected off team-mate Pedro before drifting just wide. It didn't help Chelsea's cause that Eden Hazard took a bruising challenge from Gareth McAuley that left the Belgium midfielder nursing his wound before gingerly returning to fray.

Albion goalkeeper Ben Foster was finally called into action in the 41st minute when he plunged to his right to keep out Luiz's free-kick. With Chelsea still labouring to make the

breakthrough after half-time, Luiz's free-kicks were the only source of menace for Foster, who saved another of the Brazilian's efforts after it deflected off Hazard. Whether he was affected by the injury or not, Hazard was well below his best, leaving Chelsea short of invention in the final third and hindered by their insistence on playing sideways rather than penetrating behind the Albion defence.

dends in the 76th minute, with a helping hand from Albion defender McAuley.

When Fabregas played a hopeful ball down the right flank, McAuley was in position to snuff out any danger, but he was too casual and Costa showed why Conte dubbed him a "real warrior" this week as he took full advantage.

Muscling McAuley off the ball, Costa was suddenly clean through but there was still work to be down and the Spaniard was up to the task as he curled a fine finish into the far corner to send Chelsea back to the top. — AFP



Spanish League Primera Div

Villarreal v Madrid	22:45
beIN SPORTS 3 HD	

ITALIAN CALCIO LEAGUE SERIE A



CAGLIARI: Napoli's Croatian defender Ivan Strinic (R) fights for the ball with Cagliari's Italian midfielder Daniele Dessena during the Italian Serie A football match Cagliari Calcio vs SSC Napoli at the Sant'Elia Stadium in Cagliari yesterday. - AFP

FALCAO SCORES HAT-TRICK FOR RAMPANT MONACO

PARIS: Radamel Falcao netted a hat-trick as Monaco crushed 10-man Bordeaux 4-0 to go provisionally top of the Ligue 1 table on Saturday. Djibril Sidibe got the opener and Falcao found the net in fortunate fashion to double the principality club's lead inside five minutes at the Matmut Atlantique.

Falcao added two more goals in the second half, including one from the penalty spot, while Bordeaux ended a wretched evening a man down after the sending-off of Adam Ounas. Europe's top scorers, Monaco have now scored 53 goals in just 17 league games, only four fewer than they managed in the whole of last season.

As a result they are now top of the table, above Cote d'Azur rivals Nice on goal difference, with defending champions Paris Saint-Germain four points back in third position. PSG, who have run away with the title in recent seasons, are at home to Nice in a huge game later at the Parc des Princes. "It was a great evening," said Monaco coach Leonardo Jardim.

"This year I think the league is more evenly balanced. Monaco are better, Nice too and I think Lyon are also going to come back. It's much more competitive and that is good for France.

"Our attackers have more quality and are making the difference. Our aim is just to keep progressing, that is the mentality." Monaco have often struggled in Bordeaux down the years but they stunned their hosts by opening the scoring inside 80 seconds as Bernardo Silva set up France fullback Sidibe to find the net with a low finish across goalkeeper Jerome Prior.

It was 2-0 soon after when Prior tried to palm out a low cross from Valere Germain but the ball ricocheted off Falcao and into the net. Any hopes Bordeaux harboured of a comeback in the second half were nipped in the bud as Monaco made it 3-0 on the breakaway in the 50th minute.

Thomas Lemar's long ball found Germain and he squared for Falcao, who took a touch before stabbing home.

The Colombian was handed the chance to complete his hat-trick from the penalty spot just after the hour mark when Nicolas Pallois petulantly threw Silva to the ground inside the box.— AFP

Conte sent on Willian and Fabregas in a bid to spark Chelsea into life and the changes paid divi-

Fiorentina v Sassuolo	21:00
beIN SPORTS 4 HD	
Roma v Milan	23:00

beIN SPORTS 4 HD

REAL DEAL AS MEXICANS SET DATE WITH MADRID

OSAKA: Silvio Romero struck twice as Mexican side Club America beat Asian champions Jeonbuk Motors 2-1 yesterday to set up a dream Club World Cup semi-final with Real Madrid.

Local favourites Kashima Antlers salvaged some pride for Asia, however, when the Japanese title holders toppled South Africa's Mamelodi Sundowns 2-0 in the day's second quarter-final in Osaka.

In the early kickoff, Kim Bo-kyung swept Korean powerhouse Jeonbuk in front after 23 minutes before Romero pounced twice to send the CONCACAF representatives through to the last four. "The players showed character, attitude and heart," America coach Ricardo la Volpe told reporters. "We made some changes and tweaked the system a bit in the second half and got the goals. "We passed a test today and we will play Real Madrid with no fear," he added. "We will have to work twice as hard but everyone expects us to lose so there will be no pressure on us."

Romero equalised with a clinical header just before the hour mark and the Argentine striker volleyed home the winner via a slight deflection off Jeonbuk forward Kim Shin-Wook after 74 minutes as the K-League side wilted under the mounting pressure. Club America, who also beat Jeonbuk in the quarter-finals of the FIFA tournament 10 years ago, will face European champions Real Madrid, led by talisman Cristiano Ronaldo, in Yokohama on Thursday. The hulking Kim Shin-Wook, instantly recognisable with his peppermint green mohican, was a constant menace but well shackled by markers in a tense finish as the Mexicans clung on for the win.

Kashima, who came from behind to beat part-timers Auckland City 2-1 in the tournament's curtain raiser on Thursday, were gifted their opening goal by Sundowns goalkeeper Denis Onyango in the 63rd minute.

Latching on to a knock-down from Shoma Doi, Yasushi Endo scuffed his left-foot shot which somehow squeezed under Onyango, bobbling out of his despairing grasp and over the line almost in slow motion. Substitute Mu Kanazaki killed the game off by smashing home from close range with two minutes left after more sloppy defending from the Africans.

Kashima, fresh from clinching their eighth J-League crown last weekend, will face South American Libertadores Cup holders Atletico Nacional of Colombia in the competition's first semi-final on Wednesday.

"We struggled at the start to deal with their

spirit," said Kashima coach Masatada Ishii. "But we settled down in the second half, found a nice balance and scored two good goals. It was important to stay calm and we will have to be just as patient against Nacional."

Spanish giants Real are scheduled to arrive in Japan early today morning local time. — AFP



OSAKA: Club America forward Silvio Romero (2nd L) reacts after scoring a goal during the Club World Cup football match between Jeonbuk Hyundai and Club America in Osaka yesterday. — AFP



MANCHESTER: Manchester United's Swedish striker Zlatan Ibrahimovic vies with Tottenham Hotspur's Belgian defender Jan Vertonghen (right) during the English Premier League football match between Manchester United and Tottenham Hotspur at Old Trafford yesterday. — AFP

MKHITARYAN TAMES SPURS TO STOP ROT



MANCHESTER: Henrikh Mkhitaryan scored his first Premier League goal for Manchester United and was later stretchered off as Jose Mourinho's side claimed a timely 1-0 victory over Tottenham Hotspur yesterday. Mkhitaryan converted Ander Herrera's through ball just before the half hour to end a frustrating run of four successive home draws and give United just a second win in nine league matches. It was the Armenian playmaker's second goal in two games, after he opened his account for the club against Zorya Luhansk on Thursday.

He exited on a stretcher after turning his ankle in a late challenge by Danny Rose, but Mourinho said: "We don't think it's a serious injury. Maximum a couple of weeks." Mourinho's team remain 13 points below leaders Chelsea, but closed to within three points of fifthplace Spurs and six of Manchester City, who occupy the fourth and final Champions League berth. United once again failed to convert their dominance into goals, but unlike in their recent 1-1 draws against Arsenal, West Ham United and Everton, they were not made to pay.

"After so many matches playing well but not winning, we needed more the points than the performance," Mourinho said. "But I knew against Tottenham it's difficult to get a result without playing well. But we played very well." Initially kept on the sidelines by Mourinho following his arrival from Borussia Dortmund, Mkhitaryan has become something of a lucky charm for the Portuguese, who will be relieved the injury is not grave.

Defeat curbed Spurs' recent revival, which had seen them beat Swansea City 5-0 and secure a Europa League place with a 3-1 win over CSKA Moscow. Mauricio Pochettino's side remain without an away league win since Sept 24. "It was a disappointing result, but if we analyse the game I think it was a very competitive game and we need to take positive things from that," Pochettino said.

Pogba smacks bar

Tottenham centre-back Toby Alderweireld made his first start in eight weeks after a knee injury and he and his defensive colleagues quickly found themselves under examination. It took United less than two minutes to carve Spurs open, Zlatan Ibrahimovic teeing up Paul Pogba for a left-foot shot that was parried by his France team-mate Hugo Lloris. Mkhitaryan saw an effort blocked by Jan Vertonghen, Herrera gave Lloris some catching practice with a dipping volley and Michael Carrick whistled a shot over from range.

United goalkeeper David de Gea had to deal with a zippy free-kick from Christian Eriksen, but the hosts looked the more likely scorers and duly went ahead in the 29th minute. Harry Kane played the ball straight to Herrera, whose inviting pass between the Spurs centrebacks freed Mkhitaryan to run through and smash a rising shot past Lloris. The Spurs goalkeeper was called

into action again shortly after, dropping to his right and saving from Ibrahimovic.

At the other end, Son Heung-Min cut in from the right and let fly with a left-foot effort that de Gea had to tip over, but the spring was in United's step as the teams went off at half-time. Their failure to take their chances left them vulnerable to the threat of a counterpunch, however, and there were nervous moments early in the second half as Tottenham went on the attack. De Gea boxed away a shot from Eriksen before Victor Wanyama gave the hosts a big let-off, completely miscuing his header after Eriksen's free-kick found him unmarked six yards from goal.

Seeking to soothe the home fans' frayed nerves, Pogba took it upon himself to try to extend United's lead. The France midfielder left the Spurs crossbar shuddering with an arcing 25-yard free-kick and then stung Lloris's palms with a crisp shot following a one-two with Herrera. De Gea had to claw away another Eriksen freekick, but despite Mkhitaryan's premature 84th-minute exit, United saw the game out. — AFP

WEST HAM GOALKEEPER GIFTS LIVERPOOL POINT



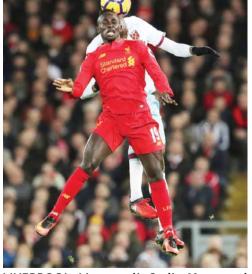
LIVERPOOL: Divock Origi scored for the fourth consecutive match to save a point for frail Liverpool as they were frustrated in their attempts to stay in touch with Premier League leaders Chelsea yesterday. Jurgen Klopp's side took an early lead through Adam Lallana's stylish finish, but weaknesses at the back allowed Dimitri Payet's free-kick and a neat finish by Michail Antonio to give West Ham a surprise half-time lead at Anfield. Loris Karius, the Liverpool goalkeeper, was arguably at fault for Payet's goal, but then saw Hammers counterpart Darren Randolph make a mistake for Origi's equalizer by failing to hold Sadio Mane's cross.

The 2-2 draw did at least lift West Ham out of the relegation zone, although it extended their run without a Premier League victory to six matches. It looked like being a gloomy day for Slaven Bilic's side when they conceded a wellworked goal in the first five minutes, as Mane crossed from the left and Lallana took a touch to control before steering a shot past Randolph. Yet even in the early stages Liverpool's defensive frailties that marked last weekend's 4-3 defeat at Bournemouth were apparent once again.

Antonio found space too easily as he sprinted between center-backs Dejan Lovren and Joel Matip to collect Winston Reid's long ball over the top, but Karius turned aside the shot at his near post. Karius was then caught out as West Ham drew level in the 27th minute, getting a hand to Payet's free-kick as it was floated over the wall, but failing to stop it. That equalizer affected Liverpool's rhythm, despite half-chances for Jordan Henderson and Roberto Firmino soon afterwards, and they went behind six minutes before half time to another soft goal.

This time Havard Nordtveit's long diagonal pass out of defense flicked off Henderson to wrong-foot Matip, who was caught on his heels as Antonio ran into the space behind him to flick the ball beyond Karius - who was caught in noman's land - and in. Liverpool could have been level by the interval but Firmino glanced wide from Georginio Wijnaldum's cross and then Lallana had a penalty appeal rejected after tumbling with Payet's arm across his chest.

Referee Mark Clattenburg gave only a corner and from it Matip nodded Henderson's delivery on to the face of the crossbar. Klopp's team were though level within three minutes of the restart. Mane spun to cross from the left, Randolph lost his balance and the ball as he stretched to try to gather, and Origi turned it in via the post. Spirits restored, Liverpool almost regained the lead within moments, as Wijnaldum steered a shot just wide on the turn from the edge of the



LIVERPOOL: Liverpool's Sadio Mane and West Ham United's Angelo Ogbonna (back) jump for a high ball during their English Premier League football match at Anfield yesterday. — AP

penalty area.

Wijnaldum had another good chance just after the hour mark after being played into space down the left, but placed his effort beyond the far post. Henderson then bent a fine 25-yard shot towards the top corner midway through the second half, only for Randolph to deny him with magnificent flying save. Bilic brought on former Liverpool striker Andy Carroll with just under half-an-hour to play. The home side finished the stronger, though, with full-back Nathaniel Clyne blazing over after Lallana's clever back-heeled flick from Mane's low cross. — AFP

BOUFAL BRINGS RELIEF TO SAINTS



SOUTHAMPTON: A superb goal by record signing Sofiane Boufal secured Southampton a much-needed 1-0 win over Middlesbrough in their Premier League match yesterday. Moroccan international Boufal - bought from French Ligue 1 side Lille in August for a reported £16 million (\$20 million) - struck early in the second-half to give Saints just their second win in seven matches and provide some succor for exiting the Europa League last Thursday.

They move on to 20 points, eight clear of the relegation zone whilst Middlesbrough remain very much mired in a battle for survival as they are just three points clear of the bottom three. Boufal's goal made up for the absence of Charlie Austin, who has accounted for nearly half their goals this season but was ruled out with a shoulder injury. Certainly spectators would not have been expecting a goal feast in the two sides' first Premier League meeting since 2005 as they had each found the net only 13 times apiece before Sunday's match.

Boro were also missing two of their most impressive performers from last Monday's 1-0 win over fellow strugglers Hull, Gaston Ramirez and Alvaro Negredo, both of whom are injured. Jordan Rhodes almost made light of their absence immediately ghosting in with not a Saints defender in sight and firing a shot on target only for Fraser Forster to save. The hosts worked their way into the game after early Boro dominance and Jay Rodriguez forced Victor Valdes into a smart save just after the quarter of an hour mark.

Middlesbrough were denied by some stoical Southampton defending 10 minutes before the break as Viktor Fischer rounded Forster but his shot was blocked on the line and the follow up by Uruguayan Christhian Stuani was also stopped on the goal-line. Saints took advantage by taking the lead early in the second-half. Boufal, who was an injury doubt prior to the game, scoring with a superb left-footed effort from the edge of the area rounding off a move involving five players.

Middlesbrough were lacking in invention and ideas and it was the hosts who came closest to scoring again, veteran Northern Ireland midfielder Steven Davis being picked out by Cuco Martina, but his header went over the bar. Rodriguez went even closer with another header but Adam Clayton reacted brilliantly to clear it off the line. Rodriguez may have been unlucky there but he was guilty of a complete howler in time added on as Nathan Redmond did brilliantly to square the ball across the goal line but Rodriguez managed to somehow spoon it over from a yard out. — AFP



Saudi, Qatar stocks gain after oil deal

Markets await Fed's interest rate decision

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ندهة ينك الخليج

RSM INTERNATIONAL HOLDS 'ECONOMY WATCH FORUM'

Gulf Bank holds session on UK property investment trends Page 23



TEHRAN: Farhad Parvaresh (left), Chairman and Managing Director of Iran Air, and Fletcher Barkdull, Boeing regional director, sign an agreement in the presence of Abbas Ahmad Akhoundi (center), Minister of Roads and Urban Development, in the capital Tehran yesterday. —AFP

IRAN INKS DEAL TO BUY 80 BOEING PLANES Tehran seeks to revamp ageing fleet

TEHRAN: Iran Air finalized a contract to buy 80 planes from Boeing, the US aerospace firm confirmed yesterday, as it seeks to renew its ageing fleet despite sanctions.

Boeing said the contract-Iran's first deal with a US aviation firm since the 1979 Islamic revolution-was worth \$16.6 billion (15.7 billion euros). "Fifty of the planes are 737 and the other 30 are the long haul 777 that will be delivered to Iran Air in a period of 10 years," said Farhad Parvaresh, chief executive of the national carrier, who signed the contract with Boeing officials in Tehran. With the incoming administration of US president-elect Donald Trump expected to take a tough line on Iran and American lawmakers recently voting for

renewed sanctions, Boeing emphasized the employment opportunities of the deal.

"Today's agreement will support tens of thousands of US jobs directly associated with production and delivery of the 777-300ERs and nearly 100,000 US jobs in the US aerospace value stream for the full course of deliveries," the company said in a statement. Many US lawmakers have opposed the deal, accusing Iran Air of helping to transport troops and weapons to conflict zones around the region.

The lack of new planes and parts has taken a severe toll on Iran's carriers over the years, earning it one of the worst safety records in the world with close to 1,700 people dying in a string of civilian and military air disasters since 1979, according to the Flight Safety Foundation.

"With the signing of this contract, the first important step has been taken for the modernization of the country's aviation fleet," Transport Minister Abbas Akhoundi was quoted as saying. The first Boeings are due to arrive in 2018 and Iran Air is also due to finalize the purchase of 100 planes from European firm Airbus.

"Our goal is to increase our ability to compete in the aviation industry to be able to get back our share in the transport industry in the region and the world," said Akhoundi, referring to the fact that Iran was a regional hub for air transport before the revolution.

Sanctions pressure

Following initial agreements earlier in the year, the Boeing and Airbus deals were given final approval by the US government in September. Washington lifted some of its sanctions on Iran under a nuclear deal that came into force in January, but many restrictions have remained in place that mean companies trading with Tehran must receive explicit approval from the US Treasury.

That includes European firms like Airbus who manufacture some of their parts in the United States.

Pressure has been mounting on those in Iran and the United States who want to see increased trade between the two countries in order to cement the nuclear deal. Iranian leaders have reacted angrily to news that Washington will renew its existing sanctions in the coming days, saying it is a breach of the deal, while Trump has vowed to rip up the accord entirely. Iran's President Hassan Rouhani has faced a barrage of criticism at home after the deal failed to attract the level of foreign investment he promised-mostly because global banks remain wary of doing business with the country. The supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, has questioned the focus on purchasing billion-dollar fleets of aircraft.

"Suppose we modernize our air fleet. Okay, it's a very important and necessary move. But is it the priority?" Khamenei said in June. — AFP

QATAR TO MERGE QATARGAS, RASGAS

DOHA: Qatar will merge stateowned liquefied natural gas producers Qatargas and RasGas Co Ltd, the chief executive of Qatar Petroleum (QP) said yesterday, in the Gulf state's latest reaction to lower energy prices. The morethan-two-year slump in oil prices has forced Gulf countries to reduce state spending and consider consolidations as a way to cut costs: among the biggest being Abu Dhabi's merging of Mubadala and International Petroleum Development Co.

While Qatar is more focused on gas than oil, it too has been forced into reorganisations, with QP already going through a process that reduced staffing and earmarked a number of assets for divestment. The tie-up of Qatargas and RasGas, Qatar's number one and two LNG producers respectively, has been talked about for a number of years stretching back before the oil price reduction. At a news conference, QP CEO Saad Al-Kaabi said that behind the announcement was an element of wanting to cut costs.

"Of course as an outcome of this cost reduction will be realized, it will make us more competitive in the market," he said, adding that the move would save "hundreds of millions of dollars". without giving a timeframe for

the savings. "It's one business that will do the same thing. Putting it all (in) one place gives you a much bigger advantage in marketing.

The transition, which will result in a single company called



DOHA: In this Saturday, April 4, 2009 file photo a gas production facility is seen in at Ras Laffan, Qatar. Qatar is merging its two government-backed liquefied natural gas companies, streamlining distribution of the fuel as the OPEC nation weathers a slump in energy prices. —AP

Qatargas, will take around 12 months to complete and will begin before the end of this year.

Once the new structure is in place, some areas of the business could see job cuts, although the operational side of the plants will not be affected, Kaabi said.

A Doha-based energy analyst said the move was in line with QP's recent cost cutting but also had other benefits. "Arguably the reasons for having two firms - to deal with western and eastern markets and also to encourage some competition during the rollout phase of LNG facilities - are no longer relevant," he said.

Qatargas is the largest LNGproducing company in the world, with an annual output capacity of 42 million tons a year, according to its website. While QP owns a majority stake, global energy firms including Total, Mitsui & Co and ConocoPhillips also possess small stakeholdings. RasGas has a production capacity of about 37 million tons a year, according to its website. It is a 70/30 percent joint venture between QP and Exxon Mobil. —Reuters

NON-OPEC OIL STATES AGREE TO CUTS IN 'HISTORIC' DEAL

Saturday to cut their oil output, teaming up with the OPEC cartel in an exceptional bid to end the world's glut of crude and reverse a dramatic fall in income

Russia and 10 other non-OPEC states will reduce their production by more than half a million barrels per day (bpd), OPEC announced. The deal will take effect from the start of 2017 and last for six months, though it may be extended depending on market conditions.

"I am happy to announce that a historic agreement has been reached," said Qatar's Energy Minister Mohammed Bin Saleh Al-Sada, whose country holds the OPEC rotating presidency of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC). The cut will contribute to OPEC's own initiative to ease a saturated market and end a price slump that has brutally affected the economies of many oil producers. On November 30 its members announced a slash in output by 1.2 million barrels per day (bpd) beginning in January, to 32.5 million bpd.

Under that deal, OPEC sought for

VIENNA: Eleven countries agreed on non-member producer states to lower their output by 600,000 bpd. Saturday's deal approves cuts totalling 558,000 bpd. Russia had already signalled it would provide half of that production cut in the first half of 2017. The other countries which will contribute cuts are Mexico, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Oman, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Equatorial Guinea, Sudan, South Sudan and Brunei.

> "This is a truly historic event, the first time that so many oil-producing countries are meeting in one room, to accomplish what we've done," Russian Energy Minister Alexander Novak told a press conference. "In the room we had more than half of the global oil" production, he enthused.

> In a statement following the meeting OPEC said the other oil giants were working "to achieve oil market stability in the interest of all oil producers and consumers."

A monitoring committee, comprising three OPEC and two non-OPEC members, will now be set up. Sada said OPEC would continue its efforts to persuade non-OPEC producers to join the reduction effort. —AFP

BUSINESS



ATHENS: Greece's Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras addresses lawmakers during a parliamentary session in Athens on Saturday. —AP

GREEK PM EYES RECOVERY AS LAWMAKERS APPROVE BUDGET

2017 a milestone year in taking country out of crisis: PM

ATHENS: Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras yesterday said the country was on the verge of economic recovery as lawmakers approved a new round of pay cuts and tax hikes for 2017. "(Next year) will be a milestone in taking the country out of crisis, and this is the first budget of optimism, growth and recovery," Tsipras told parliament.

The PM said he was confident that a crucial EU-IMF reforms audit could conclude despite certain "absurd" demands. Tsipras predicted an agreement if all sides show political goodwill, and a return to debt markets early next year, but he refused to adopt labour market reforms "contrary to the European model". In the ongoing talks, the country's international creditors-fellow EU states and the International Monetary Fund-have controversially called for legislation to make crippling strikes less likely while also making layoffs easy.

The new budget approved by 152 out of the 298 lawmakers present levies around one billion euros (\$1.07 billion) in extra taxes on cars, fixed telephone service, pay television, fuel, tobacco, coffee, beer and other items. Public spending on salaries and pensions will also be cut by 5.7 billion euros next year.

Tsipras needs to stay on good terms with EU-IMF creditors to conclude the reforms audit early next year. Greece hopes that a deal will finally persuade the European Central Bank (ECB) to include Greek sovereign debt in its asset purchase program, known as quantitative easing, or QE.

Without access to QE, the country will not be able to make a planned return to debt markets by early 2018, according to the Greek finance ministry.

'Living nightmare'

The conservative New Democracy party, which has a double-digit lead in the polls, says Tsipras-who won two elections in 2015 on a promise to combat austerity-was in reality opposed to reforms. "You're the living nightmare of productive Greeks... the only thing you know is to levy taxes," said New Democracy leader Kyriakos Mitsotakis. "This budget is proof you have no plan to take the country out of the crisis," he said, claiming that the leftist-led government had a track record of "torpedoing" privatization projects and scaring away investors. "The sooner you leave, the better for the country," said Mitsotakis.

But Tsipras insisted he was not going anywhere. "We have a four-year mandate that we will see through... to the final day," the 42-year-old PM said. Last week, eurozone lenders approved short-term relief measures to help Greece manage repayment on its huge public debt, which will reach 315 billion euros this year, according to the latest EU data.

run a primary surplus, after debt servicing, of 3.5 percent of gross domestic product (GDP), beyond 2018. Athens has flatly refused to consider further austerity measures beyond 2018.

Surprise move

Finance Minister Euclid Tsakalotos on Saturday said Greece counter-proposed a primary surplus of 2.5 percent, and a further 1.0 percent in tax breaks for small and medium businesses. Tsakalotos on Saturday also praised Eurogroup chief Jeroen Dijsselbloem, a frequent critic of the Tsipras administration, as a man of principle.

"He may be harsh some times, but he keeps his word," the minister told financial newspaper Agora. Tsipras on Thursday made a surprise move, announcing a one-off payout to 1.6 million low-tier pensioners, and a sales tax break for islands sheltering thousands of migrants. The European Commission said it was "not made aware of all the details of the announcement before they were made" and would need to study the 617-million-euro package "before commenting any further or acting further".

Tsipras' critics at home immediately denounced it as an electoral ploy, but the government insisted this was not

SAUDI, QATAR GAIN AFTER DEAL WITH NON-OPEC OIL PRODUCERS

MIDEAST STOCK MARKETS

DUBAI: Stock markets in Saudi Arabia and Qatar posted broad-based gains yesterday after OPEC and non-OPEC oil producers a day earlier reached their first deal since 2001 to curtail oil output jointly in a drive to prop up prices. It is not clear whether oil prices can rise much further in response to the deal, and many fund managers think Saudi petrochemical shares are to a large extent now fairly valued after their rebound in the past six weeks.

Nevertheless, the oil producers' deal supported fresh buying of stocks and the main Saudi index added 1.1 percent to 7,198 points, its highest close this year, in heavy trade.

The Saudi petrochemical index surged 2.4 percent as higher oil prices could boost profit margins. Saudi International Petrochemical Co (Sipchem) gained 4.0 percent after saying an affiliate had signed a contract with South Korea's eTEC E&C for work costing 542.6 million riyals (\$144.6 million) to raise the efficiency of operations at its methanol plant in Jubail.

Construction firm Khodari jumped by its 10 percent daily limit in very heavy trade to 12.95 riyals, nearing major technical resistance on its May peak of 13.10 riyals.

The stock has been buoyed in recent days by signs that the government is making long-delayed payments on its debts to the construction sector, which could help Khodari directly and also indirectly by improving liquidity in the economy and helping some stalled projects go ahead. Higher oil prices may make it easier for the government to find money for those payments.

Some insurance sector stocks favoured by local retail speculators also surged, with Wafa Insurance up 6.4 percent. In Qatar, the index added 1.3 percent at 10,188 points, climbing above technical resistance on the 200day average for the first time since early November, although trading volume was modest. Mesaieed Petrochemical gained 3.7 percent and oil drilling rig provider Gulf International Services surged 2.5 percent, while Qatar Commercial Bank jumped 4.1 percent. Bourses in the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Egypt were shut to mark the birthday of Prophet Mohammed (PBUH).

SAUDI ARABIA

* The index rose 1.1 percent to 7,198 points.

QATAR

* The index added 1.3 percent to 10,188 points.

KUWAIT

* The index rose 0.4 percent to 5,612 points.

OMAN

* The index gained 0.5 percent to 5,696 points. —Reuters

DEWA GETS FINANCE FOR \$3.4BN COAL POWER PLANT

DUBAI: Dubai Electricity and Water Authority has closed the financing package that will back the construction of a 2,400 megawatt coal-fired power plant in the emirate, according to a statement from one of the developers yesterday.

The Hassyan plant will be developed through a joint venture, with the Dubai utility firm holding a 51 percent stake and the rest split between China's Harbin Electric and Saudi Arabia's ACWA Power. The financing package is divided between a senior secured loan and secured mezzanine financing, ACWA said. It did not specify exactly how much of the project's \$3.4 billion cost would be covered by the package but previously, officials had indicated around 80 percent would be provided by commercial bank loans.

In mezzanine finance, holders are only able to claim against the company if it defaults, once creditors with senior debt have been repaid. The cash is being provided by lenders including Industrial and Commercial Bank of China, Bank of China, First Gulf Bank and Standard Chartered, ACWA added.

The coal plant is part of the emirate's strategy to broaden its energy sources: by 2030, it is targeting around 7 percent of its electricity production from coal, as well as 25 percent from solar, 7 percent from nuclear power and 61 percent from gas.

Phase one of the coal plant is to be operational in March 2020, with all four 600 MW stages that make up the scheme to be completed by March 2023, according to ACWA's statement. —Reuters

SADARA TO SUPPLY FEEDSTOCK to Saudi Rufayah Chemicals

KHOBAR: Sadara Chemical, a \$20 billion petrochemical joint venture between national oil giant Saudi Aramco and Dow Chemical, has signed a 20-year agreement with Saudi Rufayah Chemicals Co (RCC), Sadara said yesterday. Under the deal, RCC, a Saudi downstream firm

diversified products near its petrochemical facilities. Aramco is building its Rabigh PlusTech Park at PetroRabigh, a joint venture with Japan's Sumitomo Chemical on the Red Sea coast.

supply agreement in a statement. Gulf Cooperation Council, which can The complex, due to be on stream in December 2020 and developed by RCC, is expected to have a total investment of about \$500 million. RCC plans to produce 12 downstream products with production capacity exceeding 350,000 tons per

year of products including hydrocarbon resin, isoprene, pure DCPD, aromatic solvents, premium wash oils and other products. Sadara said in August it started its facility on the Gulf coast of Saudi Arabia, the first Sadara did not give a value for the mixed-feed cracker in the six-nation

But Germany, facing public bailout fatigue and federal elections next year, has led a hardline stance among eurozone lenders to force Greece to adopt austerity reforms well beyond the end of its present bailout in 2018. Hardline EU states also want Greece to

the case. "Europe owes a debt to (these islanders), the Greek state owes them its support," Tsipras said in his announcement, with officials noting that the money would come out of 1.0 billion euros of tax surplus raised in 2016. —AFP

will use the aromatics concentrate (Pygas) and Pyoil supplied by Sadara for its new chemical complex planned for the PlasChem Park in Jubail.

Saudi Arabia is trying to develop its downstream industry to produce process both ethane and naphtha.

The Sadara complex, comprising 26 integrated facilities, is the largest petrochemical facility to be built in a single phase. All facilities are scheduled to be commissioned by the end of 2017. —Reuters

OMAN TO CUT OIL BY 45,000 BPD AFTER NON-OPEC MEETING

MUSCAT: Omani Minister of Oil and Gas Dr Mohammed bin Hamad Al-Rumhy said yesterday that his country will cut oil output by 45,000 barrels per day following the decision by the non-OPEC countries to cut their oil output by 558,000. "Oman supports such agreement and is ready to commit to previous announced quota by about 3-4 percent to the total of oil production.

The decision, to take effect on January 1 for a renewable six-month period, will ensure fair prices for both producers and consumers. Among the non-OPEC participants at the meeting were 12 oil exporting countries Azerbaijan, Oman, Mexico, Sudan, South Sudan, Bahrain, Malaysia, Equatorial Guinea, Bolivia, Kazakhstan and Russia.

The parties to the negotiations also agreed to form a special group to monitor the observance of the agreement both by the OPEC and non-OPEC countries. The group would consist of three OPEC members and two non-OPEC countries. Russian Energy Minister Aleksandr Novak said at the press conference Yesterday. —KUNA

SPAIN PLANS \$528M IN ENVIRONMENTAL TAXES

MADRID: Spain wants to raise 500 million euros (\$528 million) from new environmental taxes as part of a package of fiscal measures to meet the European Union's budget deficit goals. The new environmental taxes are part of the revised budgetary plan Spain has submitted to the European Commission. The plan says the new taxes will target a reduction in greenhouse gases.

Spain's plan also includes previously announced tax hikes on tobacco, alcoholic beverages and a new tax on soft drinks that together it says will raise

another 350 million euros (\$369 million). The plan also includes measures to crack down on tax fraud, streamline government administrations and eliminate some tax breaks for businesses. Spain says its revised budgetary plan should generate 7.5 billion euros (\$7.9 billion) as tries to reduce its deficit from an expected 4.6 percent of GDP this year to an EU-agreed 3.1 percent in 2017 to avoid sanctions.

Even with the increased revenue, Spain says to meet Brussels' target it is also counting on continued "strong eco-

nomic growth." Spain's deficit soared to 11.2 percent in 2009 during its economic crisis. Its economy, which grew 3.3 percent through the first three quarters of 2016, is now one of the fastest growing in the 28-nation European Union. Spain's tourism sector was especially strong this year, after deadly attacks in Turkey and elsewhere.

The budget will have to pass a vote in the Spanish parliament, where Spain's conservative government, headed by Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy, rules in a minority. — AP

EXCHANGE RATES

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BUSINESS

MONDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2016



KUWAIT: Delegates attend the priority banking event.

POSITIVE OUTLOOK FOR US IN 2017

By Haider Tawfik

t seems that November 2016, was a turning point for the US, politically and economically. The financial market liked the result of the US election even though

they were nervous before the election. At present, the outlook for the US 🏼 🛍 economy appears much brighter than a few months ago. This is in absolute and relevant to some other Western and emerging economies.

Thanks to the change in the US administration led by the newly-elected

president. The whole developments were very surprise to most of us and very few of us predicted the election outcome and the reaction of the financial markets. Could this be the start of the reversal of low interest rates, end of Quantitative Easing, low inflation, low bond yields etc. The early signs are telling us that the new normal that started back in 2008 ha some to an end. This could only happen if politicians deliver what they promised.

The strong rally in global stocks and, dollar and the big rise in yields on government bonds, show that investors have accepted the likelihood of higher growth and higher inflation in the coming months. However, this may not apply to other economies. As the risk of high inflation and weak currency could threaten Eurozone and emerging economies. At present US economy is growing moderately with no risk of inflation. Investors have already decided

that their money is on the US economy. Frustrated people in the western world had enough of slow economic growth and high unemployment and have taken their anger out on the politi-

cians. This has happened in Canada, UK, the Eurozone now in the US. The global market urgently needs new pro economic growth policies and practical measures. Donald Trump has promised his voters that he will do exactly what the economy urgently needs. Clever politicians have

been reacting to people's demands for economic

growth and employment, and they are responding by saying that they are listening and they will deliver people's demands. Investors and the financial market have already shifted gear and they will not reverse as they will allow the politicians, time and space to carry out on what they have promised. The big move in stocks, the dollar bond yields and inflation outlook is not easy to reverse as billions of dollars have already shifted into new investment strategies. The message that was sent to US politicians back in November are likely to be repeated elsewhere around the world.

The rest of the world should benefit from Donald Trump's presidency and particularly the emerging markets. That is because he is more focused on economic growth in the US. A doubling of US economic growth should benefit the rest of the world tremendously. — @rasameel



KUWAIT: Meshari Shehab, Assistant General Manager Priority Banking during the presentation.

GULF BANK HOLDS SESSION ON UK PROPERTY INVESTMENT TRENDS

Seminar in partnership with Blueprint Holding Co, Knight Frank

KUWAIT: Gulf Bank held an exclusive session on the British property investment trends and tax regulations for 2017 for its "Priority Banking" clients, in collaboration Blue Print and with Knight Frank LLP, one of the leading residential and commercial property consultancy based in London. The event took place on 6 November 2016 at Sheraton Hotel, Kuwait.

Gulf Bank Assistant General Manager -Priority Banking Meshari Shehab, and Gulf Bank Assistant General Manager - Investment, Consumer Banking, Tarek Al-Saleh welcomed the attendees. They emphasized that through such private knowledge-oriented events that Gulf Bank strives to create beneficial platforms for its customers, through which it can update them on International economic and investment topics, and support them in making better informed decisions, thus, enhancing their overall business status.

Engineer Meshaal Al-Melhem, CEO of Blue Print, confirmed that the session comes within the framework of the start of cooperation with Gulf Bank to provide the bank's clients unique about taxation regulations and procedures integral consulting services across fields of international experience. The cooperation includes organizing lectures and informative seminars specializing in the British real estate market, accompanied by consultations related to legal or tax affairs, management of real estate investment, management of property including buying, selling, leasing, and an array of other services offered by the company in collaboration with Knight Frank.

During the session, Knight Frank's professional team of experts presented Gulf Bank's priority customers with an insightful overview of the Global property market. The main segment of the seminar was focused on the UK property market, how it has performed post Brexit, what measurements the UK government undertook to overcome the economic slowdown, and how the market is expected to perform in the next coming years.

Gulf Bank's Priority Banking clients got the opportunity to discuss and have an overview applied in UK, as well as the Comprehensive Real Estate Services Knight Frank offer in UK and other European Cities, through their local representative in Kuwait Blue Print Holding Company. The event provided an unparalleled platform to learn about the potential investment opportunities in the UK, and beyond.

With Gulf Bank Priority Banking, customers enjoy a personalized and preferential treatment coupled with a suite of Banking and investment products and services designed to meet their financial goals.

A dedicated Relationship Manager is assigned to manage customers banking requirements in the comfort of dedicated private floors. In addition, they will receive a branded ATM card that recognizes their status across Gulf Bank Network, premium credit cards with exclusive privileges, discounted fees and waivers on banking transactions and added value benefits through our premium partner merchants



BURGAN BANK ANNOUNCES



WINNERS OF YAWMI ACCOUNT

KUWAIT: Burgan Bank announced yesterday the names of the lucky winners of its Yawmi account draw, each taking home a prize of KD 5,000.

The lucky winners for the daily draws took home a cash-prize of KD 5,000 each, and they are:

1. Fares Thani Kasar Eyadah

2. Sheikh Nawal Mohammed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah

3. Fatemah Sulaiman Naser Al-Oraifan 4. Anant Devidas Kapadiya

In addition to the daily draw, Burgan Bank also offers a quarterly draw with more



chances to win higher rewards, entitling one lucky customer to win KD 125,000 every three months. The Yawmi Account offers daily and quarterly draws, the quarterly draw requires customers to maintain a minimum amount of KD 500 in their account for 2 months prior to draw date. Additionally, every KD 10 in the account, will entitle customers to one chance of winning. If the account balance is KD 500 and above, the account holder will be qualified for both the quarterly and daily draws.

Burgan Bank encourages everyone to open a Yawmi account and/or increase their deposit to maximize their chances to becoming a winner. The more customers deposit, the higher the chances they receive of winning.

For more information on opening a Yawmi account or about the new quarterly draw, customers are urged to visit their nearest Burgan Bank branch and receive all the details, or simply call the bank's Call Center at 1804080 where customer service representatives will be delighted to assist with any questions on the Yawmi account or any of the bank's products and services.

AL TIJARI ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF AL-NAJMA ACCOUNT DRAW

KUWAIT: Commercial Bank of Kuwait held the Al-Najma Account daily draw yesterday. The draw was held under the supervision of the Ministry of Commerce & Industry represented by Abdulaziz Ashkanani.

The winners of the Al-Najma daily draw are:

Ameenah Abdullah Al-Kandari, KD 7000, Waleed Yousef Al-Zaabi, KD 7000, Heirs of Mohammed Hassan Al-Zaid, KD 7000, Fawziaih Abedulkareem Al-Hasawi, KD 7000.

Al-Najma awards are now brighter and bigger than ever

With the revamped Al-Najma account, all your dreams will be turned to reality. On top of offering the highest daily prize in Kuwait for KD 7,000, now our Mega prize draws got bigger to reach KD 250,000.

The new prizes scheme for Al-Najma account, daily draw to win KD 7000.

Quarterly draws to win great prizes that would start from KD 100,000 to KD 250,000

Amazing news from Al-Tijari...

Al-Najma account gives you the biggest daily prize in Kuwait!

1ST quarteR — KD 100 000, 2ND quarter — KD 150 000, 3RD quarter— KD 200 000, 4TH quarter — KD 250 000. With Al-Najma you have more chances to win greater prizes

• Each KD 25 kept in your account gives you one chance to win

 Each KD 25 kept in your account for one week will give you a chance to enter the daily draw.

• Each KD 25 kept in your account for 3 months will give you chance to enter the quarterly draw.

Additional features

ATM card

• Issue a credit card against your account

• Obtain all CBK banking services

You deserve to win! Open an account now with just KD 500 and you will enter all draws.



KUWAIT: Gulf Bank's Priority Banking team along with representatives of Blueprint Holding and Knight Frank.

FED TO JACK UP RATES AS TRUMP **ECONOMY LOOMS**

WASHINGTON: There is little room for doubt that the US Federal Reserve will raise the benchmark interest rate in the coming week for only the second time in a decade. With unemployment at a nine-year low, jobs being created at an average of 180,000 per month, the economy growing at better than three percent in the most recent quarter and some signs of a pickup in inflation, the writing is on the wall.

Some members of the Federal Open Market Committee, which sets the key federal funds rate, the basis for mortgage and lending rates, have even cautioned that failing to raise rates in December could harm the central bank's credibility, given expectations set by policymakers in recent months.

"All the necessary and sufficient conditions are there," Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody's Analytics, told AFP.

With a rate hike assumed, the question remains whether Wednesday's move will be the first in a series.

That was what central bankers thought was going to happen a year ago, when they announced the start of the "normalization" of interest rates after keeping them at zero in the wake of the 2008 financial crisis.

'Normalization' under Trump?

But the Fed's efforts to turn the page on monetary stimulus with gradual tightening quickly went off track, despite forecasts for up to four rate hikes in 2016.

Seven times this year, the FOMC declined to raise rates, impeded by poor US economic data, Britain's shock June vote to exit the European Union, and above all by fears of interrupting a fragile recovery.

And analysts said there were no guarantees 2017 would see the beginning of a tightening cycle either, given uncertainties in geopolitics and the yet-to-bedetermined policies of President-elect Donald Trump, who shocked the world last month by winning the US election while offering proposals scant on specifics.

A Wall Street Journal poll of economists this week put the Federal funds rate at an average of 1.26 percent by December 2017, implying four rate increases. A Reuters poll projects three rate increases.

CHINA FACES BATTLE OVER MARKET ECONOMY STATUS

BEIJING: China's battle for recognition as a market economy that would help it avoid penalties from key trade partners has been thwarted, as a key clause in Beijing's deal to join the WTO expired yesterday.

As China marks the 15th anniversary of its accession to the WTO, the United States, European Union and Japan are maintaining tough rules that protect them from cheap Chinese products flooding their markets. An outraged Beijing said the failure of its major trade partners to grant China market economy status on December 11 as promised was an example of "covert protectionism" and "double standard" by the West.

Beijing highly covets market economy status, which would make it more difficult for other countries to launch anti-dumping cases against it. Dumping is when a country prices its exports below what it would charge for the same product in its home market. When China joined the WTO on December 11, 2001 it was written into the terms of the deal that member states could treat it as a non-market economy, allowing them to impose heavy anti-dumping duties on the basis that its low prices did not reflect market reality.

China was told all that would change by the end of 2016 when it would be upgraded to market economy status. But rather than enjoying this trade advantage, Beijing continues to face a climate of mistrust towards its exports, with critics arguing the country has not done enough to qualify for the designation.

"China will take steps to defend its rights if (WTO) members continue this old practice of anti-dumping regulation against Chinese products after the expiration date" of the accession agreement clause, China's commerce ministry spokesman Shen Danyang was quoted as saying by state media on Friday. International trade experts say China will have to start a lengthy legal battle at the WTO against its trade partners in order to get recognition of its new status.

Protectionism in disguise

In a vitriolic commentary, the official Xinhua news agency said that "China would automatically move to market economy status" on December 11. "The refusal is nothing short of covert protectionism, which runs against the trend of globalization and poisons the recovery of the global economy," it said Friday, denouncing "another double-standard applied by the West against China".

But for Washington, the granting of market economy status is not automatic and other anti-dumping clauses of the accession agreement "remain intact". "The United States remains concerned about serious imbalances in China's State-directed economy, such as widespread production overcapacity, including in the steel and aluminum industries, and significant State ownership in many industries and sectors," according to a statement by the Department of Commerce.

"China has not made the reforms necessary to operate on market principles." Washington will therefore continue to apply "alternative" methods for calculating dumping margins, added the DoC.

That is unlikely to change under a Donald Trump administration after the president-elect threatened to impose 45 percent punitive tariffs to protect American jobs. The position is also supported by the Alliance for American Manufacturing (AAM), who say China's trade surplus has cost 3.2 million jobs in the US since Beijing joined the WTO. "It is no coincidence that economic pain played such a central role this election season. — AFP

LONDON: Financial markets have been remarkably resilient to rising bond yields and sudden shift in outlook following last month's shock US election result, but the sheer scale of uncertainties ahead means the adjustment will be "bumpy", the BIS said yesterday.

While the resilience to recent market swings following the US election and Brexit vote have been welcome, investors should be braced for further bouts of extreme volatilty and "flash crash" episodes like the one that hit sterling in October, the Bank for International Settlements said.

"We do not quite fully understand the cause of such unusual price moves ... but as long as

such moves remain self-contained and do not order. And make no mistake: bond yields are still threaten market functioning or the soundness of financial institutions, they are not a source of much concern: we may need to get used to them," said Claudio Borio, Head of the Monetary and Economic Department at the BIS.

"It is as if market participants, for once, had taken the lead in anticipating and charting the future, breaking free from their dependence on central banks' every word and deed," Borio said.

This suggests investors may finally be learning to stand on their own two feet after years of relying on central bank stimulus, signaling a potential "paradigm shift" for markets, he said.

"But the jury is still out, and caution is in

unusually low from a long-term perspective," Borio said. The BIS, often referred to as the "central banks' central bank", acts as a forum for the world's major monetary authorities. Its commentaries on global markets and economics give an insight into policymakers' thinking.

Bond yields have risen sharply since the middle of the year. The benchmark 10-year US Treasury yield has jumped 100 basis points since July's multi-decade low, with a growing number of investors saying the 35-year bull run in bonds is now over. That rise has come against the political shocks of Britain's vote in late June to leave the European Union and Donald Trump's election victory last month.

The surge of 20 basis points in US bond yields the day after the election was the largest since the "taper tantrum" market sell-off in 2013, and greater than all but 1 percent of one-day moves in the last guarter century, the BIS said. Yet US stocks are chalking up record highs, market volatility is anchored at historic lows and corporate spreads have remained relatively tight. Liquidity has been "adequate", according to the BIS.

This all points to investors anticipating stronger growth resulting from easier US fiscal policy, lower taxes and looser regulation, particularly in the financial sector, the BIS said. Banks will generally benefit from higher rates and a steeper yield curve, and the recent surge in US bank stocks is "a telling sign of a brighter perceived outlook," the BIS said. But higher yields and a stronger dollar also pose risks, especially to emerging markets, even though some EM equity and credit markets held up better than they did at the time of the taper tantrum in 2013.

The starting point for emerging markets

wasn't so severe as investors had already withdrawn "massive" amounts from EM funds between 2013 and 2015, while loans in recent years had generally been taken out over long maturities and at fixed rates.

Still, nearly 10 percent of dollar-denominated corporate debt in EM comes due next year, meaning firms must either pay back \$120 billion or refinance it at a higher and rising cost, according to the BIS.

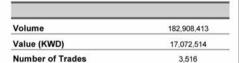
Dollar funding costs and money market spreads rose sharply in the latest quarter as investors adjusted to new US money market rules that took effect in October. Shortterm dollar funding from money market funds shrank by some 70 percent. But unlike 2008 when widening spreads tightened financial conditions and torpedoed banks' creditworthiness, this was a regulation-driven move that had "limited" spillover effects on broader financial markets. Borrowers simply raised cash elsewhere, the BIS said. Meanwhile, the BIS also said that new data show that banks in China are the 10th largest lenders in the international banking market and banks in Russia the 23rd largest. — Reuters

Daily Kuwait Stock Exchange Report

Sunday 11 December 2016

Index	С	hange	Closing	Last Closing	High	Low
Price index		22.62	5,611.78	5,589.16	5,613.86	5,589.16
Weighted Index		3.42	376.73	373.31	376.81	373.31
KSX 15		11.77	884.59	872.82	885.13	872.82

									385.13							
Security	High	Low	Volume	Trades Value (KD)	Trades	– Last	Ct	nange	Security	High	Low	Volume	Trades Value (KD)	Trades	– Last	Ch
MARIN	75	75	32139	2,410	4	75	v	-5.0	SOKOUK	35.5	34.5	1631811	57,270	36	35.5	
ARUS	37.0	36.0	83,970	3,083	7	37.0		1.5	KRE	63	59	6,527,644	403,608	103	63	Â
G APESCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	365	-	0.0	URC	96	96	32,899	3,158	2	96	-
NERGYH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	810 42.5	-	0.0	NRE SRE	106 360	100 360	7,166,613	735,520 3,600	152	102 360	
PI	40.0	39.0	2,317,530	91,373	70	39.5		0.5	TAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	470	-
BAR il & Gas	102	102	500 2,434,139	51 96,917	1 82	102 779.91	A	6.0 1.83	AREEC MASSALEH	200 39.5	196 39.5	82,088 5,000	16,384 198	9	198 39.5	A
i a Gas			2,434,135	50,517	02	119.91		1.05	ARABREC	29.0	28.5	367,320	10,481	10	29.0	-
FOUC	178	178	3,000	534	3	178	۸	4.0	ERESCO	41.0	40.0	672,500	27,137	11	40.5	
PCC	480	475	109,900	52,473	4	480		10.0	MABANEE	830	820	376,489	312,220	29	830	
LKOUT	0.0 230	0.0	0 42,720	0 9,790	0	640 228	-	0.0	INJAZZAT	74 24.5	74 23.5	20,000	1,480 405,532	3	74 24.0	
asic Materials			155,620	62,797	17	982.41		8.30	IRC	28.5	27.0	2,413,068	66,674	72	28.0	
0511					-		0.00		ALTIJARIA	80	80	449,483	35,959	9	80	•
CEM EFRI	0.0	0.0	0 6,811	0 2,214	0	420 325	-	0.0	SANAM AAYANRE	30.5 67	30.0 65	9,852 345,492	296 23,113	3	30.5 67	A A
ABLE	380	375	66,609	25,004	15	380		5.0	AQAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	69	-
HIP	168	166	30,000	5,000	3	168	-	0.0	ALAQARIA	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	24.5	-
CEM APER	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	920 290	-	0.0	MAZAYA ADNC	0.0	110 0.0	653,438 0	72,570	15 0	112	¥
RC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	63	_	0.0	THEMAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	89	-
CICO	270	270	191	52	1	270	_	0.0	TIJARA	42.0	40.0	4,831	193	2	42.0	
GMC CC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	315 118	-	0.0	ARKAN	21.0	20.0	217,000	4,450	5	20.0 82	v
BMMC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	190	_	0.0	ARGAN	176	162	200	34	2	162	٧
ICBM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	206	-	0.0	ABYAAR	22.5	21.5	16,287,581	358,591	113	22.0	
QUIPMENT CCI	43.0 0.0	43.0 0.0	193,834 0	8,335 0	9	43.0 50	-	0.0	MUNSHAAT FIRSTDUBAI	49.0 55	48.0 54	496,159 311,500	24,056 17,033	22	49.0 55	A
YPSUM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	95	-	0.0	KBT	42.0	41.0	4,501,393	185,754	86	41.5	
ALBOOKH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	54	-	0.0	REAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	196	-
GLTY DU	620 0.0	580 0.0	4,066,300	2,439,376 0	78 0	620		40.0	MENA ALMUDON	19.5 36.0	19.0 35.0	279,796 856,906	5,401	7 28	19.0	v
LEANING	43.0	41.0	688,754	28,828	19	202 42.0		0.0 -1.0	MARAKEZ	0.0	0.0	0	30,238 0	28	35.0 36.0	-
GL	53	52	446,500	23,320	21	52	-	0.0	REMAL	49.5	49.0	20,100	990	4	49.5	
CPC UMANSOFT	170 0.0	168	55,857 0	9,401 0	7	170 2,060	-	0.0	AWJ Real Estate	66	64	487,020 61,132,783	31,498 2,833,435	18 937	66 857.73	A A
AFAIS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	2,060	-	0.0	Redicstate			01,132,/83	2,000,400	93/	357.73	A
AFWAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	385	-	0.0	KINV	81	81	104,983	8,504	6	81	٨
FC	30.5	30.5	4,000	122	2	30.5		1.5	FACIL	160	154	76,000	12,094	7	154	
AYADEEN GC	29.0	28.5	2,406,399 0	68,956 0	36	29.0 620		0.5	IFA NINV	33.0 99	31.0 97	11,101,741	354,732 123,762	157 46	32.5 99	A A
тсс	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	56	-	0.0	KPROJ	510	510	172,291	87,868	13	510	-
PAC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	680	-	0.0	COAST	38.5	38.0	1,969,956	75,682	49	38.5	-
LAFCO UBARRAD	222 58	222 55	15,000 2,469,607	3,330 140,983	1 84	222 58	-	0.0	SECH SGC	42.5	42.0	1,835,204	77,079 0	35 0	42.0 85	-
OGISTICS	70	68	2,409,007	140,983	33	68	Ŷ	-1.0	ARZAN	32.0	31.0	430,586	13,553	12	32.0	-
CEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	77	-	0.0	MARKAZ	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	83	-
CEM IC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	74	-	0.0	KMEFIC ALAMAN	0.0	0.0 49.0	0 7,905	0 390	0	22.5 50	-
CEM	80	80	477,456	38,196	13	80	*	-1.0	ALOLA	46.0	46.0	424,500	19,527	17	46.0	-
KWC	87	87	21,420	1,864	3	87	٧	-3.0	ALMAL	21.0	20.0	2,478,205	50,568	66	20.5	-
PEC	81	81	500 13,060,022	41 2,940,621	1 327	81 1272.36	A	4.27	GIH AAYAN	29.0 30.5	28.0 28.5	3,238,922	92,566 360,970	49 116	28.5 30.5	-
duounaio			10,000,012	2,010,021	021	1212.00			BAYANINV	35.0	33.5	3,994,243	136,939	74	35.0	
SH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	136	-	0.0	OSOUL	64	60	41,000	2,464	2	64	
SH APCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	64 95	-	0.0	KFIC KAMCO	0.0	0.0	0 8,984	0 984	2	36.5 114	-
ATTL	230	222	1,850	423	5	228		8.0	NIH	63	61	213,836	13,249	11	62	
ANAH	91	89	150,305	13,483	10	91		2.0	UNICAP	46.5	45.0	289,970	13,300	20	45.5	
DULT	0.0	0.0	0 45,537	0 118,507	0	192 2,620	-	0.0	MADAR ALDEERA	0.0	0.0	0	0 42,587	0 56	12.5	-
onsumer Goods	2,020	2,000	197,692	132,413	20	1143.26		9.35	ALSALAM	44.5	43.5	143,772	6,303	5	44.0	
									EKTTITAB	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	37.0	-
нс тс	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	230 920	-	0	ALMADINA NOOR	41.5 47.5	40.5	2,699,789 81,600	110,557 3,805	50 6	41.5	A A
ACO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	435	_	0	TAMINV	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	285	-
ealth Care			0	0	0	0.00	-	0.00	EXCH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	1,500	-
CIN	960	910	11,867	11,012	14	960	-	0	TAIBA KSHC	0.0	0.0 26.5	0 123,265	0 3,302	0	75 27.0	-
HOT	0.0	910	0	0	0	265	-	0	ASIYA	31.5	30.0	38,943	1,226	0		Ŷ
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ABLETV YAS AHR ULAFUEL UNTAZAHAT VZEERA DOR JTUREKID	0.0 0.0 114 76 770 116 0.0	59 0.0 0.0 114 75 770 114 0.0	803,212 0 0 8,034 24,500 570 23,477 0	0 0 916 1,838 439 2,677 0	24 0 0 11 3 2 11 0	61 385 154 114 76 770 114 106		0 0 1 0 0 0	ALIMTIAZ MANAZEL NIND BIIHC SENERGY AGHC KPPC	20.0 98 29.5 130 21.0 35.0 59 45.0	19.5 93 28.5 126 19.5 34.5 57 44.0	657,110 149,097 4,006,761 2,912,650 5,760,941 19,055,184 113,665 737,874 254,850	22,342 2,910 381,075 84,119 737,494 389,063 3,962 42,752 11,405	11 13 118 65 107 148 13 33 18	31.5 34.0 20.0 95 29.0 128 21.0 35.0 59 44.5	
ABLETV YAS AHR ULAFUEL UNTAZAHAT VZEERA DOR JTUREKID .RAI	0.0 0.0 114 76 770 116 0.0 148	59 0.0 0.0 114 75 770 114 0.0 146	803,212 0 0 8,034 24,500 570 23,477 0 51,000	0 0 916 1,838 439 2,677 0 7,485	24 0 0 11 3 2 11 0 5	61 385 154 114 76 770 114 106 148	- - - -	0 0 1 0 0 0 0 0	ALIMTIAZ MANAZEL NIND BIIHC SENERGY AGHC KPPC TAHSSILAT	20.0 98 29.5 130 21.0 35.0 59 45.0 0.0	19.5 93 28.5 126 19.5 34.5 57 44.0 0.0	657,110 149,097 4,006,761 2,912,650 5,760,941 19,055,184 113,665 737,874 254,850 0	22,342 2,910 381,075 84,119 737,494 389,063 3,962 42,752 11,405 0	11 13 118 65 107 148 13 33 18 0	31.5 34.0 20.0 95 29.0 128 21.0 35.0 59 44.5 41.0	
ABLETV YAS AHR ULAFUEL UNTAZAHAT VZEERA DOR UTUREKID LRAI MAH	0.0 0.0 114 76 770 116 0.0	59 0.0 0.0 114 75 770 114 0.0	803,212 0 0 8,034 24,500 570 23,477 0	0 0 916 1,838 439 2,677 0	24 0 0 11 3 2 11 0	61 385 154 114 76 770 114 106		0 0 1 0 0 0	ALIMTIAZ MANAZEL NIND BIIHC SENERGY AGHC KPPC	20.0 98 29.5 130 21.0 35.0 59 45.0	19.5 93 28.5 126 19.5 34.5 57 44.0	657,110 149,097 4,006,761 2,912,650 5,760,941 19,055,184 113,665 737,874 254,850	22,342 2,910 381,075 84,119 737,494 389,063 3,962 42,752 11,405	11 13 118 65 107 148 13 33 18	31.5 34.0 20.0 95 29.0 128 21.0 35.0 59 44.5	
ABLETV YAS AHR ULAFUEL UNTAZAHAT VZEERA DOR JTUREKID .RAI MAH ezzan	0.0 0.0 114 76 770 116 0.0 148 41.0 970	59 0.0 0.0 114 75 770 114 0.0 146 40.5	803,212 0 0 8,034 24,500 570 23,477 0 51,000 55,000	0 0 916 1,838 439 2,677 0 7,485 2,230	24 0 0 11 3 2 11 0 5 6	61 385 154 114 76 770 114 106 148 41.0		0 0 1 0 0 0 0 0 0	ALIMTIAZ MANAZEL NIND BIIHC SENERGY AGHC KPPC TAHSSILAT JEERANH EKHOLDING GFH	20.0 98 29.5 130 21.0 35.0 59 45.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 158	19.5 93 28.5 126 19.5 34.5 57 44.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 154	657,110 149,097 4,006,761 2,912,650 5,760,941 19,055,184 113,665 737,874 254,850 0 0 0 927,421	22,342 2,910 381,075 84,119 737,494 389,063 3,962 42,752 11,405 0 0 0 0 144,751	11 13 118 65 107 148 13 33 18 0 0 0 0 0 33	31.5 34.0 20.0 95 29.0 128 21.0 35.0 59 44.5 41.0 56 170 156	
ABLETV YAS AHR ULAFUEL UNTAZAHAT ZZEERA DOR JTUREKID .RAI MAH ezzan onsumer Service	0.0 0.0 114 76 770 116 0.0 148 41.0 970 25	59 0.0 0.0 0.0 114 75 770 114 0.0 146 40.5 960	803,212 0 0 8,034 24,500 570 23,477 0 51,000 55,000 139,308 1,116,998	0 0 916 1,838 439 2,677 0 7,485 2,230 133,775 209,160	24 0 0 11 3 2 11 0 5 6 12 88	61 385 154 114 76 770 114 106 148 41.0 960 912.03		0 0 0 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 1.41	ALIMTIAZ MANAZEL NIND BIIHC SENERGY AGHC KPPC TAHSSILAT JEERANH EKHOLDING GFH INOVEST	20.0 98 29.5 130 21.0 35.0 59 45.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 158 0.0	19.5 93 28.5 126 19.5 34.5 57 44.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0	657,110 149,097 4,006,761 2,912,650 5,760,941 19,055,184 113,665 737,874 254,850 0 0 0 0 927,421 0	22,342 2,910 381,075 84,119 737,494 389,063 3,962 42,752 11,405 0 0 0 0 144,751 0	11 13 118 65 107 148 13 33 18 0 0 0 0 33 0	31.5 34.0 20.0 95 29.0 128 21.0 35.0 59 44.5 41.0 56 170 156 75	
ABLETV YAS AHR ULAFUEL UNTAZAHAT VZEERA DOR JTUREKID .RAI MAH ezzan DONSUMER Service	0.0 0.0 114 76 770 116 0.0 148 41.0 970	59 0.0 0.0 114 75 770 114 0.0 146 40.5	803,212 0 0 8,034 24,500 570 23,477 0 51,000 55,000 139,308	0 0 916 1,838 439 2,677 0 7,485 2,230 133,775	24 0 0 11 3 2 11 0 5 6 12	61 385 154 114 76 770 114 106 148 41.0 960		0 0 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 -10	ALIMTIAZ MANAZEL NIND BIIHC SENERGY AGHC KPPC TAHSSILAT JEERANH EKHOLDING GFH	20.0 98 29.5 130 21.0 35.0 59 45.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 158 0.0	19.5 93 28.5 126 19.5 34.5 57 44.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 154	657,110 149,097 4,006,761 2,912,650 5,760,941 19,055,184 113,665 737,874 254,850 0 0 0 927,421	22,342 2,910 381,075 84,119 737,494 389,063 3,962 42,752 11,405 0 0 0 0 144,751	11 13 118 65 107 148 13 33 18 0 0 0 0 0 33	31.5 34.0 20.0 95 29.0 128 21.0 35.0 59 44.5 41.0 56 170 156	
ABLETV YAS AHR ULAFUEL UNTAZAHAT VZEERA OOR JTUREKID LRAI MAH ezzan onsumer Service AIN OREDOO TSTELEC	0.0 0.0 114 76 770 116 0.0 148 41.0 970 970 98 425 1,160 43.0	59 0.0 0.0 114 75 770 114 0.0 146 40.5 960 420 1,120 42.0	803,212 0 0 8,034 24,500 570 23,477 0 51,000 55,000 139,308 1,116,968 4,430,460 1,376 3,093,678	0 0 916 1,838 439 2,677 0 7,485 2,230 133,775 209,160 1,862,373 1,541 130,101	24 0 0 11 3 2 11 0 5 6 12 88 88 98 3 51	61 385 154 114 76 770 114 106 148 410 960 912.03 425 1,160 42.5		0 0 0 1 0 0 0 0 0 -10 1.41 5 40 -1	ALIMTIAZ MANAZEL NIND BIIHC SENERGY AGHC KPPC TAHSSILAT JEERANH EKHOLDING GFH INOVEST	20.0 98 29.5 130 21.0 35.0 59 45.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 158 0.0 95	19.5 93 28.5 126 19.5 34.5 57 44.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 154	657,110 149,097 4,006,761 2,912,650 5,760,941 19,055,184 113,665 737,874 254,850 0 0 0 0 927,421 0	22,342 2,910 381,075 84,119 737,494 389,063 3,962 42,752 11,405 0 0 0 0 144,751 0	11 13 118 65 107 148 13 33 18 0 0 0 0 33 0	31.5 34.0 20.0 95 29.0 128 21.0 35.0 59 44.5 41.0 56 170 156 75	
ABLETV YAS AHR ULAFUEL UNTAZAHAT VZEERA OOR JTUREKID LRAI MAH ezzan Onsumer Service AIN OREDOO TSTELEC VA	0.0 0.0 114 76 770 116 0.0 148 41.0 970 970 970 970 970 925 1,160 43.0 900	59 0.0 0.0 114 75 770 114 0.0 146 40.5 960 420 1,120	803,212 0 0 8,034 24,500 570 23,477 0 51,000 55,000 139,308 1,116,968 4,430,460 1,376 3,093,678 28,314	0 0 916 1,838 439 2,677 0 7,485 2,230 133,775 209,160 1,862,373 1,541 130,101 25,483	24 0 0 111 3 2 111 0 5 6 12 88 98 3 51 28	61 385 154 114 76 770 114 106 148 41.0 960 912.03 425 1,160 42.5 900		0 0 1 0 0 0 0 0 -10 1.41 5 40 -1 0	ALIMTIAZ MANAZEL NIND BIIHC SENERGY AGHC KPPC TAHSSILAT JEERANH EKHOLDING GFH INOVEST Financial Service	20.0 98 29.5 130 21.0 35.0 59 45.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 158 0.0 es	19.5 93 28.5 126 19.5 34.5 57 44.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 154 0.0	657,110 149,097 4,006,761 2,912,650 5,760,941 19,055,184 113,665 737,874 254,850 0 0 0 0 927,421 0 78,664,864	22,342 2,910 381,075 84,119 737,494 389,063 3,962 42,752 11,405 0 0 0 144,751 0 3,431,884 0	11 13 118 65 107 148 13 33 18 0 0 0 0 33 0 0 1,376 0	31.5 34.0 20.0 95 29.0 128 21.0 55 44.5 41.0 56 170 156 75 586.02	
ABLETV YAS AHR ULAFUEL UNTAZAHAT VZEERA OOR JTUREKID LRAI MAH ezzan Onsumer Service AIN OREDOO TSTELEC VA	0.0 0.0 114 76 770 116 0.0 148 41.0 970 970 970 970 970 925 1,160 43.0 900	59 0.0 0.0 114 75 770 114 0.0 146 40.5 960 420 1,120 42.0	803,212 0 0 8,034 24,500 570 23,477 0 51,000 55,000 139,308 1,116,968 4,430,460 1,376 3,093,678	0 0 916 1,838 439 2,677 0 7,485 2,230 133,775 209,160 1,862,373 1,541 130,101	24 0 0 11 3 2 11 0 5 6 12 88 88 98 3 51	61 385 154 114 76 770 114 106 148 410 960 912.03 425 1,160 42.5		0 0 0 1 0 0 0 0 0 -10 1.41 5 40 -1	ALIMTIAZ MANAZEL NIND BIIHC SENERGY AGHC KPPC TAHSSILAT JEERANH EKHOLDING GFH INOVEST Financial Service	20.0 98 29.5 130 21.0 35.0 59 45.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 158 0.0 95	19.5 93 28.5 126 19.5 34.5 57 44.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 154	657,110 149,097 4,006,761 2,912,650 5,760,941 19,055,184 113,665 737,874 254,850 0 0 0 927,421 0 78,664,864	22,342 2,910 381,075 84,119 737,494 389,063 3,962 42,752 11,405 0 0 0 0 144,751 0 3,431,884	11 13 118 65 107 148 13 33 18 0 0 0 0 0 33 0 0 1,376	31.5 34.0 20.0 95 29.0 128 21.0 35.0 59 44.5 41.0 56 170 156 75 586.02	
ABLETV YAS AHR ULAFUEL UNTAZAHAT ZZEERA DOR JTUREKID .RAI MAH ezzan onsumer Service AIN OREDOO TSTELEC VA Secommunication BK	0.0 0.0 114 76 0.0 116 0.0 148 41.0 970 es 425 1,160 43.0 900 es 5660	59 0.0 0.0 0.0 114 0.0 114 0.0 146 40.5 960 420 1,120 42.0 900 650	803,212 0 0 8,034 24,500 570 23,477 0 51,000 55,000 139,308 1,116,958 4,430,460 1,376 3,093,678 3,093,678 28,314 7,553,828 2,151,532	0 0 916 1,838 439 2,677 0 7,485 2,230 133,775 209,160 1,862,373 1,541 130,101 25,483 2,019,498 1,417,457	24 0 0 11 3 2 11 0 5 6 6 12 88 88 3 51 28 3 51 28 180 79	61 385 154 114 760 770 114 106 148 41.0 960 912.03 425 1,160 42.5 900 629.29 660		0 0 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 -10 1.41 5 5 40 -1 0 3.93	ALIMTIAZ MANAZEL NIND BIIHC SENERGY AGHC KPPC TAHSSILAT JEERANH EKHOLDING GFH INOVEST Financial Service Investment Instru ASC OSOS FUTURE	20.0 98 29.5 130 21.0 35.0 59 45.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 158 0.0 244 126 0.0	19.5 93 28.5 126 19.5 34.5 57 44.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 154 0.0 242 242 124 0.0	657,110 149,097 4,006,761 2,912,650 5,760,941 19,055,184 113,665 737,874 254,850 0 0 0 927,421 0 78,664,864 0 26,000 5,275 0	22,342 2,910 381,075 84,119 737,494 389,063 3,962 42,752 11,405 0 0 0 1144,751 0 3,431,884 0 6 ,312 664 0	11 13 118 65 107 148 13 33 18 0 0 0 33 0 1,376 0 4 2 0	31.5 34.0 20.0 95 29.0 128 21.0 35.0 59 44.5 41.0 56 170 156 75 586.02 0.000 242 124 90	
ABLETV YAS AHR ULAFUEL UNTAZAHAT ZZEERA DOR JTUREKID JTUREKID JTUREKID ANN MAH ezzan Donsumer Service AIN OREDOO TSTELEC VA Elecommunication BK BK	0.0 0.0 114 76 0.0 116 0.0 148 41.0 970 970 98 425 1,160 43.0 900 900 900 900 900 900 900 900 900 9	59 0.0 0.0 0.0 114 0.0 114 0.0 146 40.5 960 420 1,120 42.0 900 650 234	803,212 0 0 8,034 24,500 570 23,477 0 51,000 55,000 139,308 1,116,968 4,430,460 1,376 3,093,678 28,314 7,553,828 2,151,532 1,533,943	0 0 916 1,838 439 2,677 0 7,485 2,230 133,775 209,160 1,862,373 1,541 130,101 25,483 2,019,498 1,417,457 358,943	24 0 0 111 3 2 111 0 5 6 12 88 98 3 51 12 88 98 3 51 28 98 3 51 28 98 3 79 9 9	61 385 154 114 76 770 114 106 148 41.0 960 912.03 425 1,160 42.5 900 629.29 660 234		0 0 0 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	ALIMTIAZ MANAZEL NIND BIIHC SENERGY AGHC KPPC TAHSSILAT JEERANH EKHOLDING GFH INOVEST Financial Service Investment Instru ASC OSOS FUTURE HAYATCOMM	20.0 98 29.5 130 21.0 35.0 59 45.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 158 0.0 es uments 244 126	19.5 93 28.5 126 19.5 34.5 57 44.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 154 0.0 242 242 124	657,110 149,097 4,006,751 2,912,650 5,760,941 19,055,184 113,665 737,874 254,850 0 0 0 927,421 0 78,664,864 0 26,000 5,275 0 1,600	22,342 2,910 381,075 84,119 737,494 389,063 3,962 42,752 11,405 0 0 0 0 1144,751 0 3,431,884 0 6,312 664 0 76	11 13 118 65 107 148 13 33 18 0 0 0 33 0 1,376 0 4 2 0 2	31.5 34.0 20.0 95 29.0 128 21.0 35.0 59 44.5 41.0 56 170 56 170 156 75 586.02 0.00 242 124 90 47.5	
ABLETV YAS AHR ULAFUEL UNTAZAHAT VZEERA DOR JTUREKID ITUREKID IRAI MAH ezzan ONSUMER Service AIN OREDOO ITSTELEC VA Delecommunicatic BK BK BK	0.0 0.0 114 76 0.0 116 0.0 148 41.0 970 es 425 1,160 43.0 900 es 5660	59 0.0 0.0 0.0 114 0.0 114 0.0 146 40.5 960 420 1,120 42.0 900 650	803,212 0 0 8,034 24,500 570 23,477 0 51,000 55,000 139,308 1,116,958 4,430,460 1,376 3,093,678 3,093,678 28,314 7,553,828 2,151,532	0 0 916 1,838 439 2,677 0 7,485 2,230 133,775 209,160 1,862,373 1,541 130,101 25,483 2,019,498 1,417,457	24 0 0 11 3 2 11 0 5 6 6 12 88 88 3 51 28 3 51 28 180 79	61 385 154 114 760 770 114 106 148 41.0 960 912.03 425 1,160 42.5 900 629.29 660		0 0 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 -10 1.41 5 5 40 -1 0 3.93	ALIMTIAZ MANAZEL NIND BIIHC SENERGY AGHC KPPC TAHSSILAT JEERANH EKHOLDING GFH INOVEST Financial Service Investment Instru ASC OSOS FUTURE	20.0 98 29.5 130 21.0 35.0 59 45.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 158 0.0 244 126 0.0	19.5 93 28.5 126 19.5 34.5 57 44.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 154 0.0 242 242 124 0.0	657,110 149,097 4,006,761 2,912,650 5,760,941 19,055,184 113,665 737,874 254,850 0 0 0 927,421 0 78,664,864 0 26,000 5,275 0	22,342 2,910 381,075 84,119 737,494 389,063 3,962 42,752 11,405 0 0 0 1144,751 0 3,431,884 0 6 ,312 664 0	11 13 118 65 107 148 13 33 18 0 0 0 33 0 1,376 0 4 2 0	31.5 34.0 20.0 95 29.0 128 21.0 35.0 59 44.5 41.0 56 170 156 75 586.02 0.000 242 124 90	
ABLETV YAS AHR ULAFUEL UNTAZAHAT VZEERA DOR JTUREKID LRAI MAH ezzan ONSUMER Service AIN OREDOO ITSTELEC VA Decommunicatio BK BK BK BK	0.0 0.0 0.0 114 76 770 116 0.0 148 41.0 970 28 425 1,160 43.0 900 900 900 900 900 900 900 900 900 9	59 0.0 0.0 0.0 114 75 770 114 0.0 146 40.5 960 420 1,120 42.0 900 650 234 0.0	803,212 0 0 8,034 24,500 570 23,477 0 51,000 55,000 139,308 1,116,968 4,430,460 1,376 3,093,678 28,314 7,553,828 2,151,532 2,151,532 1,533,943 0	0 0 916 1,838 439 2,677 0 7,485 2,230 133,775 209,160 1,862,373 1,541 130,101 25,483 2,019,498 1,417,457 358,943 0	24 0 0 111 3 2 111 0 5 6 12 88 98 3 51 28 98 3 51 28 180 79 9 9 0	61 385 154 114 76 7700 114 106 148 41.0 9600 912.03 425 1,160 42.5 900 629.29 6600 234 425		0 0 0 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 1.41 5 40 -1 0 3.93 10 0 0	ALIMTIAZ MANAZEL NIND BIIHC SENERGY AGHC KPPC TAHSSILAT JEERANH EKHOLDING GFH INOVEST Financial Service Investment Instru ASC OSOS FUTURE HAYATCOMM	20.0 98 29.5 130 21.0 35.0 59 45.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 158 0.0 244 126 0.0	19.5 93 28.5 126 19.5 34.5 57 44.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 154 0.0 242 242 124 0.0	657,110 149,097 4,006,751 2,912,650 5,760,941 19,055,184 113,665 737,874 254,850 0 0 0 927,421 0 78,664,864 0 26,000 5,275 0 1,600	22,342 2,910 381,075 84,119 737,494 389,063 3,962 42,752 11,405 0 0 0 0 1144,751 0 3,431,884 0 6,312 664 0 76	11 13 118 65 107 148 13 33 18 0 0 0 33 0 1,376 0 4 2 0 2	31.5 34.0 20.0 95 29.0 128 21.0 35.0 59 44.5 41.0 56 170 56 170 156 75 586.02 0.00 242 124 90 47.5	
ABLETV YAS AHR ULAFUEL UNTAZAHAT VZEERA OOR JTUREKID LRAI MAH ezzan MAH ezzan ONSUMERSE VA SIECON VA SIECON BK BK BK BK BK BK BK BK BK BK BK BK BK	0.0 0.0 114 76 770 116 0.0 148 41.0 970 970 970 970 970 970 970 970 970 97	59 0.0 0.0 0.0 114 0.0 146 40.5 960 420 1,120 42.0 960 650 234 0.0 390 206	803,212 0 0 8,034 24,500 570 23,477 0 51,000 55,000 139,308 1,116,968 4,430,460 1,376 3,093,678 28,314 7,553,828 2,151,532 1,533,943 0 0 0 53,267	0 0 916 1,838 439 2,677 0 7,485 2,230 133,775 209,160 1,862,373 1,541 130,101 25,483 2,019,498 1,417,457 358,943 0 0 0 20,896 31,659	24 0 0 11 3 2 11 0 5 6 12 88 98 3 51 28 3 51 28 180 79 9 9 0 0 0 0 111 8	61 385 154 114 76 770 114 106 148 41.0 960 912.03 425 1,160 42.5 900 629.29 6660 234 425 300 395 206		0 0 0 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 1.41 5 40 -1 0 3.93 10 0 0 0 5 0	ALIMTIAZ MANAZEL NIND BIIHC SENERGY AGHC KPPC TAHSSILAT JEERANH EKHOLDING GFH INOVEST Financial Service Investment Instru ASC OSOS FUTURE HAYATCOMM Technology SANAD AFAQ	20.0 98 29.5 130 21.0 35.0 59 45.0 0.0 0.0 158 0.0 158 0.0 158 0.0 158 0.0 158 0.0 158 0.0 158 0.0 158 0.0 158 0.0 158 0.0 158 0.0 158 0.0 158 0.0 158 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.	19.5 93 28.5 126 19.5 34.5 57 44.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 154 0.0 242 124 124 0.0 47.5	657,110 149,097 4,006,761 2,912,650 5,760,941 19,055,184 113,665 737,874 254,850 0 0 0 927,421 0 78,664,864 0 26,000 5,275 0 1,600 32,875	22,342 2,910 381,075 84,119 737,494 389,063 3,962 42,752 11,405 0 0 0 1144,751 0 3,431,884 0 6,312 664 0 76 7,052 0 0	11 13 118 65 107 148 13 33 18 0 0 0 33 0 1,376 0 1,376 0 1,376 0 1,376 0 0 1,376 0 0 1,376 0 0 0 1,376 0 0 0 1,376 0 0 0 1,376 0 0 0 1,376 0 0 0 1,376 0 0 0 1,376 0 0 0 1,376 0 0 0 1,376 0 0 1,376 0 0 1,376 0 0 1,376 0 0 1,376 0 0 1,376 0 0 0 1,376 0 0 0 1,376 0 0 0 1,376 0 0 0 1,376 0 0 0 1,376 1,376 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	31.5 34.0 20.0 95 29.0 128 21.0 35.0 59 44.5 41.0 56 75 586.02 0.00 242 124 90 47.5 590.36	A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A
ABLETV YAS AHR ULAFUEL UNTAZAHAT ZZEERA DOR JTUREKID .RAI MAH ezzan DONSUMER SERVICE AIN OREDOO TSTELEC VA DIREDOO TSTELEC VA DIRECOMMUNICATION BK BK BK BK BK BK BK BK BK JRG	0.0 0.0 114 76 0.0 116 0.0 148 41.0 970 95 425 1,160 43.0 900 55 5 5 660 234 0.0 5,234 0.0 335 208 305	59 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 114 0.0 146 40.5 960 420 1,120 42.0 900 650 234 0.0 390 206 300	803,212 0 0 8,034 24,500 570 23,477 0 51,000 55,000 139,308 1,116,968 4,430,460 1,376 3,093,678 28,314 7,553,828 2,151,532 1,533,943 0 0 53,267 153,587 2,652,911	0 0 0 916 1,838 439 2,677 0 7,485 2,230 133,775 209,160 1,862,373 1,541 130,101 25,483 2,019,498 1,417,457 358,943 0 0 20,896 31,659 796,988	24 0 0 11 3 2 11 0 5 6 12 88 98 3 51 28 28 28 28 180 79 9 0 0 0 11 1 8 54	61 385 154 114 760 114 106 148 41.0 960 912.03 425 1,160 42.5 900 629.29 660 234 425 300 395 206 300		0 0 0 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 -10 1.41 5 40 -1 0 3.93 7 10 0 0 0 5 0 0 0	ALIMTIAZ MANAZEL NIND BIIHC SENERGY AGHC KPPC TAHSSILAT JEERANH EKHOLDING GFH INOVEST Financial Service Investment Instru ASC OSOS FUTURE HAYATCOMM Technology SANAD AFAQ ALSHAMEL	20.0 98 29.5 130 21.0 35.0 59 45.0 0.0 0.0 158 0.0 158 0.0 244 126 0.0 47.5 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0	19.5 93 28.5 126 19.5 34.5 57 44.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 154 0.0 242 124 0.0 47.5 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0	657,110 149,097 4,006,761 2,912,650 5,760,941 19,055,184 113,665 737,874 254,850 0 0 0 927,421 0 78,664,864 0 26,000 5,275 0 1,600 32,875 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	22,342 2,910 381,075 84,119 737,494 389,063 3,962 42,752 11,405 0 0 0 144,751 0 3,431,884 0 6,312 664 0 76 7,052 0 0 0 0	11 13 118 65 107 148 13 33 18 0 0 0 33 0 1,376 0 1,376 0 1,376 0 0 1,376 0 0 0 1,376 0 0 0 0 1,376 0 0 0 1,376 0 0 0 1,376 0 0 0 1,376 0 0 0 1,376 0 0 0 1,376 0 0 0 1,376 0 0 1,376 0 0 1,376 0 0 1,376 0 0 1,376 0 0 1,376 0 0 1,376 0 0 1,376 0 0 0 1,376 0 0 0 1,376 0 0 0 0 1,376 0 0 0 0 0 1,376 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	31.5 34.0 20.0 95 29.0 128 21.0 35.0 59 44.5 41.0 56 170 156 75 586.02 0.00 242 124 90 47.5 590.36	
ABLETV YAS AHR ULAFUEL UNTAZAHAT ZZEERA DOR JTUREKID .RAI MAH ezzan Donsumer Service AIN OREDOO TSTELEC VA DIECOMMUNICATION BK BK BK BK BK BK BK BK BK BK BK BK BK	0.0 0.0 114 76 770 116 0.0 148 41.0 970 970 970 970 970 970 970 970 970 97	59 0.0 0.0 0.0 114 0.0 146 40.5 960 420 1,120 42.0 960 650 234 0.0 390 206	803,212 0 0 8,034 24,500 570 23,477 0 51,000 55,000 139,308 1,116,968 4,430,460 1,376 3,093,678 28,314 7,553,828 2,151,532 1,533,943 0 0 0 53,267	0 0 916 1,838 439 2,677 0 7,485 2,230 133,775 209,160 1,862,373 1,541 130,101 25,483 2,019,498 1,417,457 358,943 0 0 0 20,896 31,659	24 0 0 11 3 2 11 0 5 6 12 88 98 3 51 28 3 51 28 180 79 9 9 0 0 0 0 111 8	61 385 154 114 76 770 114 106 148 41.0 960 912.03 425 1,160 42.5 900 629.29 6660 234 425 300 395 206		0 0 0 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 1.41 5 40 -1 0 3.93 10 0 0 0 5 0	ALIMTIAZ MANAZEL NIND BIIHC SENERGY AGHC KPPC TAHSSILAT JEERANH EKHOLDING GFH INOVEST Financial Service Investment Instru ASC OSOS FUTURE HAYATCOMM Technology SANAD AFAQ	20.0 98 29.5 130 21.0 35.0 59 45.0 0.0 0.0 158 0.0 158 0.0 158 0.0 158 0.0 158 0.0 158 0.0 158 0.0 158 0.0 158 0.0 158 0.0 158 0.0 158 0.0 158 0.0 158 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.	19.5 93 28.5 126 19.5 34.5 57 44.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 154 0.0 242 124 124 0.0 47.5	657,110 149,097 4,006,761 2,912,650 5,760,941 19,055,184 113,665 737,874 254,850 0 0 0 927,421 0 78,664,864 0 26,000 5,275 0 1,600 32,875	22,342 2,910 381,075 84,119 737,494 389,063 3,962 42,752 11,405 0 0 0 1144,751 0 3,431,884 0 6,312 664 0 76 7,052 0 0	11 13 118 65 107 148 13 33 18 0 0 0 33 0 1,376 0 1,376 0 1,376 0 1,376 0 0 1,376 0 0 1,376 0 0 0 1,376 0 0 0 1,376 0 0 0 1,376 0 0 0 1,376 0 0 0 1,376 0 0 0 1,376 0 0 0 1,376 0 0 0 1,376 0 0 1,376 0 0 1,376 0 0 1,376 0 0 1,376 0 0 1,376 0 0 0 1,376 0 0 0 1,376 0 0 0 1,376 0 0 0 1,376 0 0 0 1,376 1,376 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	31.5 34.0 20.0 95 29.0 128 21.0 35.0 59 44.5 41.0 56 75 586.02 0.00 242 124 90 47.5 590.36	
ABLETV YAS AHR ULAFUEL UNTAZAHAT VZEERA DOR JTUREKID ITUREKID IRAI MAH EZZAN MAH EZZAN MAH OREDOO ITSTELEC VA OREDOO ITSTELEC VA Delecommunicatio BK BK BK BK BK BK BK BK BK BK BK BK BK	0.0 0.0 0.0 114 76 770 116 0.0 148 41.0 970 28 425 1,160 43.0 900 900 234 43.0 900 900 234 0.0 0.0 395 208 305 530 400	59 0.0 0.0 0.0 114 75 770 114 0.0 146 40.5 960 420 1,120 42.0 900 650 234 0.0 390 206 300 510 395	803,212 0 0 8,034 24,500 570 23,477 0 51,000 55,000 139,308 1,116,968 4,430,460 1,376 3,093,678 28,314 7,553,828 2,151,532 1,533,943 0 0 0 53,267 153,587 2,652,911 4,385,650 102,649 4,000	0 0 916 1,838 439 2,677 0 7,485 2,230 133,775 209,160 1,862,373 1,541 130,101 25,483 2,019,498 1,417,457 358,943 0 0 20,896 31,659 796,988 2,277,545 40,881 784	24 0 0 111 3 2 111 0 5 6 12 88 98 3 51 28 98 3 51 28 98 3 51 28 98 3 51 28 98 3 51 28 0 0 0 111 88 12 2 111 0 5 5 6 12 12 88 111 0 5 5 6 12 12 88 111 0 12 11 12 12 88 111 12 12 111 10 15 12 12 111 10 15 12 12 111 10 15 12 12 111 10 15 12 12 111 10 15 12 12 111 10 15 12 12 111 10 15 12 12 111 10 15 12 12 111 10 15 12 12 111 12 12 111 12 12 111 12 12 111 12 12	61 385 154 114 76 7700 114 106 148 41.0 9600 912.03 425 1,160 42.5 900 629.29 6600 234 425 300 395 206 300 395 206 300		0 0 0 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 1.0 1.41 5 40 -1 0 3.93 7 10 0 0 0 5 0 0 0 0 5 0 0	ALIMTIAZ MANAZEL NIND BIIHC SENERGY AGHC KPPC TAHSSILAT JEERANH EKHOLDING GFH INOVEST Financial Service Investment Instru ASC OSOS FUTURE HAYATCOMM Technology SANAD AFAQ ALSHAMEL EFFECT AJWAN MASAKEN	20.0 98 29.5 130 21.0 35.0 59 45.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0	19.5 93 28.5 126 19.5 57 44.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 154 0.0 242 124 0.0 47.5 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 38.5 0.0 50	657,110 149,097 4,006,751 2,912,650 5,760,941 19,055,184 113,665 737,874 254,850 0 0 0 927,421 0 78,664,864 0 26,000 5,275 0 1,600 32,875 0 1,600 32,875	22,342 2,910 381,075 84,119 737,494 389,063 3,962 42,752 11,405 0 0 0 144,751 0 3,431,884 0 6 ,312 664 0 76 7,052 0 0 0 0 6,662 0 0 66,686	11 13 118 65 107 148 13 33 18 0 0 0 0 1,376 0 4 2 0 2 8 0 0 0 1,376 0 0 1,376 0 0 0 1,376 0 0 0 1,376 0 0 0 0 1,376 0 0 0 0 1,376 0 0 0 0 1,376 0 0 0 0 0 0 1,376 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	31.5 34.0 20.0 95 29.0 128 21.0 35.0 59 44.5 41.0 56 170 156 75 586.02 0.00 242 124 90 47.5 590.36 100 162 460 39.0 40.0 55	A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A
ABLETV YAS AHR ULAFUEL UNTAZAHAT VZEERA OOR JTUREKID IRAI MAH ezzan ONSUMER Service AIN OREDOO TSTELEC VA DECOMMUNICATIO BK BK BK BK BK BK BK BK BK BK BK BK BK	0.0 0.0 0.0 114 76 0.0 148 41.0 970 es 425 1,160 43.0 900 900 900 900 900 900 900 900 900 9	59 0.0 0.0 114 75 770 114 0.0 146 40.5 960 420 1,120 42.0 900 420 1,120 42.0 900 500 234 0.0 0.0 390 206 300 510 395 196 38.0	803,212 0 0 8,034 24,500 570 23,477 0 51,000 55,000 139,308 1,116,968 4,430,460 1,376 3,093,678 28,314 7,653,828 2,151,532 1,533,943 0 0 53,267 153,587 2,652,911 4,385,650 102,649 4,000 5,390,209	0 0 916 1,838 439 2,677 0 7,485 2,230 133,775 209,160 1,862,373 1,541 130,101 25,483 2,019,498 1,417,457 358,943 0 0 20,896 31,659 796,988 2,277,545 40,881 784 204,833	24 0 0 111 3 2 111 0 5 6 12 88 98 3 51 28 98 3 51 28 98 3 51 28 98 3 51 28 98 3 51 28 120 0 0 111 8 8 120 12 11 2 11 0 5 5 6 12 12 8 8 11 10 10 5 5 6 12 12 8 8 11 10 10 5 12 11 10 5 5 6 12 12 8 8 11 10 10 5 12 11 10 5 5 6 12 12 8 8 11 10 10 5 12 12 11 10 12 12 11 10 12 12 11 10 12 12 11 10 12 12 11 10 12 12 11 10 12 12 11 10 12 12 12 11 10 12 12 11 10 12 12 11 10 12 12 12 11 10 12 12 12 12 11 10 12 12 11 10 12 12 11 10 12 12 12 12 11 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12	61 385 154 114 76 7700 114 106 148 41.0 960 912.03 425 1,160 42.5 900 629.29 660 234 425 300 395 206 300 520 520 400 196 38.0		0 0 0 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 1.41 5 40 -1 0 3.93 7 10 0 0 0 5 0 0 0 10 5 0 0 0 0	ALIMTIAZ MANAZEL NIND BIIHC SENERGY AGHC KPPC TAHSSILAT JEERANH EKHOLDING GFH INOVEST Financial Service Investment Instru- ASC OSOS FUTURE HAYATCOMM Technology SANAD AFAQ ALSHAMEL EFFECT AJWAN MASAKEN DALQAN	20.0 98 29.5 130 21.0 35.0 59 45.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 158 0.0 es 244 126 0.0 47.5 0.0 47.5 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 59 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.	19.5 93 28.5 126 19.5 57 44.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 154 0.0 154 0.0 242 242 124 0.0 47.5 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0	657,110 149,097 4,006,761 2,912,650 5,760,941 19,055,184 113,665 737,874 254,850 0 0 0 927,421 0 78,664,864 0 26,000 5,275 0 1,600 32,875 0 1,600 32,875 0 1,710,000 0 1,241,700 0 0	22,342 2,910 381,075 84,119 737,494 389,063 3,962 42,752 11,405 0 0 0 0 144,751 0 3,431,884 0 6,312 664 0 76 7,052 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 6,662 0 0 66,686 0	11 13 118 65 107 148 13 33 18 0 0 0 0 1,376 0 4 2 0 2 8 0 0 0 1,376 0 0 1,376 0 1,376 0 1,376 0 1,376 0 1,376 0 1,376 0 1,376 0 1,376 0 1,376 0 1,376 0 1,376 0 1,376 0 1,376 0 1,376 0 0 1,376 0 0 1,376 0 0 1,376 0 0 1,376 0 0 0 1,376 0 0 0 0 0 1,376 0 0 0 0 0 1,376 0 0 0 0 0 1,376 0 0 0 0 0 1,376 0 0 0 0 0 1,376 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	31.5 34.0 20.0 95 29.0 35.0 59 44.5 41.0 56 75 586.02 0.00 242 124 90 47.5 590.36 100 162 460 39.0 40.0 55 350	A A A A A A A A A A A V V V V V V V V V
ABLETV YAS AHR ULAFUEL UNTAZAHAT ZZERA DOR JTUREKID IRAI MAH ezzan onsumer Service onsumer Service onsumer Service Secommunicatio BK BK BK BK BK BK BK BK BK BK BK BK BK BK	0.0 0.0 0.0 114 76 770 116 0.0 148 41.0 970 28 425 1,160 43.0 900 900 234 43.0 900 900 234 0.0 0.0 395 208 305 530 400	59 0.0 0.0 0.0 114 75 770 114 0.0 146 40.5 960 420 1,120 42.0 900 650 234 0.0 390 206 300 510 395	803,212 0 0 8,034 24,500 570 23,477 0 51,000 55,000 139,308 1,116,968 4,430,460 1,376 3,093,678 28,314 7,553,828 2,151,532 1,533,943 0 0 0 53,267 153,587 2,652,911 4,385,650 102,649 4,000	0 0 916 1,838 439 2,677 0 7,485 2,230 133,775 209,160 1,862,373 1,541 130,101 25,483 2,019,498 1,417,457 358,943 0 0 20,896 31,659 796,988 2,277,545 40,881 784	24 0 0 111 3 2 111 0 5 6 12 88 98 3 51 28 98 3 51 28 98 3 51 28 98 3 51 28 98 3 51 28 0 0 0 111 88 12 2 111 0 5 5 6 12 12 88 111 0 5 5 6 12 12 88 111 0 12 11 12 12 88 111 12 12 111 10 15 12 12 111 10 15 12 12 111 10 15 12 12 111 10 15 12 12 111 10 15 12 12 111 10 15 12 12 111 10 15 12 12 111 10 15 12 12 111 10 15 12 12 111 12 12 111 12 12 111 12 12 111 12 12	61 385 154 114 76 7700 114 106 148 41.0 9600 912.03 425 1,160 42.5 900 629.29 6600 234 425 300 395 206 300 395 206 300		0 0 0 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 1.0 1.41 5 40 -1 0 3.93 7 10 0 0 0 5 0 0 0 0 5 0 0	ALIMTIAZ MANAZEL NIND BIIHC SENERGY AGHC KPPC TAHSSILAT JEERANH EKHOLDING GFH INOVEST Financial Service Investment Instru ASC OSOS FUTURE HAYATCOMM Technology SANAD AFAQ ALSHAMEL EFFECT AJWAN MASAKEN	20.0 98 29.5 130 21.0 35.0 59 45.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0	19.5 93 28.5 126 19.5 57 44.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 154 0.0 242 124 0.0 47.5 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 38.5 0.0 50	657,110 149,097 4,006,751 2,912,650 5,760,941 19,055,184 113,665 737,874 254,850 0 0 0 927,421 0 78,664,864 0 26,000 5,275 0 1,600 32,875 0 1,600 32,875	22,342 2,910 381,075 84,119 737,494 389,063 3,962 42,752 11,405 0 0 0 144,751 0 3,431,884 0 6 ,312 664 0 76 7,052 0 0 0 0 6,662 0 0 66,686	11 13 118 65 107 148 13 33 18 0 0 0 0 1,376 0 4 2 0 2 8 0 0 0 1,376 0 0 1,376 0 0 0 1,376 0 0 0 1,376 0 0 0 0 1,376 0 0 0 0 1,376 0 0 0 0 1,376 0 0 0 0 0 0 1,376 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	31.5 34.0 20.0 95 29.0 128 21.0 35.0 59 44.5 41.0 56 170 156 75 586.02 0.00 242 124 90 47.5 590.36 100 162 460 39.0 40.0 55	A A A A A A A A A A A A A V V V V V V V
ABLETV YAS AHR ULAFUEL UNTAZAHAT ZZEERA DOR JTUREKID .RAI MAH ezzan DONSUMER SERVICE TSTELEC VA DECOMMUNICATION BK BK BK BK BK BK BK BK BK BK BK BK BK	0.0 0.0 0.0 114 76 0.0 148 41.0 970 es 425 1,160 43.0 900 900 900 900 900 900 900 900 900 9	59 0.0 0.0 114 75 770 114 0.0 146 40.5 960 420 1,120 42.0 900 420 1,120 42.0 900 500 234 0.0 0.0 390 206 300 510 395 196 38.0	803,212 0 0 8,034 24,500 570 23,477 0 51,000 55,000 139,308 1,116,968 4,430,460 1,376 3,093,678 28,314 7,653,828 2,151,532 1,533,943 0 0 53,267 153,587 2,652,911 4,385,850 102,649 4,000 5,390,209 468,591	0 0 0 916 1,838 439 2,677 0 7,485 2,230 133,775 209,160 1,862,373 1,541 130,101 25,483 2,019,498 1,417,457 358,943 0 0 20,896 31,659 796,988 2,277,545 40,881 784 204,833 102,024	24 0 0 11 3 2 11 0 5 6 12 88 98 3 51 51 28 88 98 3 51 28 28 180 79 9 0 0 0 111 8 54 108 12 11 8 70 0 0 0 0 40	61 385 154 114 760 114 106 148 41.0 960 912.03 425 1,160 425 1,160 425 1,160 425 20 660 234 425 300 629.29 660 234 425 300 520 400 520 400 196 38.0 216		0 0 0 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 1.41 5 40 -1 0 3.93 7 10 0 0 0 5 0 0 0 5 0 0 0 0 5 0 0 0 0 0	ALIMTIAZ MANAZEL NIND BIIHC SENERGY AGHC KPPC TAHSSILAT JEERANH EKHOLDING GFH INOVEST Financial Service Investment Instru- ASC OSOS FUTURE HAYATCOMM Technology SANAD AFAQ ALSHAMEL EFFECT AJWAN MASAKEN DALQAN ALEID	20.0 98 29.5 130 21.0 35.0 59 45.0 0.0 0.0 158 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.	19.5 93 28.5 126 19.5 57 44.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 154 0.0 154 0.0 242 124 0.0 47.5 242 124 0.0 47.5 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0	657,110 149,097 4,006,761 2,912,650 5,760,941 19,055,184 113,665 737,874 254,850 0 0 0 927,421 0 78,664,864 0 26,000 5,275 0 1,600 32,875 0 0 0 1,241,700 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	22,342 2,910 381,075 84,119 737,494 389,063 3,962 42,752 11,405 0 0 0 1144,751 0 3,431,884 0 6,312 664 0 76 7,052 0 0 0 0 6,662 0 0 6,662 0 0 6,6662 0 0 0	11 13 118 65 107 148 13 33 18 0 0 0 33 0 1,376 0 1,376 0 1,376 0 1,376 0 0 1,376 0 0 1,376 0 0 1,376 0 0 1,376 0 0 1,376 0 0 1,376 0 0 1,376 0 0 1,376 0 0 1,376 0 0 1,376 0 0 1,376 0 0 1,376 0 1,376 0 1,376 0 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,376 1,37	31.5 34.0 20.0 95 29.0 128 21.0 35.0 59 44.5 41.0 56 75 586.02 0.00 242 124 90 47.5 590.36 	
ABLETV YAS AHR ULAFUEL UNTAZAHAT ZZEERA DOOR JJTUREKID LRAI MAH ezzan onsumer Service AIN OREDOO ITSTELEC VA BK BK BK BK BK BK BK BK BK BK BK BK BK	0.0 0.0 114 76 0.0 116 0.0 148 41.0 970 95 425 1,160 43.0 900 900 900 234 0.0 0.0 395 208 305 530 400 196 38.5 218	59 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 114 0.0 146 40.5 960 420 1.120 42.0 900 650 234 0.0 390 206 300 510 395 196 38.0 216 236	803,212 0 0 8,034 24,500 570 23,477 0 51,000 55,000 139,308 1,116,968 4,430,460 1,376 3,093,678 28,314 7,553,828 2,151,532 1,533,943 0 0 53,267 153,587 2,652,911 4,385,850 102,649 4,000 5,390,209 468,591 16,896,539 2,000	0 0 0 916 1,838 439 2,677 0 7,485 2,230 133,775 209,160 1,862,373 1,541 130,101 25,483 2,019,498 1,417,457 358,943 0 0 20,896 31,659 796,988 2,277,545 40,881 784 204,833 102,024 5,252,010 472	24 0 0 111 3 2 111 0 5 6 12 88 3 51 12 88 3 51 12 88 3 51 28 98 3 51 12 88 98 3 51 12 88 98 3 51 12 88 12 98 3 51 12 88 12 12 88 12 12 88 12 12 88 12 12 88 12 12 88 12 12 88 12 12 88 12 12 88 12 12 88 12 12 88 12 12 88 12 12 88 12 12 88 12 12 88 12 12 88 12 12 88 12 12 88 13 12 12 88 12 12 88 12 12 88 13 12 13 13 12 13 13 11 13 8 8 11 13 8 8 11 13 13 11 13 8 8 11 13 8 8 11 13 8 8 11 13 8 8 11 13 8 8 11 1 1 8 8 11 13 12 11 13 12 11 13 12 11 13 12 11 13 12 11 11 13 12 11 11 13 12 11 11 13 12 11 11 13 12 11 11 13 12 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11	61 385 154 114 76 770 114 106 148 41.0 960 912.03 425 1,160 42.5 900 629.29 660 234 425 300 629.29 660 234 425 300 520 400 196 38.0 216 832.22 236		0 0 0 1 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 10 1.41 5 40 -1 0 3.93 3 93 7 0 0 0 5 0 0 0 5 0 0 0 10 5 5 0 0 0 2 2 3.61	ALIMTIAZ MANAZEL NIND BIIHC SENERGY AGHC KPPC TAHSSILAT JEERANH EKHOLDING GFH INOVEST Financial Service Investment Instru ASC OSOS FUTURE HAYATCOMM Technology SANAD AFAQ ALSHAMEL EFFECT AJWAN MASAKEN DALQAN ALEID MIDAN FLEX THURAYA	20.0 98 29.5 130 21.0 35.0 59 45.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 158 0.0 244 126 0.0 47.5 244 126 0.0 47.5 0.0 39.5 0.0 56 0.0 0.0 39.5 0.0 56 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.	19.5 93 28.5 126 19.5 57 44.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 154 0.0 242 124 0.0 47.5 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0	657,110 149,097 4,006,761 2,912,650 5,760,941 19,055,184 113,665 737,874 254,850 0 0 0 927,421 0 78,664,864 0 26,000 5,275 0 1,600 32,875 0 0 0 1,241,700 0 0 0 1,241,700 0 0 0 10 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	22,342 2,910 381,075 84,119 737,494 389,063 3,962 42,752 11,405 0 0 0 144,751 0 3,431,884 0 6,312 664 0 76 7,052 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	111 13 118 65 107 148 13 33 18 0 0 0 33 0 0 1,376 0 1,376 0 2 2 8 0 0 0 2 2 8 0 0 0 0 1,376 0 0 1,376 0 0 0 0 1,376 0 0 0 0 1,376 0 0 0 0 1,376 0 0 0 1,376 0 0 0 1,376 0 0 0 1,376 0 0 0 1,376 0 0 0 1,376 0 0 0 0 1,376 0 0 0 0 1,376 0 0 0 1,376 0 0 0 0 1,376 0 0 0 1,376 0 0 0 0 0 1,376 0 0 0 0 1,376 0 0 0 0 0 1,376 0 0 0 0 0 1,376 0 0 0 0 1,376 0 0 0 0 1,376 0 0 0 0 1,376 0 0 0 0 1,376 0 0 0 0 1,376 0 0 0 1,376 0 0 0 0 1,376 0 0 0 0 1,376 0 0 0 0 1,376 0 0 0 0 1,376 0 0 0 0 1,376 0 0 0 1,376 0 0 0 1,376 0 0 0 1,376 0 0 0 0 0 1,376 0 0 0 0 1,376 0 0 0 0 1,376 0 0 0 0 1,376 0 0 0 0 1,376 0 0 0 0 0 1,376 0 0 0 0 0 0 1,376 0 0 0 0 0 0 1,376 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	31.5 34.0 20.0 95 29.0 128 21.0 35.0 59 44.5 41.0 56 75 586.02 0.00 242 124 90 47.5 590.36 	
ULTAN ABLETV YAS AHR ULAFUEL UNTAZAHAT AZEERA OOR JTUREKID LRAI MAH ezzan onsumer Service AIN OREDO ITSTELEC VA BK BK BK BK BK BK BK BK BK BK BK BK BK	0.0 0.0 114 76 0.0 116 0.0 148 41.0 970 970 970 970 970 970 970 970 970 97	59 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 114 0.0 146 40.5 960 420 1,120 42.0 900 650 234 0.0 390 206 300 510 395 196 38.0 216	803,212 0 0 8,034 24,500 570 23,477 0 51,000 55,000 139,308 1,116,958 4,430,460 1,376 3,093,678 28,314 7,553,828 2,151,532 1,533,943 0 0 53,267 153,587 2,652,911 4,385,850 102,649 4,000 5,390,209 468,591 16,896,539	0 0 0 916 1,838 439 2,677 0 7,485 2,230 133,775 209,160 1,862,373 1,541 130,101 25,483 2,019,498 1,417,457 358,943 0 0 20,896 31,659 796,988 2,277,545 40,881 784 204,833 102,024 5,252,010	24 0 0 111 3 2 111 0 5 6 6 12 88 3 51 12 88 3 51 12 88 3 51 12 88 3 51 12 88 3 51 12 88 3 51 12 88 12 98 3 51 12 88 12 12 12 88 12 12 88 12 12 88 12 12 88 12 12 88 12 12 88 12 12 88 12 12 88 12 12 88 12 12 88 12 12 88 12 12 88 12 12 88 12 12 88 11 12 12 88 11 12 12 88 11 12 12 88 11 12 88 11 12 12 88 11 12 12 88 11 12 12 88 11 12 12 88 11 12 12 88 11 12 12 88 11 12 12 88 11 12 12 88 11 12 12 88 11 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12	61 385 154 114 76 770 114 106 148 41.0 960 912.03 425 1,160 42.5 900 629.29 660 234 425 300 629.29 660 234 425 300 520 400 196 300 520 400 196 320 520 400 196 320 520 520 520 520 520 520 520 5		0 0 0 1 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 1.41 5 40 -1 0 3.93 7 10 0 0 0 5 0 0 0 10 5 0 0 0 10 5 5 0 0 0 0	ALIMTIAZ MANAZEL NIND BIIHC SENERGY AGHC KPPC TAHSSILAT JEERANH EKHOLDING GFH INOVEST Financial Service Investment Instru ASC OSOS FUTURE HAYATCOMM Technology SANAD AFAQ ALSHAMEL EFFECT AJWAN MASAKEN DALQAN ALEID MIDAN FLEX	20.0 98 29.5 130 21.0 35.0 59 45.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 158 0.0 244 126 0.0 47.5 0.0 47.5 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 56 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 59 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 59 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.	19.5 93 28.5 126 19.5 57 44.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 154 0.0 154 0.0 242 124 0.0 47.5 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0	657,110 149,097 4,006,761 2,912,650 5,760,941 19,055,184 113,665 737,874 254,850 0 0 0 927,421 0 78,664,864 0 286,000 5,275 0 1,600 32,875 0 1,600 32,875 0 1,600 0 0 1,241,700 0 0 0 1,241,700 0 0 1,241,700 0 0 1,241,700 0 0 1,241,700 0 0 1,241,700 0 0 1,241,700 0 0 0 0 0 1,241,700 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	22,342 2,910 381,075 84,119 737,494 389,063 3,962 42,752 11,405 0 0 0 144,751 0 3,431,884 0 6 ,312 664 0 7 6 7,052 0 0 0 6,662 0 0 0 6,662 0 0 6,6662 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	11 13 118 65 107 148 13 33 18 0 0 0 33 0 1,376 0 1,376 0 1,376 0 0 1,376 0 0 1,376 0 0 1,376 0 0 1,376 0 0 1,376 0 0 1,376 0 0 0 1,376 0 0 0 1,376 0 0 0 1,376 0 0 0 1,376 0 0 0 0 1,376 0 0 0 0 1,376 0 0 0 0 1,376 0 0 0 0 1,376 0 0 0 0 1,376 0 0 0 0 1,376 0 0 0 1,376 0 0 0 1,376 0 0 0 1,376 0 0 0 1,376 0 0 0 1,376 0 0 0 0 1,376 0 0 0 0 0 0 1,376 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	31.5 34.0 20.0 95 29.0 128 21.0 35.0 59 44.5 41.0 56 75 586.02 0.00 242 124 90 47.5 590.36 	
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^{جلوبل} Global



HUNTINGTON: Blake Hancock, of Marion, Ind., poses outside his union's meeting hall in Huntington, Indiaba. Hancock works at the United Technologies Electronic Controls factory in Huntington along with his mother and his aunt. — AP

WORKERS AT ENDANGERED **INDIANA PLANT FEEL** FORGOTTEN BY TRUMP

HUNTINGTON, Indiana: A full parking lot and 50-hour workweeks belie the anxiety at the United Technologies-owned factory outside a small northeastern Indiana city, where Mike Harmon and co-workers wonder whether they aren't just stockpiling parts for when the company sends their 700 jobs to Mexico. Their situation has gained scant attention compared to the sister Carrier Corp factory two hours away in Indianapolis, which became a rallying cause against plant closures during the presidential campaign and where President-elect Donald Trump intervened to stem some - not all - job losses. "I don't think they look at us, being from a small town ..." said Harmon, a 44-year-old Huntington native who's worked at the factory for seven years. "The whole time during the campaign he talked Indianapolis, Indianapolis, Indianapolis, never heard one word about Huntington." It's a perceived slight that stings in a county where 72 percent voted for Trump and manufacturing makes up about onefifth of all jobs. On Dec 1, Trump and Vice President-elect/Indiana Gov. Mike Pence touted Trump's role in Carrier deciding to reverse about 800 planned job cuts at the Indianapolis plant - a move that also provides United Technologies \$7 million in state incentives. Neither they nor company CEO Greg Hayes mentioned the Huntington plant or discussed the some 500 Carrier jobs still being lost. Employees at the United Technologies Electronic Controls factory in Huntington say they've been working mostly seven days a week since late October, making control panels for the furnace, air conditioning and refrigeration industries. Leaders of their union believe the company is doing so ahead of the factory's layoffs expected to start in April and continue into 2018. But Connecticut-based United Technologies said in a statement that its plans haven't changed. It declined a request to interview a company executive. Hayes has cited a belief that the Trump administration will cut corporate taxes and stem business regulations. Nationwide, the US Labor Department has issued over 1,600 approvals for layoffs or plant closings since 2015 as a result of shifting production overseas or competition from imports, according to the American Alliance of Manufacturing. Indiana has one of the nation's most manufacturing-dependent economies even though it has lost 144,000 such jobs, or 22 percent, since 2000. Trump has warned he'll impose a 35 percent tariff on goods imported by companies that outsource production, and a week ago on Twitter ripped plans by Milwaukeebased Rexnord to close a 300-worker Indianapolis bearings factory in another production shift to Mexico. But it isn't clear whether Trump intends to keep personally intervening in corporate decisions. Three days after the Carrier factory trip, Pence told ABC's "This Week" that Trump will "make those decisions on a dayby-day basis in the course of the transition, in the course of the administration."

Cutting deals

Government leaders have long been involved in cutting deals with corporations, according to Scott Paul, president of the American Alliance for Manufacturing.

"It is a fact of life in the real world. Governors engage in economic development on a regular basis, usually they are trying to attract jobs," he said. "Countries do the same thing every day." Some Huntington workers are upset over the tax incentives for a company that also owns Pratt & Whitney - a big supplier of fighter jet engines that relies in part on US military contracts. Bob Breedlove, a 60-year-old who's worked at the plant for a decade, voted for Trump and still thinks he's the right person, even though he's "not crazy about this deal." "My tax dollars are going to save them, but they aren't going to help save my job," Breedlove said. "I know how much money this company makes, they don't need our help to stay in business and make a profit." Manufacturing jobs are a valuable part of Huntington County's economy, with average annual pay topping \$57,000 in 2015, according to the Indiana Business Research Center. That's nearly 50 percent more than the county's overall average earnings. The United Technologies factory, which draws employees from several nearby communities, is seen as stable employment. Tucked along a bypass of the 17,000person city and surrounded by miles of farmland, it recently seemed to be the busiest of the 10 or so businesses in an industrial park. Rouie Hawkins met her husband, Ford, at the factory. They're both still there but have a Plan B: He's making plans to start a usedcar business and she's weighing whether to take advantage of the union's severance agreement for reimbursement toward up to four years of college.

"I'll be 50 soon and I worry about even if I go back to school, then I'll be in my mid 50s when I finish a degree and who's going to want to hire me," Hawkins said.

Harmon, whose wife also works at the factory, said it's his third factory closing. He's worried he won't find anything close to the \$17 an hour United Technologies provides. The couple has two children in college and two in high school and is doing what he called "major couponing" and cutting back on non-necessities. "I've told my family that 'You've got DirectTV right now. Next year at this time, you may have antenna TV," Harmon said. "Our main thing right now is banking money so that we can try to survive when we are let go."

At a downtown diner, Lori Guy explained that her vote for Trump already is paying off, even if it didn't help her town. "I'm sure if there was a way, he would have saved more jobs," said Guy, who works at an apartment complex where many United Technologies staffers live.

Blake Hancock, his mother and his aunt all work at the plant. While he's grateful for the jobs that are staying in Indiana, the 25year-old believes Trump was trying to buff up his image, not protect workers. —AP



MARKETS AWAIT FED'S INTEREST RATE DECISION

KUWAIT: Last week started with the Italian referendum result yielding the opposite impact to what most investors would have expected. The ECB by Thursday added to the confusion by announcing a €20 billion reduction in asset purchases to €60 billion a month from April 2017at the same time extending the program to December 2017. The market quickly realized it was a clever way of keeping a dovish tone even if scaling back, especially as they made it quite clear that they could increase it at any point to respond to events.

Moreover, Draghi's press conference was as dovish that the euro remained near the lows of the year. He also said that ECB staff economic forecasts for euro area inflation averaging 1.7 percent in 2019 were "not really" close to their mandate of just under 2 percent.

Simultaneously during the week, three Fed speakers, New York Fed President William Dudley and his Chicago and St. Louis counterparts Charles Evans and James Bullard said at separate events that they were close to achieving their dual mandate of full employment and 2 percent inflation which in turn leaves little doubt about the outcome of the next FOMC meeting. Dudley said that US election of Donald Trump has created considerable uncertainty over the policies he will pursue. Consequently, it was too soon for the Federal Reserve to judge whether its plan for gradual interest rate hikes needs adjusting.

All eyes turn this coming week to the US Federal Reserve on Wednesday. Fed futures prices showed a 97 percent probability of an interest rate hike by the end of this week. Moreover, markets are pricing in over 50 percent chance of another hike by June 2017. However the probability could change in response to what policies Donald Trump would push next year once in office.

As mentioned earlier, the political risk In Europe continues to increase with Italians massively rejecting the need of constitutional reforms. As a result Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi resigned following the defeat. The rejection of the people could potentially threaten the country's unstable banking system. The "No" vote had overwhelming won the referendum with nearly 60 percent of Italian voters rejecting Renzi's constitutional reforms. It is now up to the Italian President to decide the next move. He could piece together a government out of the current Parliament or call for a general election. The populist Five Star Movement had demanded a snap election, which polls indicate it would win, and continue to pledge to hold a referendum on Italy's EU membership.

Moreover, financial markets have seen the outcome of the referendum as a big negative threat for the European Union causing more uncertainty to the country's banking industry. Indeed, the first victim was revealed this week being Italy's oldest bank moving in a downward spiral after the ECB has rejected its request for more time to raise capital.

Following Britain's vote to leave the European Union in June and Donald Trump's victory in last month's US presidential election and now Italy rejecting political and economic reforms, the global political arena continues to lighted the world third largest economy's streak since 1970.

be extremely sensitive in a time where the Federal Reserve prepares itself to raise interest rates next week.

On the currency front, the euro initially rose following the European Central Bank press release, as investors thought that the ECB was reducing its quantitative easing program. However, markets guickly realized that the net result of the bank's decisions was negative for the currency, since extending the easing program to December is more than the six month extension that markets expected. This quickly forced the Euro down against its major counterparts. Its needless to say that the Union state will be closely linked to a chain of political events in Europe in 2017. Elections in Netherlands, Germany, and France might open up the chance for the populist sentiment that is taking a hold of Europe to have a stronger foothold in the political scene.

The Euro currency opened the week at 1.0672 against the US Dollar and managed to reach a short lived high at 1.0872. The pairclosed the week near the lows of 1.0565.

dependence on exports. The pair closed the week at 115.40.

NBK MONEY MARKETS REPORT

US manufacturing

The US ISM non-manufacturing index climbed more than expected in November from 54.8 to 57.2. The increase was driven by business activity, employment and deliveries. This is the highest level in 13 months. Overall, ISM non-manufacturing survey brought a positive surprise and suggests that the services sector is growing at a comfortable pace. Taken together with the ISM manufacturing survey released last week, which was also better than expected, the composite level of ISM manufacturing and non-manufacturing is consistent with GDP growth being above 2 percent yearover-vear.

US trade deficit

The US trade deficit recorded its biggest expand in more than one and a half years in October as exports of soybeans and other products fell, suggesting trade would be a



The Sterling Pound opened the week at 1.2725 and reached a low of 1.2545 against USD. However, the Pound recovered as hopes that the UK Government might seek a soft "Brexit" whereby the UK pays to remain in the single market once it has left the European Union. The currency managed to close the week at 1.2578.

In Asia, the USDJPY managed to reach a high of 115.44on speculation the Japanese economy would face pressure from US President-elect Donald Trump's plan to withdraw the US from any multinational trade deal and on potential implementation of protectionist policies. Although expectations Trump will increase fiscal spending and set US growth on a higher gear were seen as a benefit to Japan, concerns around trade polidrag on growth in the fourth quarter. Trade deficit expanded to \$42.6 billion in October from \$36.2 billion in previous month. Higher imports due to rising domestic demand also contributed to the widening of the deficit. When adjusted for inflation, the deficit rose to \$60.3 billion from \$54.2 billion in September.

The number of job openings was little changed at 5.5 million on the last business day of October, dropped from 5.6 million in previous month. The job openings rate was 3.7 percent in October. However, the unemployment claims came at 258,000, a decrease of 10,000 from the previous week's unrevised level of 268,000. The 4-week moving average was 252,500, an increase of 1,000 from the previous week's unrevised average of 251,500. This marks 92 consecutive weeks of

Europe & UK

The European Central Bank said in a press release that its Governing Council decided to keep its interest rates unchanged, in line with expectations. The council also decided to maintain its asset purchase program at the current monthly pace of €80 billion until the end of March 2017. However, the program will be reduced to €60 billion starting from April 2017, and its running period will be extended to December 2017. The press release did not rule out the possibility of lengthening the program's period further. The extension would add a total of 540 billion Euros to its current 1.7 billioneuro stimulus, making the size of the program double what the ECB initially announced it in January 2015. By extending bond purchases but reducing the monthly pace, the ECB may be trying to preserve its extraordinary monetary stimulus as political risks cloud the outlook for the euro area's recovery.

pointing to another good quarter and strong end to the year for the all-important service sector. This can be attributed in part to the fact that the UK is yet to trigger Article 50, meaning that nothing has changed yet, while the fall in sterling has heightened the UK's international competitiveness.

On a different front, UK manufacturing production fell by 0.9 percent on the month to October 2016, following an increase of 0.6 percent in the earlier month. The drops were broad-based across the sector, with the largest downward pressure coming from pharmaceuticals, which fell by 3.6 percent. Manufacturing month on same month a year ago decreased by 0.4 percent in October 2016. The largest downward contribution came from pharmaceuticals, which fell by 9.4 percent. There were some increases partially offsetting the decreases, with the largest upward contribution coming from other manufacturing, increasing by 10.4 percent.

Furope PMI

The rate of eurozone economic expansion accelerated to its highest in the year to date during November. Although still well in expansionary category, the eurozone services and composite PMI reflected marginal softening. Eurozone Services PMI dropped slightly to 53.8 from 54.1 in October. The figure came marginally weaker than market expectations.

On other hand, German service providers enjoyed a further month of solid output growth, with the latest increase the most marked in six months. Increased activity was driven by new business wins which continued to expand strongly. With business outstanding rising for the first time since June, companies were encouraged to raise their workforce numbers further during the month. Germany Services PMI Business Activity rose from October's 54.2 to a six-month high of 55.1 in November and thereby signaled stronger growth of business activity.

Germany factory orders

Germany factory orders grew at the fastest pace in more than two years in October, indicating strong economic activity at the end of this year. In details, factory orders grew 4.9 percent month to month in October, reversing a 0.3 percent drop in September. In conclusion, manufacturing has gained momentum in autumn, which suggests that in the fourth quarter German economy is growing at a considerably quicker pace than in the previous quarters.

UK services

UK services sector activity showed an unexpected improvement and surprised markets to the upside in the month of November. The services PMI accelerated its pace of expansion to 55.2 in November from 54.5 in previous month. The rebound marked the highest levels in ten-months, highlighting the underlying strength of the economy at a time of huge political uncertainty. Certainly the economy has held up much better than expected in the wake of the Brexit referendum outcome. The leave the cash rate unchanged at 1.5 percent, noting that "taking account of the available information, and having eased monetary policy earlier in the year, the Board judged that

RBA keeps rate unchanged

The Reserve Bank of Australia decided to

holding the stance of policy unchanged at this meeting would be consistent with sustainable growth in the economy and achieving the inflation target over time." The RBA noted that, commodity prices have risen over the course of this year, reflecting both stronger demand and cut backs in supply in some countries. The higher commodity prices have supported a rise in Australia's terms of trade, although they remain much lower than they have been in recent years. The higher prices are providing a boost to national income.

Chinese consumer price index increased by 2.3 percent year over year in November, slightly above the market expectations of 2.2 percent and the fastest pace since April. Food prices climbed 4 percent year over year and non-food prices 1.8 percent. The Producer Price Index climbed by 3.3 percent y/y, the highest since October 2011, thanks to high commodities prices. The consensus estimate was for an increase of 2.2 percent. Producer price deflation has been abating all year as the economy continued to absorb spare capacity. Producer prices first turned marginally positive in September and have remained on the right side of growth ever since.

Japanese GDP dropped

Gross domestic product came at 0.3 percent in the September quarter of this year, just half of the 0.6 percent growth rate expected by market. The GDP Deflator fell 0.2 percent, also two times worse than forecasts, which had promised a drop by just 0.1 percent. As for positive news, the seasonally adjusted current account widened from ¥1.48 trillion to ¥1.93 trillion in October, exceeding the median forecast. Kuwait

Kuwaiti dinar at 0.30540

The USDKWD opened at 0.30540 yesterday

cy under the incoming administration high-

initial claims below 300,000, the longest

UK data continue to surprise to the upside, and this services PMI reading is no exception, morning.

BANKING ON CHANGE: TECH STARTUPS TARGET FINANCIAL SERVICES

SAN FRANCISCO: It may not be much longer before analyst Rajesh Kandaswamy. But even in that scenario, bank branches join video-rental stores and record shops as relics of a bygone era. Silicon Valley is pressuring banks to change their ways or risk becoming the latest industry overtaken by technology. Hundreds of startups are offering easier and cheaper ways to save, borrow, spend and invest. They are doing it by shifting the battleground to smartphone apps and websites, which function as digital offices that are accessible around the clock with minimal staffing, and by lowering fees.

Given how much customers dislike it, the financial services industry seems ripe for "disruption," as Silicon Valley likes to call industry upheaval. These financial technology, or "fintech," startups may also soon get further validation from a key banking regulator. Comptroller of the Currency Thomas Curry last week announced plans for a special national bank charter that would allow fintechs to offer their products without having to get regulatory approval state to state. Part of Curry's motivation lies in his belief that fintech can help consumers who either don't want or can't afford to establish accounts with traditional banks.

At this point, the fintech sector hasn't proven it can be a viable or trustworthy alternative to traditional banks and stock brokerages. Few of the startups have ever posted a profit, and one of the biggest, the Lending Club, is trying to recover from a breakdown that triggered the resignation of CEO Renaud Laplanche earlier this year. The Justice Department is investigating the events that led to Laplanche's abrupt departure.

"The disruption in banking is coming later than other areas because of the complexity of the regulations and the amount of trust required," Laplanche said in an interview earlier this year, while he was still CEO. "Trusting you with my savings is not like booking a trip online."

Banks, meanwhile, have demonstrated their resiliency and resourcefulness. With the help of taxpayer-backed bailouts, the industry has survived a financial crisis of its own making, and now appears to be tackling the fintech threat. They are closing branches, laying off workers, pouring money into their own technology departments and even buying or teaming up with fintech startups.

Taking the threat seriously

"Whenever I talk to big banks, they ask, 'What are the disruptors doing? Which of their ideas can I copy?"" says Forrester Research analyst Oliwia Berdak.

A recent survey of the financial services industry by the research firm Gartner Inc. found that 70 percent of respondents considered fintech startups to be a bigger threat than their traditional rivals.

With their guard up, the much bigger banks are more likely to drive many of the fintech startups out of business if they don't acquire them first, says Gartner he predicts "many of the ideas coming out of fintech will survive in one way or another, which will be beneficial for consumers."

About \$850 billion in consumer banking revenue in the US alone is at stake. Fintech captured just 1 percent of that last year, according to a Citibank study. By 2023, though, Citibank expects fintech to control 17 percent of a \$1.2 trillion market.

Emboldened by predictions like that, fintechnologists tend to be brash, like many of the entrepreneurs who have successfully reshaped other industries.

A big, bold approach

"During the next 10 years, we are going to create an international company that will be like nothing the financial services industry has ever seen," boasts Baiju Bhatt, co-founder of Robinhood, a stock brokerage that does not charge any commissions for its more than 1 million customers to buy and sell shares. To make money, Robinhood recently introduced a \$10 monthly service that allows trading when the stock market is closed and offers higher borrowing limits.

At Affirm, an online lender, CEO Max Levchin is attempting to reshape finance for a second time after making his first big splash in Silicon Valley as a cofounder of PayPal, a digital payment service born in the 1990s.

Helped by his pedigree, Levchin has raised \$525 million to back Affirm's focus on consumers who do not like or cannot get credit cards. Instead of providing a revolving line of credit with high interest rates that compound, Affirm has developed its own formula to identify borrowers able to repay loans in equal installments in time frames ranging from three months to one year.

Affirm also refuses to charge fees for late payments, to further distinguish itself from banks and other credit card issuers.

"I just don't think you can run a business by screwing your customers these days," Levchin says. "I would like to think we are returning to what lenders are supposed to do."

Customers still aren't totally sold

Although many consumers rarely expect big banks to act in their best interests, they typically consider them to be a safer place to keep money because of their long histories in business, says Forrester's Berdak. Like the big traditional banks, most digital-only banks also offer government-backed insurance on deposits, but Berdak says that is not enough to overcome lingering doubts about their long-term prospects.

Lending Club, for instance, has been operating under a cloud since revealing that paperwork for \$3 million in loans had been falsified under Laplanche's leadership. Laplanche declined to comment about circumstances surrounding his resignation. —AP

'ZOMBIE BANKS' GIVE UKRAINE NIGHTMARES

KIEV: Ukraine's central bank keeps trying to shut them down but they keep surviving: 'zombie banks' are roiling the impoverished country's financial system through the help of allegedly crooked courts.

The former Soviet republic-labelled the continent's most corrupt state by the European Court of Auditors on Wednesday-needs financial aid from the International Monetary Fund to help stabilize its path out of a dire twoyear recession.

But one of the IMF's main demands for more lending under its \$17.5-billion (16.2-billion-euro) program is for Ukraine to shutter troubled banks whose assets are smaller than their bad loans and therefore need government help to stay open. That is what the National Bank of Ukraine (NBU) has been trying to do-with varying success.

'Nothing but garbage'

A somewhat exacerbated director of the NBU's legal department said that owners targeted by Ukraine's main financial institution keep finding ways to stay afloat. Oleg Zamorsky said nine banks ordered to cease operations by the NBU were resurrected by the courts by early December.

An earlier central bank stress test found that 28 of 39 lenders checked lacked the required cash on hand to survive another potential economic crisis. "The justice system is being used by bank owners that have been removed from the financial system for their own personal gain," the NBU's Zamorsky said in a statement issued on Wednesday.

'This, in turn, scuttles our efforts to make the Ukrainian banking system healthy and to clean up the sector from zombie banks and banks that are nothing but garbage."

He added that the disputed court rulings created a threat to Ukraine's entire financial sector and were a danger to people who put their life savings in such banks. There was no immediate response from the nine lenders mentioned by Zamorsky or the courts involved.

But the IMF concluded its latest mission to Kiev last month without agreeing the terms or the timeframe for a

new loan. "While good progress has been made, the authorities need some more time to implement policies to ensure medium-term fiscal sustainability... safeguard financial stability, and tackle corruption," the IMF team said on November 11.

Ukraine's economy is on course to grow by about one percent this year after having contracted by about 17 percent in 2014-15. Much of that nosedive was attributed to a collapse in production and a flight for safety by foreign investors frightened by the 31-month pro-Russian separatist conflict in the east that has claimed nearly 10,000 lives.

Biggest bank's bad loans

Yet there could be an even larger threat looming: the country's biggest lender might just be headed under. PrivatBank accounts for one in three bank accounts in Ukraine and even has branches in the Baltic states. The bank is owned by Igor Kolomoyskiy-a politically powerful billionaire who became an early target of Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko's uphill fight against corruption.

The problem for the tycoon is that his bank has been rumored to be the target for a state takeover because of Ukraine's need to fill its coffers. It has also been the subject of local media reports that it issued loans to select insiders that may never be repaid. That talk alone saw the value of PrivatBank's bonds fall by nearly 50 percent in late November. The NBU wants Kolomoyskiy to refinance his bank with billions of dollars if he wants to keep it.

Kiev's International Institute of Business chief Oleksandr Savchenko told the Kyiv Post English-language weekly that Ukraine's banking system would be left in tatters were PrivatBank to close.

"Other banks would not be getting their loans back from PrivatBank, a series of bankruptcies would begin, and there would be panic," Savchenko was quoted as saying.

"Re-launching the system would take around one or two months; the loss to GDP would be around two to three percent." — AFP

Some shareholders unhappy over terms of Sky bid

LONDON: Some shareholders are unhappy about the terms of a preliminary deal struck by Rupert Murdoch's Twenty-First Century Fox to take over British pay-TV Sky, the Sunday Telegraph newspaper reported. On Friday, Murdoch's Fox proposed 10.75 pounds (\$13.52) a share in cash, backed by Sky's independent directors, in its second attempt to buy the 61 percent of the firm which it does not currently own.

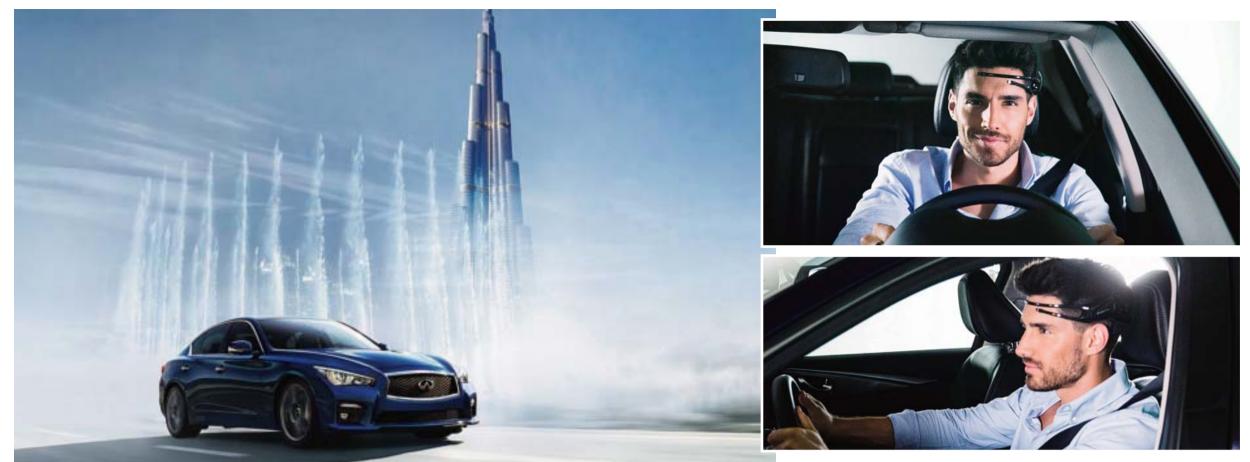
But some shareholders are disappointed that the independent directors have not pushed to better the \$14 billion bid which would give Fox control of a pay-TV network spanning 22 million households in Britain, Ireland, Austria, Germany and Italy. It "ought to be the start of the process,

not the conclusion," Alastair Gunn, a fund manager at Jupiter Asset Management was quoted as saying by the Sunday Telegraph Newspaper. The firm was not immediately available for comment when contacted by Reuters yesterday. An unnamed shareholder was quoted by the paper as saying: "Our initial reaction is one of serious disappointment that they have rolled over like this." Analysts at Citi characterised the offer as a "low-ball bid," citing a fair value assessment of 13.50 pounds per share.

People familiar with the matter have told Reuters that Fox had pounced after Britain's vote to leave the European Union in June sent the pound down about 14 percent against the US dollar and Sky's share price tumbling. — Reuters

Kuwait 🗠 Times 🍜





INFINITI POISED TO UNLEASH Q50 RED SPORT 400 POTENTIAL WITH WORLD FIRST AUDIO VISUAL DISPLAY INCREASED BRAIN ACTIVITY EXPRESSED THROUGH SYMPHONY

study launched in November, INFINITI Middle East yesterday announced the next phase to bring the brain data obtained by their customers to life in a way never been done before.

"Now that customers have driven the vehicle, we challenged ourselves to interpret this data in a manner that would provide our audience a truly unique experience," said Juergen Schmitz, Managing Director, INFINITI Middle East. "We identified music as this medium, as it is both a universally expressive tool and an integral part of the Arabian culture."

With all of the data being analyzed by Emotiv Inc to deliver on the quantifiable analysis. INFINITI Middle East selected Yessian Music as a producer to take these brain waves and convert them into a harmonious melody that pays homage to the Middle Eastern heritage with distinct notes.

Yessian Music is an independently owned music and sound design company with in New York, Detroit, Los Angeles and H

KUWAIT: Building on the foundation of the Comprising producers, composers, engineers, sound designers and creative, they specialize in original music composition.

"Once we had the song locked the obvious next step was to select a delivery mechanism to our audience and what better an iconic backdrop than The Dubai Fountain - the world's tallest performing fountain by Emaar," added Schmitz.

Working with Emaar, INFINITI Middle East will choreograph a special performance of The Dubai Fountain, in the heart of Downtown Dubai, spanning four days that will be synced with the song created by the brain data.

"The visual interpretation of this song through The Dubai Fountain epitomizes the excitement of driving the Q50 Red Sport 400 and we are sure that our audience will feel this too. There are few additional elements that will help to further bring this display to life which will be communicated to everyone in the next

Launched under the banner of 'UnleashYourPotential' INFINITI Middle East in collaboration with Emotiv Inc. sought to demonstrate how the changes in brain activity when driving the powerful sports sedan can affect their enjoyment, excitement, engagement and focus.

Infiniti Motor Company Ltd. is headquartered in Hong Kong with sales operations in over 50 countries. The Infiniti brand was launched in 1989. Its range of premium automobiles is currently built in manufacturing facilities in Japan, the United States, United Kingdom and China. Infiniti plans to also expand manufacturing into Mexico by 2017. Infiniti design studios are located in Atsugi-Shi, near Yokohama, London, San Diego and Beijing.

Infiniti is in the middle of a major product offensive. The brand has been widely acclaimed for its iconic design and innovative driver-assistance technologies.

From the 2016 season, Infiniti is a technical

	nt," added Francesca Ciaudano, Deputy	partner of the Renault Sport Formula One team,	Swiss	7,953.68
5 1 7 5	Manager, Marketing & PR.	contributing its expertise in hybrid performance.	Nikkei 225	18,765.4
new fork, betfort, tos Angeles and Hamburg. – General	Managel, Marketing & H.	contributing its expertise in hybrid performance.	Topix	1,512.69
			Hang Seng	22,861.84
DCLA LITER			Straits Times	2,958.86
RSM INTER				
'ECONOM		FODIMA'	Index	Previous Clo
		IUKUM	Kuwait	5,589.16
		_	Saudi Arabia	7,118.00

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	Glo	bal Stock II	ndices			
Index	Previous Close	Last Price	Char	ige	Daily Performance %	Yearly Performance %
Dow Jones	19,614.81	19,756.85	142.04		0.72	13.38
ASDAQ	5,417.36	5,444.50	27.14		0.50	8.73
ap 500	2,246.19	2,259.53	13.34		0.59	10.55
inancial Times	6,931.55	6,954.21	22.66		0.33	11.40
XAC	11,179.42	11,203.63	24.21		0.22	4.29
CAC 40	4,735.48	4,764.07	28.59		0.60	2.74
wiss	7,953.68	8,099.63	145.95		1.83	-8.15
Nikkei 225	18,765.47	18,996.37	230.90		1.23	-0.20
lopix	1,512.69	1,525.36	12.67		0.84	-1.42
lang Seng	22,861.84	22,760.98	-100.86		-0.44	3.86
Straits Times	2,958.86	2,956.13	-2.73	•	-0.09	2.55
	ME	NA Stock Ir	ndices			
Index	Previous Close	Last Price	Char	ige	Daily Performance %	Yearly Performance %

KUWAIT: RSM Albazie & Co, a member of the sixth largest network of independent audit, tax and consulting firms 'RSM International', recently held an Economy Watch workshop in collaboration with Bordier & Cie Private Bankers; a Swiss independent private bank founded by the Bordier family as an unlimited liability partnership in 1844 in Geneva, at JW Marriott in Kuwait. The workshop addressed recent world economy developments and investment opportunities featuring Mr. Grégoire Bordier - Senior Partner of Bordier & Cie, Gianluca Tarolli -Market Economist at Bordier & Cie and Yama KabirMaroofi - Head of Middle-East at Bordier & Cie.

The workshop was attended by senior level executives of various corporations, investment decision makers and High Net Worth Individuals (HNWIs). Commencing the Economy Watch workshop, Dr Shuaib A Shuaib - Chairman at RSM Albazie & Co focused on providing an overview of macroeconomic indicators in Kuwait as well as an understanding to the size and importance of the projects market in Kuwait. Dr Shuaib said: "Historically,

GCC projects did not witness funding issues; however, with the decline in oil prices, GCC governments are forced to realign capital spending plans."

Grégoire Bordier and Yama Maroofi gave an introduction on the tradition of Swiss private banking through the history of the Bordier family starting with Ami Bordier who founded the family bank in 1844 as an unlimited partnership. The partners then bore unlimited personal liability on their personal fortune for all the commitments entered into by the bank and this remains unchanged to this day. This distinctive aspect has always ensured a complete alignment of interest between the bank and its clients and to concentrate on the clients' longterm goals rather than on the short-term targets of external shareholders.

Gianluca Tarolli focused on where to find value in the global financial markets. "Due to the geopolitical risk in the region, local investors are looking at USA and Europe and other safe havens which are in itself witnessing extreme changes in monetary policies. Political risk is no longer considered a tail-event. Trump's triumph



(Left to right) Fouad Al-Hourani, Dr Shuaib Shuaib and Gregoire.



Economy Watch Forum attendees.

and Brexit could potentially empower similar right-wing parties across the Globe. The risk of large economies cutting down on global trade tie-ups has seen a significant increase - a step in the reverse direction. Decelerating China, stagnant Japan, US' atypical economic cycle and EU's political woes all add up to a very unique situation for investors and portfolio managers; an economic situation which has almost no precedent in history", said Tarolli.

He went on toexplain that in Europe, withflat corporate profits, tepid economic growth, and a fragile banking system, the market is vulnerable to a range of political risks in the coming months that could derail the region's weak recovery. The global trend towards more fiscal easing, taking over the baton from monetary easing which has reached its limits, will not take place in Europe next year due to the busy electoral calendar, which will prevent any coordinated economic policy.

Addressing family businesses' investments, Tarolli said, "family business will react in function of investment opportunities that will vary from a sector of activity to another. The preciseness of the tax rate cut timing, both on corporate profits and personal revenues will be crucial to determine their investments. In fact, they will give back some margins and hence profitability to sustain the current fading investment cycle: to invest, corporates need profits."

"For GCC investors, investments in the US and USD will continue to make sense. As markets are currently anticipating additional growth and inflation, they are pushing interest rate upwards, lifting up the currency. We expect this trend to continue for some months, and that's why floating rates bonds are to be favoured. Keeping some cash may allow to clip in higher yield in the fixed income area early next year. On the equity front, the disadvantages of higher financing costs and stronger currency, on top of the global political uncertainty, are not priced in. We think there will be some disappointment in the next couple of quarters that could allow us to come back into the market at a better level. Globally speaking, we find US assets quite expensive and are waiting on the side lines for better entry points".

Since its foundation in 1844 in Geneva, Bordier & Ciebecame an international group with offices in three major continents, still owned and managed by the fifth generation of its founders. The bank focuses solely on managing and safeguarding the wealth of its private clients by forging long-term relationships built on trust while delivering personalized services that meet the highest standards.

RSM Albazie& Co. strives to monitor developments in the financial and economic world to provide its clients with the best in-class advisory services. The firm will continue hosting similar events that in turn would help guide the business community in Kuwait. Established in 1963, RSM Albazie & Co. is considered to be among the oldest accounting and advisory firms in Kuwait, with more than 50 years of experience.

Saudi Arabia	7,118.00	7,188.99	70.99		1.00	2.98
Dubai	3,495.73	3,558.68	62.95		1.80	10.94
Abu Dhabi	4,433.74	4,517.15	83.41		1.88	2.94
Bahrain	1,181.47	1,191.95	10.48		0.89	-2.83
Qatar	10,053.95	10,187.90	133.95		1.33	-3.60
Oman	5,667.58	5,696.32	28.74		0.51	4.83
Lebanon	1,224.62	1,224.62	0.00	-	0.00	4.71
Jordan	2,163.42	2,175.63	12.21		0.56	1.27
Egypt	11,348.37	11,297.93	-50.44	•	-0.44	61.98
Morocco	10,753.18	10,957.24	204.06		1.90	20.47
Tunisia	5,467.06	5,461.83	-5.23	•	-0.10	8.43

5,611.78

22.62

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0.40

-0.46

Global Currencies Exchange Rate

Currency	Kuwaiti Dinar	Saudi Riyal	US Dollar	Euro	Sterling Pound	Swiss Franc	Japanese Yen	Australian Dollar
Kuwait Dinar		12.1675	3.2579	3.0836	2.5891	3.3149	375.83	4.3694
Saudi Riyal	0.08219		0.2678	0.2534	0.2128	0.2724	30.89	0.3591
US Dollar	0.30695	3.7348		0.9465	0.7947	1.0175	115.36	1.3412
Euro	0.32429	3.9458	1.0565		0.8410	1.0741	121.71	1.4192
Sterling Pound	0.38624	4.6995	1.2583	1.1891		1.2798	144.94	1.6877
Swiss Franc	0.30167	3.6706	0.9828	0.9310	0.7814		113.23	1.3181
Japanese Yen	0.00266	0.0324	0.0087	0.0082	0.0069	0.0088		0.0116
Australian Dollar	0.22886	2.7847	0.7456	0.7046	0.5925	0.7586	86.01	

MENA Currencies Exchange Rate

Currency	US Dollar	Kuwaiti Dollar	Saudi Riyal	Bahraini Dinar	Qatari Riyal	Omani Riyal	Emirates Dirham	Egyptian Pound
US Dollar		0.30695	3.7348	0.3741	3.6266	0.3837	3.6574	18.1400
Kuwaiti Dinar	3.2579		12.1675	1.2186	11.8150	1.2500	11.9153	59.0976
Saudi Riyal	0.2678	0.08219		0.1002	0.9710	0.1027	0.9793	4.8570
Bahraini Dinar	2.6734	0.82059	9.9845		9.6952	1.0257	9.7776	48.4949
Qatari Riyal	0.2757	0.08464	1.0298	0.1031		0.1058	1.0085	5.0019
Omani Riyal	2.6063	0.79999	9.7339	0.9749	9.4519		9.5322	47.2778
Emirates Dirham	0.2734	0.08393	1.0212	0.1023	0.9916	0.1049		4.9598
Egyptian Pound	0.0551	0.01692	0.2059	0.0206	0.1999	0.0212	0.2016	

Global Interest Rates									
Currency	1-Week	1-Month	3-Month	6-Month	1-Year				
Kuwaiti Dinar	0.00	1.19	1.44	1.63	1.94				
US Dollar	0.60	0.68	0.95	1.29	1.64				
Euro	-0.39	-0.38	-0.33	-0.22	-0.08				
Sterling Pound	0.24	0.25	0.37	0.54	0.79				
Swiss Franc	-0.78	-0.81	-0.73	-0.66	-0.50				
Australian Dollar	1.56	1.63	1.62	1.60	1.60				
Japanese Yen	-0.03	-0.11	-0.05	0.01	0.11				

Global Bond Yields									
Country	2-Year	5-Year	10-Year	30-Year					
United States	1.13	1.89	2.46	3.15					
Europe	-0.78	-0.45	0.36	1.16					
United Kingdom	0.12	0.61	1.45	2.11					

Index	Previous Close	Last Price	Char	ge	Daily Performance %	Yearly Performance %
Kuwait Oil	50.50	50.64	0.14		0.28	43.07
Brent	51.75	51.73	-0.02	•	-0.04	27.36
West Texas	51.56	51.46	-0.10		-0.19	27.99
Gold	1157.74	1157.74	0.00	-	0.00	8.33
Silver	16.86	16.86	0.00	-	0.00	17.83

Social network Gab draws 'alt-right'

and other social media websites cracking down on hate speech, far-right activists are finding a home on a new platform that promises never to censor content. Launched in August, Gab has become known as a safe haven for the "alt-right" movement dominated by the white supremacists who are helping fuel America's deepening polarization. The social network currently has 100,000 members and another 200,000 on its waiting list, according to the company. "All are welcome to speak freely," spokesman Utsav Sanduja says.

Gab is unable to accommodate all those who want to join, he adds, because it is still in its test phase. The social network's rise comes amid Twitter's suspension of political activists for purportedly promoting racist and harassing comments. One of the new

white supremacist National Policy Institute, whose account Twitter has suspended. Spencer, whose "Hail Trump" comments were seen as evocative of the Nazi era, joined the Twitter exile along with Milo Yiannopoulos, accused of fomenting a social media campaign against the African-American actress Leslie Jones.

Rising Acrimony

Gab's appearance follows the launch two years ago of another free-speech labeled platform, Voat, which has had limited success. But the new site comes amid escalating tensions and acrimony over politics in social media. Some say the new guidelines for major platforms represent an effort to curb harassment and hate, others call it censorship. Reddit, an online news and messaging would crack down on "toxic users" in an effort to curb some incendiary comments from supporters of Presidentelect Donald Trump. "We have identified hundreds of the most toxic users and are taking action against them, ranging from warnings to timeouts to permanent bans," Reddit chief Steve Huffman wrote.

Gab meanwhile pledges no censoring or filtering, allowing users to post messages of 300 characters, compared to Twitter's 140-character limit. Headquartered in the Caribbean island Anguilla, Gab is "bootstrapped," or selffinanced, with some donations from the "Gab community". Despite its user base, Gab denies having a political agenda. "Gab is for everyone and our mission is to challenge censorship on a global scale," Sanduja says. "Whether it is from their own people, politically incorrect citizens engaging in peaceful and civil discourse or whistleblowers in establishment institutions seeking a safe refuge, Gab will always be there for them and the people."

Overtly racist

Although the platform's terms prohibit calls for violence or "terrorism", many messages on the site are overtly racist or anti-Semitic. That reflects the belief of Gab's founders "that free speech is a fundamental right, one that is absolute and cannot be vitiated in any way," Sanduja says. That means "a free exchange of ideas" on the site "without proscription". Instead of censoring content, Gab enables its users to filter their news feeds by blocking messages with certain keywords or from

NEW YORK: Squeezed out of Twitter "Gabbers", Richard Spencer, heads the board, announced last month that it authoritarian governments persecuting specific users. Sanduja points to the startup founders' backgrounds as a reflection of diversity.

He is a Canadian Hindu with roots in India. The other co-founders include Ekrem Buyukkaya, a Muslim of Kurdish origin, and Andrew Torba, the chief executive who calls himself a "Christian conservative". However, that kind of symbolism does little to mollify the concerns of those worried that services such as Gab keep users inside "filter bubbles" that reinforce their own ideas and block out other viewpoints.

"The service that they have created is an echo chamber for extremely conservative opinions," says Lauren Copeland, associate director of the Community Research Institute at Baldwin Wallace University. "It may be open to everybody, but it certainly doesn't appeal to everybody." — AFP



NEW YORK: In this April 30, 2015, file photo, Apple CEO Tim Cook responds to a question during a news conference at IBM Watson headquarters. —AP

APPLE CHIEF TIM COOK PICKED TO GIVE MIT COMMENCEMENT SPEECH

What to know before buying

A DRONE THIS CHRISTMAS: ICAO

CAMBRIDGE: The Massachusetts Institute of Technology has chosen Apple CEO Tim Cook to deliver its 2017 commencement address.

MIT made the announcement on its website Thursday. It says Cook will headline the June 9 ceremony. It calls Cook an advocate for equality and a champion of the environment. MIT President L. Rafael Reif says Cook's brilliance as a business leader and his passion for important issues

will resonate with its graduates. Cook has led Apple Inc. since 2011. He has degrees from Auburn University and Duke University.

He says his Cupertino, California-based company is proud to have many MIT graduates on its team and he looks forward to giving the speech. MIT's 2016 speaker was "Jason Bourne" actor Matt Damon, who followed US Chief Technology Officer Megan Smith. —AP

JAPAN LAUNCHING 'SPACE JUNK' COLLECTOR

EXPERIMENTING TO PULL JUNK OUT OF ORBIT

TOKYO: Japan launched a cargo ship Friday bound for the International Space Station, carrying a 'space junk' collector that was made with the help of a fishnet company. The vessel, dubbed "Kounotori" (stork in Japanese), blasted off from the southern island of Tanegashima just before 10:27 pm local time (1327 GMT) attached to an H-IIB rocket.

Scientists at the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) are experimenting with a tether to pull junk out of orbit around Earth, clearing up tonnes of space clutter including cast-off equipment from old satellites and pieces of rocket. The launch was successful as "the satellite was removed from the rocket" and put into the planned orbit about 15 minutes after the liftoff, JAXA spokesman Nobuyoshi Fujimoto on Tanegashima told AFP.

More than 50 years of human space exploration since the Soviet-launched Sputnik satellite in 1957 has produced this hazardous belt of orbiting debris. There are estimated to be more than 100 million pieces in orbit, posing a growing threat to future space exploration, scientists say. Researchers are using a socalled electrodynamic tether made from thin wires of stainless steel and aluminum.

The idea is that one end of the strip will be attached to debris which can damage working equipment-there are hundreds of collisions every year. The electricity generated by the tether as it swings through the Earth's magnetic field is expected to have a slowing effect on the space junk, which should, scientists say, pull it into a lower and lower orbit.

Eventually the detritus will enter the Earth's atmosphere, burning up harmlessly long before it has a chance to crash to the planet's surface. JAXA worked on the project with Japanese fishnet manufacturer Nitto Seimo to develop the cord, which has been about 10 years in the making. "The tether uses our fishnet plaiting technology, but it was really tough to intertwine the very thin materials," company engineer Katsuya Suzuki told AFP. "The length of the tether this time is 700 meter (2,300 feet), but eventually it's going to need to be 5,000 to 10,000 meterlong to slow down the targeted space junk," he added. Previous experiments using a tether have been done in recent years. Another spokesman for the space agency has said it hopes to put the junk collection system into more regular use by the middle of the next decade. "If we are successful in this trial, the next step will be another test attaching one tip of the tether to a targeted object," he added. The cargo ship launched Friday is also carrying other materials for the ISS including batteries and drinking water for the astronauts living there. —AFP



MONTREAL: UN aviation officials cautioned anyone Friday who might want to



LOS ANGELES: A competitor untangles his drone from a safety net after it crashed while maneuvering an obstacle course during the International Drone Expo in Los Angeles, California on December 10, 2016. — AP

tree this season, to learn how to safely operate it first. "Drones can pose a serious threat to manned flights and people and property on the ground," the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) said in a statement.

leave a gift of a drone under the Christmas

In reaction to their growing popularity, the UN agency put out basic information on its website explaining what pilots of the unmanned aerial vehicles need to know before chasing Santa's sled.

In a list of tips and facts for recreational users titled "Ten things to know before buying a drone this Christmas," it said a drone weighing more than 25 kilograms (55 pounds) requires a permit to operate it.

The ICAO also urges reading the user manual, keeping the drone within eyesight and 50 meters (55 yards) away from people, property or vehicles. As well, it warned pilots against flying it more than 150 meters off the ground and to keep it at least eight kilometers (five miles) away from an airport. And, it said, drones used for commercial purposes may require the remote pilot to be licensed. Finally, "Always remember that you are now a remote pilot and are responsible for flying safely and avoiding collisions." — AFP

ANEGASHIMA SPACE CENTER, Japan: This July 6, 2016 picture shows the HTV6, an unmanned cargo spacecraft, "Kounotori", or "stork" in Japanese, being assembled at the Tanegashima Space Center in Tanegashima island, Kagoshima prefecture. —AFP

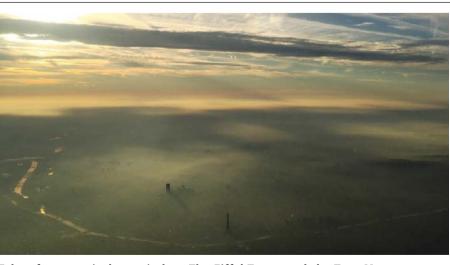
PEBBLE DISCONTINUING **SMARTWATCHES** AFTER ITS SALE TO FITBIT

PALO ALTO, California: Pioneering smartwatch maker Pebble is no longer manufacturing or selling any of its devices after the bulk of the company was bought by Fitbit.

Palo Alto, California-based Pebble says its devices will continue to work as normal for now but might lose functionality in the future. San Francisco-based Fitbit announced the deal to acquire Pebble on Wednesday. Terms weren't disclosed.

Pebble's first smartwatch was launched in 2012, three years before the Apple Watch.

The company had raised more than \$10 million for the project through a Kickstarter campaign. It raised more than \$20 million through the site for an updated version of the watch last year. Pebble founder Eric Migicovsky calls the sale "bittersweet." He says many Pebble employees will be joining Fitbit. — AP



Taken from an airplane window, The Eiffel Tower and the Tour Montparnasse, center left, emerge from a haze as Paris suffers a pollution spike, Thursday, Dec 8, 2016. — AP

FRANCE GIVES BOOST **TO ELECTRIC VEHICLES** AMID POLLUTION PEAKS

PARIS: The French government has cial vehicles or taxis for electric ones, announced an anti-pollution plan, including a financial boost to buy electric vehicles. as Paris and other cities in the country are emerging from a particularly severe episode of air pollution.

Environment Minister Segolene Royal said Saturday professionals will get a bonus of up to 10,000 euros (\$10,600) if they scrap their old diesel light commer-

starting next month. The measure has been in effect for private buyers since last year.

Royal also said she will ask to exempt electric vehicles from highway tolls. A 1,000-euro bonus will be given when buying electric scooters. Paris faced its worse winter pollution in a decade over the past week.—AP

SANDBERG: FALSE STORIES ON FACEBOOK DIDN'T SWAY ELECTION

NEW YORK: Facebook executive Sheryl Sandberg says she doesn't think misinformation spread on the social media platform swayed the election in favor of President-elect Donald Trump.

But she said Thursday during an interview on NBC's Today" show that the company is looking at ways to label fake news and "doing the things we can do to make it clearer what's a hoax on Facebook."

Sandberg says Facebook takes misinformation seriously, 'but there's a lot more work to do."

The comments come after Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg outlined steps the Menlo Park, Californiabased company is taking to address the issue. Those steps included creating stronger detection of fake news stories and making it easier to report them.--AP



WASHINGTON: In this June 22, 2016, file photo, Facebook Chief Operating Officer Sheryl Sandberg speaks at the American Enterprise Institute.—AP

PALO ALTO, California: In this Feb 12, 2013, file photo, Eric Migicovsky, CEO of Pebble, displays his company's smart watch.—AP

HEALTH & SCIENCE

MONDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2016

SURGEON GENERAL SOUNDING ALARM ON TEENS' USE OF E-CIGARETTES

WASHINGTON: The US surgeon general is calling tar generated by regular cigarettes. Vaping was e-cigarettes an emerging public health threat to the nation's youth.

In a report released Thursday, Surgeon General Vivek Murthy acknowledged a need for more research into the health effects of "vaping," but said e-cigarettes aren't harmless and too many teens are using them. "My concern is e-cigarettes have the potential to create a whole new generation of kids who are addicted to nicotine," Murthy told The Associated Press. "If that leads to the use of other tobacco-related products, then we are going to be moving backward instead of forward."

Battery-powered e-cigarettes turn liquid nicotine into an inhalable vapor without the harmful first pushed as safer for current smokers. There's no scientific consensus on the risks or advantages of vaping, including how it affects the likelihood of someone either picking up regular tobacco products or kicking the habit.

Federal figures show that last year, 16 percent of high school students reported at least some use of e-cigarettes - even some who say they've never smoked a conventional cigarette. While not all contain nicotine, Murthy's report says e-cigarettes are the most commonly used tobaccorelated product among youth.

Nicotine is bad for a developing brain no matter how it's exposed, Murthy said. "Your kids are not an experiment," he says in a public service announcement being released with the report.

It's already illegal to sell e-cigarettes to minors. Earlier this year, the Food and Drug Administration issued new rules that, for the first time, will require makers of nicotine-emitting devices to begin submitting their ingredients for regulators to review. The vaping industry argues the regulations will wipe out small companies in favor of more harmful products, and likely will lobby the incoming Trump administration to undo the rules.

Murthy's report calls on parents and health workers to make concerns about e-cigarettes clear to young people. He said local officials should take action, too, such as including e-cigarettes in indoor smoke-free policies. - AP



WASHINGTON: In this Feb 4, 2014, photo, US Surgeon General appointee Vivek Murthy appears on Capitol Hill. — AP



ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast: In this photo taken on Tuesday, Nov 22, 2016, a vendor pours a drink for clients from a plastic sachets containing alcohol in the city. — AP

IVORY COAST IS LATEST TO CRACK DOWN ON ALCOHOL SACHETS

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast: Each morning at dawn, Marie Vianny Maurice Yameogo, the WHO's Ivory taxi driver Rene Kouame stops by his neighbor- Coast representative. hood bar in Abidjan for a potent pick-me-up: Two plastic sachets of "Che Guevara," a drink of

Tracking the sales of alcohol sachets, many containing spirits distilled from palm wine, is dif-

an lvorian organization that campaigns against drinking and drug use by students. The official drinking age in Ivory Coast is 21, but it is rarely enforced, and teenage drinking is common.

FOUR MORE ZIKA CASES, LIKELY HOMEGROWN, FOUND IN TEXAS

DALLAS: Four more cases of Zika that were likely transmitted by mosquito bites in Texas have been found in the same neighborhood where the state's first such case was discovered, state health officials said Friday.

The Texas Department of State Health Services said the new cases were found during tests conducted after the first homegrown infection, announced on Nov. 28, was found in a woman who lives in Brownsville, a town along the Mexico border.

The four people who were later diagnosed live close to the woman's home and reported becoming ill between Nov. 29 and Dec. 1. Health officials believe they acquired the infections in the area before mosquito control efforts intensified following the initial case, department spokesman Chris Van Deusen said.

Florida is the only other state in the US with locally spread Zika. On Friday, officials there said the popular tourist destination of South Beach was cleared of active transmission, though the virus remains a risk in Miami-Dade County.

Zika is primarily transmitted to humans by mosquitoes that have previously bitten an infected person, though sexual transmission can also occur. Most infected people don't have symptoms, but for those who do, it's usually a mild illness with fever, rash and joint pain. But the disease is especially dangerous to pregnant women because it can cause severe birth defects, including babies born with unusually small heads. None of the people with homegrown Zika cases in Texas is pregnant, officials said.

Officials have gone door-to-door in the woman's neighborhood to offer testing, education about the illness and how to prevent mosquito bites, and tips on how to eliminate mosquito breeding grounds, such as removing standing water.

Health officials said tests are ongoing in the neighborhood but no other Zika cases have been found. Dr John Hellerstedt, the state health commissioner, said colder weather and mosquito-control efforts have decreased mosquito activity in the area, but he warned that South Texas' mild winters mean mosquito populations can quickly rebound during short periods of warmer weather.

Van Deusen also noted Zika could be introduced by a traveler from an area with an outbreak. "Zika is something we're going to need to be watching for the foreseeable future. It's still circulating and it will be," Van Deusen said.

The locally transmitted Florida cases were detected over the summer. Until then, all US cases had been connected to people traveling to countries with outbreaks, mostly in Latin America and the Caribbean. — AP



spiced rum and a host of chemicals that costs 100 CFA francs, or about 15 US cents.

With an alcohol by volume figure of 43 percent, the 2-ounce sachets are about as intoxicating as a typical 16-ounce beer, but consumers say that's just one of their virtues. Kouame claimed they give him a jolt of energy other drinks can't match - just what he needs to face a long day of hectic traffic, run-ins with police and testy fare negotiations. "It inspires me. It gives me a bit of courage to confront the challenges of life," he said.

From now on, however, lvory Coast's government wants Kouame to get his courage elsewhere. Last month, officials announced a ban on alcohol sachets, citing their health risks and the need to combat alcoholism, especially among youth.

Half-dozen bans or partial bans

The measure is one of more than a half-dozen bans or partial bans on alcohol sachets in effect in sub-Saharan Africa, according to the World Health Organization. Other countries with bans include Zambia, Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi, Congo and South Sudan, said Jean-

ficult because they are often produced outside regulated markets. The sachets are typically mass-produced in West Africa, with colorful packaging. The drink "Amour Profond," or "Deep Love," shows a man standing behind a bareshouldered woman, whispering into her ear.

The sachets are not necessarily more potent than other drinks available. Palm wine-based traditional drinks such as koutoukou, which are similarly cheap, can have alcohol by volume rates of more than 50 percent. But sachets are more likely to contain toxic chemicals such as methanol, or wood alcohol, Yameogo said. And the packaging often boasts of health and other benefits that Yameogo said have no basis in science. Some are said to provide cures for maladies such as hemorrhoids, while others are reputed to function as appetite-suppressants or aphrodisiacs

Moreover, the small sachets are easy to hide, making them especially tempting for schoolchildren, according to the Ivorian government and the WHO. "It's something that's accessible to everyone. You can buy a sachet, put it in your pocket and just walk around like that," said Patrick Gbodou, president of School Anti-Drug,

Vendors are worried they will take a huge hit if the ban on sachets is enforced, as many drinkers go for sachets and nothing else. "The government needs to have pity on us," said Adjo Abega, the owner of a bar in Abidjan's Port-Bouet district.

Drinkers generally acknowledge the health risks posed by alcohol sachets, but some criticized the government for cracking down on their favorite vice while permitting other health hazards such as cigarettes.

Desire N'Guessan, an unemployed 26-yearold, began drinking sachets when he was a teenager. He said he relies on them to ward off illness and for motivation to keep looking for work. "When you are not able to overcome your timidity, it can be difficult to operate in your neighborhood," N'Guessan said.

If the government makes good on the ban, he warned, lvorian children could turn to drugs. He also predicted marches and protests. But Kouame, the taxi driver, was less worried. In the absence of alcohol sachets, he said he would switch up his morning routine by drinking glasses of palm wine instead, adding: "Man can adapt to anything." — AP

HOUSTON: In this Feb 10, 2016, photo, Darryl Nevins, sprays a backyard to control mosquitoes. — AP

LOST AND FOUND: JAPAN TAGS DEMENTIA SUFFERERS WITH BARCODES

TOKYO: A Japanese city has introduced a novel way to keep track of senior citizens with dementia who are prone to getting lost-tagging their fingers and toes with scan-able barcodes.

A company in Iruma, north of Tokyo, developed tiny nail stickers, each of which carries a unique identity number to help concerned families find missing loved ones, according to the city's social welfare office.

The adhesive QR-coded seals for nails-part of a free service launched this month and a first in Japan-measure just one centimeter (0.4 inches) in size. "Being able to attach the seals on nails is a great advantage," a city worker told AFP. "There are already ID stickers for clothes or shoes but dementia patients are not always wearing those items." If an elderly person becomes disorientated, police will find the local city hall, its telephone number and the wearer's ID all embedded in the QR code.

The chips remain attached for an average of two weeks-even if they get wet-the official said, citing recent trials. Japan is grappling with a rapidly ageing population with senior citizens expected to make up a whopping 40 percent of the population around 2060.

Last month, Japanese police started offering noodle discounts at local restaurants to elderly citizens who agreed to hand in their driving licenses.

The offer followed a series of deadly accidents involving elderly drivers-a growing problem in a country where 4.8 million people aged 75 or older hold a license. — AFP



IRUMA, Japan : This picture taken on December 5, 2016 shows a city officer displaying a QR code on his fingernail near the Iruma city hall in Iruma, Saitama prefecture, a western suburb of Tokyo. —AFP

NEW CDC DATA UNDERSTATE ACCIDENTAL SHOOTING DEATHS OF KIDS

week claiming that 77 minors in the US were killed by unintentional gun discharges last year significantly understate the scope of an enduring public health problem.

A review of shootings nationwide by The Associated Press and USA TODAY Network found that at least 141 deaths of minors were attributed to unintentional or accidental shootings in

IOWA CITY: Government statistics released this 2015 - 83 percent higher than what the Centers such deaths are so rare that voluntary education for Disease Control reported.

Advocates for stricter laws and new technology meant to keep guns away from children argue that many of the deaths are preventable, and the undercount is significant because it can skew the public policy debate. Lobbyists for the firearms industry, including the National Rifle Association, cite the CDC statistics to argue that not additional laws or regulations - are needed.

CDC officials have acknowledged that their statistics are low because they rely on how coroners classify the fatalities on death certificates. Some coroners rule deaths in which one child unintentionally shoots another as a homicide rather than an accidental discharge - because they fit the definition of being killed by another. They also can classify them as undetermined if the intent is unclear - for example, if it's not certain whether a minor committed suicide or accidentally shot himself.

AP and USA TODAY Network counted fatal shootings that were declared accidental or unintentional by investigating agencies. The media organizations' review did not include deaths where guns were fired on purpose, such as cases of stray bullets or celebratory gunfire.

Undercount

The undercount for 2015 is in line with, but more significant than, the one observed for 2014, when the CDC missed one-third of the 113 deaths documented by the media outlets.

The CDC data, released Thursday, does track a trend identified in the media organizations' review in which deaths of all minors are most common among 3-year-olds, who typically pick up unsecured, loaded guns in their homes and fire back at themselves. The data also shows another spike in deaths among 15- to 17-yearolds, who are more likely to be shot by another teen playing with a gun. —AP



ATLANTA: In this June 28, 2016 file photo, Mark Rosenberg, the former director of the CDC's National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, poses for a photo outside his home. —AP

HEALTH & SCIENCE

SPAIN: SUSPECTS IN ILL CHILD CHARITY SCAM SPENT \$633,000

allegedly exploiting the rare illness of their daughter in a charity scam spent almost 600,000 Euros (\$633,000) of donations on a ritzy lifestyle, according to Spanish police.

Court documents issued by the investigating judge on Friday said that Fernando Blanco and Magarita Garau spent nearly two-thirds of the over 900,000 Euros (\$950,000) they received in charitable donations on personal expenses, including their rent, a car, travel and a collection of luxury watches.

The couple raised that money since 2009, when they established a charity in the name of their now

BARCELONA: A Spanish couple arrested for 11-year-old daughter, Nadia Nerea, who they said suffered from the rare disease trichothiodystrophy.

The judge in the court in the northern Catalan town of Seu D'Urgell, where the couple who were arrested Wednesday lived, said police investigations indicated either they had misrepresented the seriousness of their daughter's illness or had invented it altogether. The judge ordered the girl to be removed from her parents' custody and placed in care of an aunt. "The couple under investigation appears to have turned charity into their way of life," the judge wrote.

After questioning both parents, the judge kept

the father in jail without the right to bail. The mother was released. The couple's lawyer, Alberto Martin, told Spanish media his clients denied any wrongdoing to the judge. Police searching the family's home found "a massive amount of clothes and electronic goods" and a collection of watches worth around ,C[°]60,000 (\$63,000). The police investigation indicates the couple spent money raised for their daughter's care on regular expenditures at supermarkets, hardware stores, shopping malls, vacations, hotels, restaurants and elsewhere.

Prior to his arrest, Blanco said in a recent televised interview that he and his wife had "exaggerated" the seriousness of his daughter's illness to generate interest in her case and asked for forgiveness from people who had made donations.

Last weekend, the couple posted a statement on their charity's Facebook page saying they would return all the money they had received. Besides using social media, the couple had held events and made media appearances asking for help to pay for their daughter's medical costs.

The US National Institute for Health says trichothiodystrophy is a rare genetic disease whose severity can span from brittle hair in mild cases to intellectual disabilities and even death. — AP

GIRAFFES, RARER THAN ELEPHANTS, PUT ON EXTINCTION WATCH LIST

WASHINGTON: The giraffe, the tallest land animal, is now at risk of extinction, biologists say. Because the giraffe population has shrunk nearly 40 percent in just 30 years, scientists put it on the official watch list of threatened and endangered species worldwide, calling it "vulnerable." That's two steps up the danger ladder from its previous designation of being a species of least concern. In 1985, there were between 151,000 and 163,000 giraffes but in 2015 the number was down to 97,562, according to the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

Kuwait 🗻 Times 🍜

At a biodiversity meeting Wednesday in Mexico, the IUCN increased the threat level for 35 species and lowered the threat level for seven species on its "Red List" of threatened species, considered by scientists the official list of what animals and plants are in danger of disappearing.

The giraffe is the only mammal whose status changed on the list this year. Scientists blame habitat loss. While everyone worries about elephants, Earth has four times as many pachyderms as giraffes, said Julian Fennessy and Noelle Kumpel, cochairs of the specialty group of biologists that put the giraffe on the IUCN Red List. They both called what's happening to giraffes a "silent extinction."

"Everyone assumes giraffes are everywhere," said Fennessy, co-director of the Giraffe Conservation Foundation. But they're not, Fennessy said. Until recently, biologists hadn't done a good job assessing giraffes' numbers and where they can be found, and they have been lumped into one broad species instead of nine separate subspecies.

"There's a strong tendency to think that familiar species (such as giraffes, chimps, etc.) must be OK because they are familiar and we see them in zoos," said Duke University conservation biologist Stuart Pimm, who wasn't part of the work and has

criticized the IUCN for not putting enough species on the threat list. "This is dangerous."

Fennessy blamed shrinking living space as the main culprit in the declining giraffe population, worsened by poaching and disease. People are moving into giraffe areas especially in central and eastern Africa. Giraffe numbers are plunging most in central and eastern Africa and are being offset by increases in southern Africa, he said.

This has fragmented giraffe populations, making them shrink in size with wild giraffes gone from seven countries . Burkina Faso, Eritrea, Guinea, Malawi, Mauritania, Nigeria and Senegal, said Kumpel of the Zoological Society of London.

The IUCN says 860 plant and animal species are extinct, and another 68 are extinct in the wild. Nearly 13,000 are endangered or critically endangered. The next level is vulnerable, where giraffes were placed, followed by near threatened and least concerned.

The status of two snake species worsened. The ornate ground snake, which lives on the tiny island of Saint Lucia, deteriorated from endangered to critically endangered. The Lacepede's ground snake of Martinique, which was already critically endangered, is now considered possibly extinct, pending confirmation, as is the trondo mainty, a river fish in Madagascar.

But there is also good news for some species. The Victoria stonebasher, a freshwater fish in Africa, went from being considered endangered to least concerned with a stable population. And an African plant, the acmadenia candida, which was declared extinct, has been rediscovered and is now considered endangered. Another freshwater fish, ptychochromoides itasy, which hadn't been seen since the 1960s, has been rediscovered in small numbers in Africa's Sakay River and is now considered critically endangered. —AP

US LIFE EXPECTANCY FALLS, AS MANY KINDS OF DEATH INCREASE JAPAN REPORTS HIGHEST AT NEARLY 84 YEARS

NEW YORK: A decades-long trend of rising life expectancy in the US could be ending: It declined last year and it is no better than it was four years ago. In most of the years since World War II, life expectancy in the US has inched up, thanks to medical advances, public health campaigns and better nutrition and education.

But last year it slipped, an exceedingly rare event in a year that did not include a major disease outbreak. Other one-year declines occurred in 1993, when the nation was in the throes of the AIDS epidemic, and 1980, the result of an especially nasty flu season. In 2015, rates for 8 of the 10 leading causes of death rose. Even more troubling to health experts: the US seems to be settling into a trend of no improvement at all. "With four years, you're starting to see some indication of something a little more ominous," said S. Jay Olshansky, a University of Illinois-Chicago public health researcher.

An American born in 2015 is expected to live 78 years and 91/2 months, on average, according to preliminary data released Thursday by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. An American born in 2014 could expect to live about month longer, and even an American born in 2012 would have been expected to live slightly longer. In 1950, life expectancy was just over 68 years.

Highest life expectancy

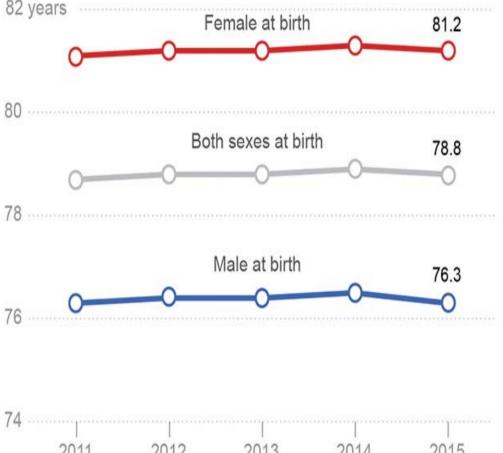
The United States ranks below dozens of other high-income countries in life expectancy, according to the World Bank. It is highest in Japan, at nearly 84 years.

The CDC report is based mainly on 2015 death certificates. There were more than 2.7 million deaths, or about 86,000 more than the previous year. The increase in raw numbers partly reflects the nation's growing and aging population.

It was led by an unusual upturn in the death rate from the nation's leading killer, heart disease. Death rates also increased for chronic lower lung disease, accidental injuries, stroke, Alzheimer's disease, diabetes, kidney disease na suiciae.

US life expectancy falls

A decades-long trend of rising life expectancy in the U.S. could be ending: It declined last year and it is no better than it was four years ago.





NAIROBI: A giraffe bends over to take food pellets from Kenyan visitors at the Giraffe Centre in Karen, on the outskirts on Wednesday, Dec 7, 2016. — AP

The only clear drop was in cancer, the nation's No. 2 killer. Experts aren't sure what's behind the stall. Some, like Olshansky, suspect obesity, an underlying factor in some of the largest causes of death, particularly heart disease. But there's also the impact of rising drug overdoses and suicides, he noted. Drug overdose deaths soared 11 percent to more than 52,000 last year, the most ever, driven by increases in deaths from heroin, prescription painkillers and other so-called opioids.

"There are a lot of things happening at the same time," he said. Some years the CDC later revises its life expectancy estimate after doing additional analysis, including for its 2014 estimate.

Average life expectancy declined for men,

2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	

SOURCE: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

falling by more than two months, to 76 years ing sharply for poorer people - particularly white and 3-1/2 months in 2015. It fell by about one month for women, to 81 years and 2-1/2 months, the CDC said.

Death rates increased for black men, white men, white women, and slightly for Hispanic men and women. But they did not change for black women. The new CDC report did not offer a geographic breakdown of 2015 deaths, or analysis of death based on education or income. But other research has shown death rates are rispeople - in rural areas but not wealthier and more highly educated and people on the coasts. "The troubling trends are most pronounced for the people who are the most disadvantaged," said Jennifer Karas Montez, a Syracuse University researcher who studies adult death patterns.

AP

"But if we don't know why life expectancy is decreasing for some groups, we can't be confident that it won't start declining for others," she said. — AP



Al-Jabriya - Block 1A - St. 1 - Mazaya Building - 15th Floor - Clinic B - Tel.: 22269369 - Fax: 22269368

WHAT'S ON

MONDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2016





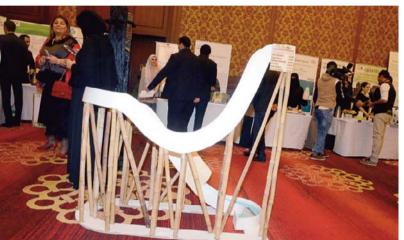














ACK'S GAITH: EQUIPPING STUDENTS WITH COMMUNICATION, LEADERSHIP AND TEAMWORK SKILLS

By Ben Garcia

he Australian College of Kuwait's (ACK) School of Engineering yesterday held its fifth Fall/Semester 2016 students' graduation projects' exhibition at Movenpick Hotel. The projects presented by students at ACK have always been special, as they are the result of

years of hard work and perseverance.

Projects include utilizing local waste materials in concrete form, construction management study for private villas, restaurant complexes, reconstruction of pavements, recycled asphalt pavements, reduction of paper consumption, reduction of electricity usage, water recovery at mosques, water recovery at car wash facilities, recycling

used oil, green villas, delivery robots, solar energy, etc. Dr Mohamed Gaith, Associate Dean, School of Engineering, assured parents that the students have already acquired soft and hard engineering skills, knowledge and concepts necessary to perform well when they leave ACK and join the workforce. "In these projects, you'll find the work of students from civil, electrical, mechanical and petroleum engineering. It is really very important to equip the students with communication skills, leadership and teamwork," he said. ACK students successfully produced 32 unique projects. "Our students have worked very hard to reach this level and utilized the accumulated engineering skills and available educational tools to broaden their knowledge about subjects," Gaith said.







NCCAL, IWG ORGANIZE 'KUWAIT IN THE EYES OF DIPLOMATS'

By Faten Omar

n celebration of Kuwait as the Capital of Islamic Culture for 2016, The National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters and the International Women's Group Kuwait, organized a panel discussion entitled "Kuwait in the eyes of diplomats" on Wednesday at the Kuwait National Library auditorium. The Amiri Diwan's Advisor Mohammad Abu Al-Hasan welcomed the ambassadors for the panel discussion. He said, "I served Kuwait as its ambassador in 6 countries, and I know how hard it is to be serving your country and to emerge with the community, like these ambassadors did."

French Ambassador to Kuwait, Christian Nakhle said that the diwaniya, which includes all spectrums of the Kuwaiti people from all ages and cultures, played an important role to his knowledge of Kuwait. He stressed that his country's relationship with Kuwait is old and rooted which began when French geographers

placed Kuwait on their geographical maps. Adding that France was one of the first countries to recognize Kuwait's independence, it knows the importance of the development of diplomatic relations with the State, as they invested in Kuwait in August 1961 following its independence. Nakhle pointed out that Kuwait is keen to promote its cultural work with the French by organizing various exhibitions, cultural events, hosting academics and artists referring to the keenness of the French Embassy in turn, on the development of this joint work. He added that there are upcoming projects such as a hospital for cancer treatment, which is scheduled to open soon. About visa, he explained that France is continuing its efforts in facilitating this process, pointing out that last year, nearly 60 thousand Kuwaiti citizens got the French visa. He praised the role of Kuwaiti women in all areas and their struggle for access to political rights and equality with man.

The Egyptian Ambassador to Kuwait Yasser



Atef said that the diwaniya was a new experience. He added that diwaniyas distinguish between various components of Kuwaiti society and among the guests from various countries of the world who contribute towards development. He pointed out that he personally felt

welcomed after arriving in Kuwait, he saw that Kuwaiti people are aware of Egyptian history, tradition, culture, and art. Egyptian ambassador added that his knowledge of Kuwait did not establish when he become an ambassador but long time ago, "I know Kuwait since I was addicted to reading Al-Arabi magazine and enjoyed its versions, world of knowledge and its distinguished newspapers."

The Russian Ambassador to Kuwait Alexey Solomatin said that Kuwait was the first country in the Arabian Gulf to establish diplomatic relations with Russia. That's why there is much more respect and desire to cooperate with Kuwait and exchange visits. We are expecting a proposal from Russia to set up a joint committee with the government of Kuwait. Meetings covering economic, technical, cultural, scientific and education fields, he said. Solomatin said, he took up his duties as a Russian ambassador to Kuwait in the spring of 2013 when the two friendly countries at the time were celebrating the fiftieth

anniversary of the diplomatic ties.

He said that the relationship with Kuwait is old and rooted since last century when it hosted Sheikh Mubarak Al-Kabeer crews warships of the Russian Imperial Fleet, which was visiting Kuwaiti beaches on its way to the Far East in 1900 and in 1903.

He explained that the Russian political leadership is continuing to develop and strengthen relations between the two countries, particularly through the visits that contributed to the enrichment since the nineties, when the Emir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, was a guest in Moscow in order to coordinate the positions of the exchange between the two countries towards the most important issues on the regional and international business. Kuwait signed six agreements and memoranda of understanding between the two countries in oil and gas, transportation, direct investment, military cooperation, technical and cultural field.

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ALARGAN EXTENDS SUPPORT TO INJAZ FOR 11TH CONSECUTIVE YEAR

LARGAN International Real Estate Company announced that it has renewed its support to the non-profit youth education organization INJAZ Kuwait for the 11th consecutive year, committing to the knowledge and skills development of university and high school students as part of its responsibility to engage future professionals who will drive Kuwait's growth.

Over the previous 10 years, the Company has supported and volunteered in four of INJAZ's key programs, namely the Job Shadow, Career Success, Entrepreneurship Masterclass and Innovation Camp, which are all educational programs on entrepreneurial and leadership skills aimed at inspiring and educating future generations.

ALARGAN team members volunteer in delivering these programs at the company's headquarters in Kuwait. In the 2015/2016 academic year, the number of ALARGAN volunteers increased to 26, including the Company's CEO and Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors Engineer Khaled Al-Meshaan, and Chief Business Development Officer Meshaan Al-Meshaan. During the same year, the Company hosted over 136 students from Kuwait University, the Australian College of Kuwait, the New English School, and the Canadian Bilingual School.

Khaled Al-Meshaan said: "Our business mot-

to is interlinked with our wellbeing vision for our communities. We believe in the importance of sustainable development to support an economically and socially viable urban environment. In reaching our aim, we also need to invest and share our knowledge with younger generations to whom we will pass on the torch of building a sustainable society."

Launching the 2016/2017 academic year, ALARGAN hosted students from the American Creativity Academy Girls' Campus in the Career Success program. Company engineers presented fundamentals in engineering and design, and focused on the necessity of developing green buildings. The program concluded with a tour of ALARGAN's headquarters, the only building in Kuwait to be accredited Platinum ranking, the highest ranking, in the Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED) program awarded by the US Green Building Council (USGBC).

Al-Meshaan added: "It is never too early to introduce our young students into the challenges we see today and share the solutions we are bringing each day. We have a responsibility towards providing them with a world where they can grow, and a world they can sustain as well. We hope to have inspired many of these young ambitious students into a career in engineering and sustainable development in the near future."







THE PALMS BEACH HOTEL & SPA INAUGURATES THE BEAUTY LOUNGE, THE FIRST OF ITS KIND IN KUWAIT IN THE PRESENCE OF LEBANESE POP SINGER ROLA SAAD

he Palms Beach Hotel & Spa launched the most luxurious Beauty Lounge, the first of its kind in Kuwait, in the presence of VIP quests, media delegates as well as the Lebanese pop singer Rola Saad. The Beauty Lounge Owner, Ghosoun Al-Khaled expressed her delight for the great response achieved from ladies and their satisfaction, especially when they were the first to witness the magnificent look of Rola Saad and her makeup done by the lounge experts. Every woman wants to look great and feel good, that's why

she's always in search for a solution or technique that provides her with everything she needs to have beautiful hair, skin, face, and nails. In addition to paying more attention to her entire charming, elegant look by shopping the latest fashion trends. Keeping this in mind, the luxurious Beauty Lounge was launched aiming to indulge women in a luxurious experience and give her the perfect look.

The Beauty Lounge offers a comprehensive range of services that are provided by international experts from Lebanon and Europe, giving women a flawless look for every occasion. The team of stylists and expert artists are available to offer outstanding services that help women look and feel their best, as well as to help them shop for the appropriate pieces from the latest fashion trends that are available in the atelier featuring a large collection of evening and wedding wardrobes, which are handmade and designed to reveal women's fine taste. Not forgetting the beauty center where women can indulge in total relaxation to achieve a radiant soft smooth healthy skin,

cellulite treatment, as well as the best nails, hair and facial care.

Besides, the lounge services include scalp care for dry hair, hair loss, and cleansing water treatment, in addition to obesity and body contouring treatments by the use of latest machinery like the solarium for tanning and the collagen to rejuvenate body cells under the supervision of qualified experts. The Beauty Lounge also offers a wide range of high-quality cosmetics and skin care products from renowned top brands, enabling women

to take care of their skin and hair at home.

That's not all! The lounge also embraces a deluxe spa for women to relax and unwind in utmost privacy while enjoying the Moroccan baths and soothing massages. What's more? Brides-to-be can get pampered before their big day with the exceptional bridal package. The Beauty Lounge is the number one destination for every woman who is looking to enhance her natural beauty and build her confidence, because definitely every woman defines her own beauty.

KERALA GOVT CONSIDERS REHABILITATION PROJECT FOR GULF RETURNEES

By Sajeev K Peter

■he Kerala government will soon convene a meeting of the members of non-resident Keralites affairs (NORKA) department and other concerned officials in order to expand the welfare schemes for non-resident Keralites and introduce more incentives to them, said Kodiyeri Balakrishnan, the general secretary of the ruling Communist Party of India -Marxist (CPI-M), Kerala.

"The Kerala government is planning to reform the Pravasi Welfare Board with the introduction of more attractive incentives and benefits for non-resident Keralites," he said addressing a meet-the-press program prior to an interactive session with Indian community leaders in Farwaniya on Saturday.

Balakrishnan, who arrived in Kuwait to attend a Renaissance Conference' organized by Kerala Art Lovers' Association's (KALA), Kuwait, said the state government is proposing to establish legal cells in Gulf countries with the help of the central government in order to provide legal assistance to Keralites who are facing legal cases in their resident countries.

"These legal cells can be attached to the respective Indian embassies in these countries," he said.

Similarly, the Kerala government is also working on a mechanism to simplify the procedure of repatriation of the bodies of Keralites who pass die abroad.

Talking about the proposed project initiated by the Kerala government to rehabilitate Gulf returnees, Balakrishnan said, the government is still formulating a viable project for the rehabilitation of the Gulf returnees in consultations with various Malayali organizations in the Gulf. NORKA-ROOTS has already started registration of Keralites who return from overseas for implementation of various welfare schemes and formulating policies for their rehabilitation.

Balakrishnan said the Left Democratic Front government in Kerala has launched a 'Green Kerala Mission' on December 8, which is a multidimensional development project focusing on sanitation, water conservation, environmental protection and paddy cultivation. "We conceive this mission as a people's initiative with their active



involvement from grassroots level," he said.

He said the government will identify 1,000 schools in the state in order to develop them into schools of international standards. "Our

objective is to provide quality education to all. We will create 44,000 smart classrooms in two years' time," he said. Balakrishnan admitted that around 450,000 people in Kerala are homeless. "The state government

will provide houses to all these people in a span of five years," he said.

Currency ban

Talking about the grave issue of currency ban by the central govern-

ment and its immediate impact on Kerala, he said, the state will witness a dip of 40 percent of its revenues this year following the currency crisis. "All sectors are reeling from its impact, be it agriculture or small industry. Tax collection has been seriously affected. There is a moratorium on loan. Cooperative sector is the worst affected by the ill-conceived policy of the central government and the Supreme Court has intervened in this matter," he said. He called on the central government to announce a package for state governments to tide over the crisis situation.

Reacting to a report that Kerala Chief Minister Pinarai Vijayan was prevented by Madhya Pradesh state police from attending a conference in Bhopal, Balakrishnan said, 'it is a despicable act that reflects the vehement intolerance of the BJP government in the state. It is for the first time in the history of India that a chief minister was prevented from attending a function in another state. It is a blatant violation of the federal system and Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has failed in discharging his constitutional obligation," he said.

00:50 Gator Boys 01:45 Mountain Monsters 02:40 Mutant Planet 05:15 Wild Animal Repo 06:02 Mutant Planet 06:49 River Monsters (Best Of Series 1-5) 07:36 Swamp Brothers 08:00 Swamp Brothers 08:25 Too Cute! Pint-Sized 09:15 Life On Earth: A New Prehistory 10:10 Wild Animal Repo 11:05 Tanked 12:00 Too Cute! Pint-Sized 12:55 Bondi Vet 13:50 Life On Earth: A New Prehistory 14:45 Gator Boys 15:40 Wild Animal Repo Tanked 16:35 17:30 My Wild Affair: The Elephant Who Loved Too Much 18:25 River Monsters 19:20 Dr. Dee: Alaska Vet 20:15 Tanked 21:10 The Real Lion Queen 22:05 Wild Animal Repo 23:00 Dr. Dee: Alaska Vet



00:00 Fred Dinenage: Murder Casebook 01:00 The Haunting Of... 02:00 My Haunted House 03:00 Robbie Coltrane's Critical Evidence 04:00 Fred Dinenage: Murder Casebook 05:00 The Haunting Of... 06:00 My Haunted House 07:00 Fred Dinenage: Murder Casebook 08:00 Nightmare In Suburbia 09:00 Homicide Hunter 10:00 It Takes A Killer 10:30 It Takes A Killer 11:00 Monster In My Family 12:00 Monster In My Family 13:00 Monster In My Family 14:00 Monster In My Family 15:00 The First 48 16:00 Gangs Of Britain.. 17:00 Crimes That Shook Britain 18:00 | Killed My BFF 19:00 Nightmare In Suburbia 20:00 Homicide Hunter 21:00 It Takes A Killer 21:30 It Takes A Killer 22:00 The First 48



23:00 Britain's Darkest Taboos

00:30	Prototype This
01:20	Prototype This
02:10	Dirty Jobs
03:00	Dirty Jobs
03:50	Ultimate Survival
04:40	Ultimate Survival
05:30	Ultimate Survival
06:20	How It's Made
06:40	How It's Made
07:00	Kenny The Shark
07:25	Awesome Adventures
07:50	Bad Dog
08:40	How It's Made
09:05	How It's Made
09:30	Prototype This

13:05 How It's Made: Dream Cars 13:30 Storage Hunters UK 13:55 The Liquidator 14:20 Edge Of Alaska 15:10 Gold Divers 16:00 Deadliest Catch

16:50 Fat N' Furious: Rolling

Thunder

Thunde

Mysteries Solved



17:40 Wheeler Dealers 18:30 How It's Made: Dream Cars 18:55 How Do They Do It? 19:20 Diamond River Hunters 20:10 Storage Hunters UK 20:35 The Liquidator 21:00 Gold Rush 01:45 21:50 Deadliest Catch 22:40 Catching Monsters 23:30 Fat N' Furious: Rolling HD 0:00 The Universe: Ancient 01:00 America's Book Of Secrets

02:00 In Search Of Aliens 03:00 Your Bleeped Up Brain 03:50 The Universe: Ancient Mysteries Solved 04:40 The Universe: Ancient Mysteries Solved 05:30 The Universe: Ancient Mysteries Solved 06:20 America's Book Of Secrets 07:10 The Universe 08:00 America's Book Of Secrets 09:00 In Search Of Aliens 10:00 Your Bleeped Up Brain 11:00 The Universe: Ancient Mysteries Solved 12:00 The Universe: Ancient Mysteries Solved 13:00 The Universe: Ancient Mysteries Solved 14:00 America's Book Of Secrets 15:00 In Search Of Aliens 16:00 Your Bleeped Up Brain 17:00 The Universe: Ancient Mysteries Solved 18:00 The Universe: Ancient Mysteries Solved 19:00 Ancient Aliens 20:00 Missing In Alaska 21:00 Ancient Impossible 22:00 Patton 360 23:00 Monster Quest



Hall

Hall

Bad

Bad

22:10 Magic Of Science 22:35 Magic Of Science 23:00 Invent It Rich 23:50 Redesign My Brain



00:10 Hank Zipzer 00:35 Binny And The Ghost 01:00 Violetta The Hive 01:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch 02:15 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch 02:40 Hank Zipzer 03:05 Binny And The Ghost 03:30 Violetta 04:15 The Hive 04:20 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch 04:45 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch 05:10 Hank Zipzer 05:35 Binny And The Ghost 06:00 Violetta 06:45 The Hive 06:50 Mouk 07:00 Dog With A Blog 07:25 Dog With A Blog 07:50 Tsum Tsum Shorts 07:55 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir 08:20 Elena Of Avalor 08:45 Star Darlings 08:50 Liv And Maddie 09:15 Jessie 09:40 Jessie 10:05 Jessie 10:30 High School Musical 12:10 Austin & Ally 12:35 Austin & Ally 13:00 Liv And Maddie 13:25 Liv And Maddie 13:50 Shake It Up 14:15 Shake It Up 14:40 Dog With A Blog 15:05 Dog With A Blog 15:30 Good Luck Charlie 15:55 Good Luck Charlie 16:20 Girl Meets World 16:45 Girl Meets World 17:10 Elena Of Avalor 17:35 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir 18:00 The Next Step 18:25 Descendants Wicked World 18:30 Liv And Maddie 18:55 Star Darlings 19:00 Hannah Montana

19:25 Disney Mickey Mouse 19:30 Austin & Ally 19:55 Descendants Wicked World 20:00 Backstage 20:25 Tsum Tsum Shorts

20:30 Elena Of Avalor 20:55 Best Friends Whenever 21:20 Jessie 21:45 Jessie 22:10 Jessie 22:35 H2O: Just Add Water 23:00 Binny And The Ghost 23:25 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch

23:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch



00:00 Doc McStuffins 00:30 Minnie's Bow-Toons 00:35 Zou 00:50 Loopdidoo 01:05 Art Attack 01:30 Henry Hugglemonster



TV PROGRAMS



FAST & FURIOUS 7 ON OSN MOVIES HD

06:00 Shipping Wars

20:00 PJ Masks 20:30 Sofia The First 21:00 Jake And The Never Land Pirates 22:00 PJ Masks 22:30 PJ Masks 23:00 The Adventures Of The **Disney Fairies** 23:30 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse



06:00 Supa Strikas 06:25 Supa Strikas 06:50 Counterfeit Cat 07:00 Star vs The Forces Of Evil 07:15 K.C. Undercover 07:40 Atomic Puppet 08:10 Lab Rats Elite Force 08:35 Danger Mouse 09:00 Lab Rats

06:25 Shipping Wars 06:50 American Pickers 07:40 Pawn Stars 08:05 Pawn Stars 08:30 Storage Wars Texas 08:55 Leepu And Pitbull 09:45 Leepu And Pitbull 10:35 Shipping Wars 11:00 Shipping Wars 11:25 Hoard Hunters 12:15 Shark Wranglers 13:05 Ice Road Truckers 13:55 Pawn Stars 14:20 Pawn Stars 14:45 Pawn Stars Australia 15:10 Pawn Stars Australia 15:35 Pawn Stars 16:00 American Pickers 16:50 Storage Wars 17:15 Storage Wars 17:40 Swamp People 18:30 Hoard Hunters 19:20 American Pickers 20:10 Pawn Stars 20:35 Pawn Stars

23:30 Ozzy & Jack's World Detour

01:00 My Sri Lanka With Peter

Nat Geo People HD

Kuruvita

Australia

Planet

Nightmares

00:10 Fish Of The Day

00:35 Fish Of The Day

01:25 Croatia's Finest

01:50 Croatia's Finest

02:15 Home Strange Home

03:55 Cesar Millan: Doggie

04:45 The Food Files

05:10 The Game Chef 05:35 The Game Chef

01:00 Emmerdale 02:00 Coronation Street

03:05 The Best Job In The World 03:30 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of

06:00 Food Lover's Guide To The

CHOICE 00:10 Sunday Night At The Palladium

02:30 The Chase: Celebrity Specials

Spaces 11:25 Carnival Eats 12:15 Maverick Chef 12:40 Maximum Foodie 13:05 Top Tables, Top Cities 14:00 Eat Street 14:30 Cruise Ship Diaries 15:25 Miguel's Tropical Kitchen 15:50 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces 16:45 Places We Go 17:40 Carnival Eats 18:35 Maverick Chef 19:05 Eat Street 19:30 Miguel's Tropical Kitchen 20:00 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces 20:50 Places We Go 21:40 Carnival Eats 22:30 Maverick Chef 22:55 Maximum Foodie 23:20 Top Tables, Top Cities 23:45 Top Tables, Top Cities

21:00 Ozzy & Jack's World Detour 21:50 Aussie Pickers 22:40 Billion Dollar Wreck

MONDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2016

15:40 The Incredible Dr. Pol 16:35 Safari Brothers 17:30 Jobs That Bite! 18:25 Dangerous Encounters19:20 Baby Animals In The Wild20:10 The Incredible Dr. Pol 21:00 Safari Brothers 21:50 Jobs That Bite! 22:40 Dangerous Encounters 23:30 Built For The Kill



00:10 Continent 7: Antarctica 01:00 Mars 02:00 Startalk 02:55 Do Or Die 03:20 Do Or Die 03:50 Continent 7: Antarctica 04:45 Big, Bigger, Biggest 05:40 Megacities 06:35 Startalk 07:30 Mars 08:25 Nazi Megastructures 09:20 Big, Bigger, Biggest 10:15 The Border 11:10 Big Fix Alaska 12:05 Taiwan: Island Of Fish 13:00 Nazi Megastructures 14:00 Mars 15:00 Startalk 16:00 The Border 17:00 Big Fix Alaska 18:00 Dirty Rotten Survival 19:00 Continent 7: Antarctica 20:00 The Border 20:50 Big Fix Alaska

21:40 Dirty Rotten Survival 22:30 Continent 7: Antarctica 23:20 Megacities

OMFIRST HD

00:00 Mad Dogs 01:00 Notorious 02:00 The Catch 03:00 Mistresses 04:00 Stitchers 05:00 Good Morning America -Weekend 06:00 Lie To Me 07:00 Drop Dead Diva 08:00 Castle 09:00 Stitchers 10:00 The Catch 11:00 This Is Us 12:00 Shark Tank 13:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show 14:00 Drop Dead Diva 15:00 Live Good Morning America 17:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show 18:00 Castle 19:00 Once Upon A Time 20:00 Notorious

O/n FIRST HD

COMEDY 00:00 Superstore 00:30 Cougar Town 01:00 Cougar Town 01:30 Veep 02:00 Veep 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 10 Items Or Less 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 10 Items Or Less 09:00 Last Man Standing 09:30 Wrecked

10:00 Dr. Ken

Jimmy Fallon

10:30 Men At Work

12:00 The Grinder

13:30 Men At Work

14:00 The Simpsons

15:30 Cougar Town 16:00 Cougar Town

16:30 The Grinder

18:30 The Simpsons

19:00 Angie Tribeca

19:30 Dr. Ken

18:00 Last Man Standing

14:30 Wrecked 15:00 Dr. Ken

12:30 Better With You

13:00 10 Items Or Less

11:00 The Tonight Show Starring

O/N MOVIES HD ACTION

00:15 You're Next 02:00 The Gauntlet 03:45 Jesse Stone: Lost In Paradise 05:30 Taken 3 07:30 Reign Of Fire 09:30 Hidalgo 12:00 The Last Survivors 13:45 Taken 3 15:45 Reign Of Fire 17:30 Hidalgo 20:00 Faster 22:00 Dead Drop

O/ MOVIES HD COMEDY

00:00 A Fantastic Fear Of Everything 02:00 Confessions Of A Shopaholic 04:00 Big Ass Spider! 06:00 A Lot Like Love The Out Of Towners 08:00 10:00 Big Ass Spider!12:00 Confessions Of A Shopaholic 14:00 The Butcher's Wife 16:00 The Out Of Towners 18:00 Just Married 20:00 Ghostbusters 22:00 Shanghai Noon

> **O/N** MOVIES FESTIVA

02:00 One Fine Day 04:00 Tracks 06:00 A Perfect Day 08:00 Escobar: Paradise Lost 10:30 One Fine Day 12:30 Foreverland 14:30 I'll Follow You Down 16:30 Escobar: Paradise Lost 19:00 Mystic River 21:15 The Fisher King 23:30 Arlington Road

O/ MOVIES HD

01:45 Pawn Sacrifice 03:45 Love, Rosie 05:30 Everest 07:30 Jackie & Ryan 09:00 Love, Rosie 10:45 Fast & Furious 7 13:00 4 Minute Mile 14:45 A Birder's Guide To Everything 16:30 The Finest Hours 18:30 Bridge Of Spies 21:00 Insurgent 23:00 Avengers: Age Of Ultron

O/ MOVIES HD KIDS

01:00 Virus Attack The First Antivirus 02:45 Bamse And The City Of Thieves 04:15 Cher Ami 06:00 Blackie And Kanuto 07:45 Egon And Donci 09:30 Yellowbird 11:15 Marco Macaco 12:45 Bamse And The City Of Thieves 14:30 Daddy I'm A Zombie 16:15 Ploddy Police Car On The Case 18:00 Yellowbird 20:00 Columbus In The Last Journey 22:00 Daddy I'm A Zombie





REIGN OF FIRE ON OSN MOVIES HD ACTION

04:10

10:20 Mythbusters 11:10 Dirty Jobs 12:00 Bad Dog 12:50 Ultimate Survival 13:40 How It's Made 14:30 Dirty Jobs 15:20 Mythbusters 16:10 Kenny The Shark 16:35 Awesome Adventures Don't Drive Here 17:00 17:50 Pick A Puppy 18:15 Pick A Puppy 18:40 What Could Possibly Go Wrong? 19:30 How It's Made 19:55 How It's Made 20:20 Mythbusters 21:10 Don't Drive Here Pick A Puppy 22:00 22:25 Pick A Puppy 22:50 Untamed & Uncut 23:40 Ultimate Surviva



00:20 Wheeler Dealers 01:10 Racing Extinction 02:50 Free Ride 03:40 Fat N' Furious: Rolling Thunder 04:30 The Liquidator 05:00 How It's Made: Dream Cars 05:30 How Do They Do It? 06:00 Deadliest Catch 06:50 Wheeler Dealers 07:40 Fat N' Furious: Rolling Thunder 08:30 Gold Divers 09:20 The Liquidator 09:45 How It's Made: Dream Cars 10:10 How Do They Do It? 10:35 Fast N' Loud: Demolition Theatre 11:25 Sacred Steel Bikes 12:15 Street Outlaws

18:00 I'd Kill For You 18:50 I Almost Got Away With It 19:40 Deadline: Crime With Tamron Hall 20:30 Beauty Queen Murders 21:20 Blood Relatives 22:10 Dead On Arrival 23:00 Killer Instinct With Chris Hansen 23:50 Las Vegas Law DISCOVERY SC science 00:40 Prototype This

06:00 Loopdidoo 06:15 Art Attack 01:30 Prototype This 06:35 02:20 Prototype This 06:50 Calimero 03:10 Prototype This 07:00 Zou 04:00 Mythbusters 07:20 Loopdidoo 04:48 Mythbusters 05:36 Mythbusters 06:24 Mythbusters 08:30 07:12 Mythbusters 09:00 08:00 How Do They Do It? 09:30 The Lion Guard 08:26 Prototype This 10:00 09:14 Mythbusters 10:02 Outrageous Acts Of Psych 10:26 Outrageous Acts Of Psych 11:30 10:50 How Do They Do It? 12:00 11:14 Food Factory 12:30 Little Mermaid 11:38 Mythbusters 13:00 12:26 Prototype This 13:14 Mythbusters 14:02 How Do They Do It? Pirates 14:26 Food Factory14:50 Outrageous Acts Of Psych 14:30 Doc McStuffins 15:00 The Lion Guard 15:14 Outrageous Acts Of Psych 15:30 15:38 Mythbusters 16:26 Prototype This 17:14 Mythbusters 17:00 18:02 Outrageous Acts Of Psych 18:26 Outrageous Acts Of Psych 18:50 Prototype This **Disney Fairies** 19:40 Mythbusters 18:30 20:30 Invent It Rich 21:20 How Do They Do It? Pirates 21:45 Food Factory 19:30 Little Mermaid

01:45 Calimero 09:25 Lab Rats 02:00 Zou 02:15 Loopdidoo 09:50 Kirby Buckets 10:20 Kirby Buckets 02:30 Art Attack 03:00 Calimero 10:45 Gravity Falls 11:10 Gamer's Guide To Pretty 03:15 Zou 03:30 Loopdidoo 03:45 Art Attack Henry Hugglemonster 04:25 Calimero 04:45 Loopdidoo 05:00 Art Attack 05:25 Henry Hugglemonster **Adventures** 05:35 Calimero 13:45 Lab Rats 05:50 Zou Henry Hugglemonster 15:55 Lab Rats 07:35 Art Attack 08:00 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse Sheriff Callie's Wild West Goldie & Bear The Lion Guard 10:30 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse 11:00 Sofia The First Adventures The Lion Guard Doc McStuffins Much Everything Sofia The First 13:30 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse 14:00 Jake And The Never Land Sofia The First 16:00 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse 16:30 Doc McStuffins The Lion Guard 17:30 PJ Masks 18:00 The Adventures Of The 02:50 Goldie & Bear 04:05 Shipping Wars 19:00 Jake And The Never Land 04:30 Pawn Stars 05:00 Britain's Bloody Crown: War

Of The Roses

Much Everything 11:35 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything 12:00 Counterfeit Cat 12:30 K.C. Undercover 12:55 K.C. Undercover 13:20 Star Wars Freemaker 14:10 Disney Mickey Mouse 14:15 Lab Rats 14:40 Counterfeit Cat 14:50 Star vs The Forces Of Evil 15:05 K.C. Undercover 15:30 Atomic Puppet 16:25 Danger Mouse 16:50 Future-Worm! 17:15 Lab Rats: Sink Or Swim 18:05 Disney Mickey Mouse 18:10 Supa Strikas 18:35 Supa Strikas 19:00 Star Wars Freemaker 19:25 Gamer's Guide To Pretty HISTORY 00:20 Pawn Stars Australia 00:45 Pawn Stars Australia 01:10 American Restoration 02:00 Storage Wars 02:25 Storage Wars Counting Cars 03:15 Counting Cars 03:40 Shipping Wars

03:25 Together 03:55 Gino's Hidden Italy 04:20 Paul O'Grady: For The Love Of Dogs 05:15 The Doctor Blake Mysteries 06:10 Sunday Night At The Palladium 07:05 The Chase: Celebrity Specials 08:00 Together 08:35 Gino's Hidden Italy 09:00 Paul O'Grady: For The Love Of Dogs 09:55The Doctor Blake Mysteries10:55Sunday Night At The Palladium11:50The Chase: Celebrity Specials 12:45 Emmerdale 13:15 Coronation Street 14:15 Tonight At The London Palladium 15:10 Catchphrase 16:00 Broadchurch 16:55 Autopsy: The Last Hours Of ... 17:50 The Doctor Blake Mysteries 18:45 Emmerdale 19:15 Coronation Street 20:10 Catchphrase 21:00 Broadchurch 21:55 Autopsy: The Last Hours Of ... 22:50 Emmerdale 23:15 Coronation Street NAT GEO people 00:10 Eat Street 00:35 Top Tables, Top Cities 01:00 Maximum Foodie 01:25 Top Tables, Top Cities 01:50 Top Tables, Top Cities

02:15 Eat Street 02:40 Meat v Veg 03:05 Raw Travel 03:30 Raw Travel 03:55 The Shelbourne The Shelbourne 04:20 04:45 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces 05:35 Carnival Eats 06:00 Carnival Eats 06:25 Maverick Chef 06:50 Maximum Foodie 07:15 Top Tables, Top Cities 07:40 Top Tables, Top Cities 08:05 Eat Street 08:30 Meat v Veg 08:55 Baw Travel



09:45 The Shelbourne

10:35 George Clarke's Amazing

00:20 World's Deadliest 01:10 Caught In The Act 02:00 World's Deadliest 02:50 Wild Case Files 03:45 Baby Animals In The Wild The Incredible Dr. Pol 04:40 05:35 World's Deadliest 06:30 Wild Case Files Baby Animals In The Wild 07:25 08:20 The Incredible Dr. Pol 09:15 Unlikely Animal Friends 10:10 Jobs That Bite! 11:05 The Rise Of Black Wolf 12:00 Built For The Kill 12:55 Surviving The Serenget 13:50 Wild Case Files 14:45 Baby Animals In The Wild

O/N MOVIES FAMILY

01:00 Strange Magic 03:00 Doctor Proctor's Fart Powder 05:00 Hotel For Dogs 07:00 Asterix: The Mansions Of The Gods 09:00 Hotel For Dogs 10:45 Max 12:45 Doctor Proctor's Fart Powder 14:15 The Incredible Adventures Of Professor Branestawm 15:15 Capture The Flag 17:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers 17:00 Jem And The Holograms 19:00 Monsterville: The Cabinet Of Souls 21:00 Justice League: Throne Of Atlantis 22:30 Capture The Flag



STRANGE MAGIC ON OSN MOVIES FAMILY HD

CLASSIFIEDS MONDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2016

I AM NOT A SERIAL KILLER

I AM NOT A SERIAL KILLER

I AM NOT A SERIAL KILLER

ALLIED

<u>Kuwait Times</u>

Kuwait

11:45 AM

2:00 PM

5:00 PM

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

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** ITALIAN RACE

FANAR-2

ALLIED

5:00 PM 7:00 PM 9:30 PM	I AM NOT A SERIAL KILLER I AM NOT A SERIAL KILLER
12:05 AM	FANAR-3 DEAR ZINDAGI -Hindi LION
12:30 PM	LION
2:30 PM	KAHAANI 2: DURGA RANI SINGH - Hindi
4:30 PM	DEAR ZINDAGI -Hindi
6:30 PM	LION
8:30 PM	
10:30 PM	FANAR-4
12:30 AM	UNDERWORLD: BLOOD WARS UNDERWORLD: BLOOD WARS
	UNDERWORLD: BLOOD WARS
12:15 PM	UNDERWORLD: BLOOD WARS
2:45 PM	UNDERWORLD: BLOOD WARS
5:15 PM	UNDERWORLD: BLOOD WARS
7:30 PM	UNDERWORLD: BLOOD WARS
9:45 PM	
12:15 AM	FANAR-5
	TAHT AL TARABEZA
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12:45 PM 1:30 PM	TROLLS
3:45 PM	TAHT AL TARABEZA
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	AVENUES-1
	ARRIVAL
11:30 AM	LAF WA DAWARAN

KNCC PROGRAMME FROM THURSDAY TO WEDNESDAY (01/12/2016 TO 07/12/2016)

2:15 PM 4:45 PM 7:15 PM 9:45 PM 2:15 AM	I AM NOT A SERIAL KILLER I AM NOT A SERIAL KILLER I AM NOT A SERIAL KILLER I AM NOT A SERIAL KILLER	4:45 PM 7:00 PM 9:15 PM 11:30 PM
1:00 PM 1:30 PM 4:00 PM 6:30 PM 9:00 PM 12:05 AM	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	2:15 PM 5:00 PM 7:00 PM 9:45 PM
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12:45 AM 12:00 PM 2:00 PM 2:30 PM 4:30 PM 6:30 PM 9:00 PM	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
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10:00 PM 12:30 AM 11:30 AM 2:15 PM	360°- 3 ARRIVAL ALLIED ARRIVAL AANANDAM -Malayalam	11:45 AM 2:15 PM 4:45 PM 7:15 PM
4:30 PM 7:00 PM 9:30 PM 12:05 AM 12:00 PM	ALLIED ARRIVAL AL-KOUT.1 UNDERWORLD: BLOOD WARS UNDERWORLD: BLOOD WARS UNDERWORLD: BLOOD WARS	9:45 PM 12:15 AM 12:45 PM 2:45 PM 4:45 PM
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12:00 PM 2:30 PM	LION ALLIED LION ITALIAN RACE	12:30 PM 3:00 PM 5:15 PM 7:45 PM



ACCOMMODATION

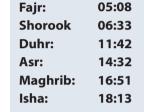
Sharing room with Balcony available from January 2017, with Pakistani family for couple family or ladies health workers. Farwaniya backside, Crown Plaza, Area 6, Street 3. Contact: 99552706. (C 5246) 12-12-2016

FOR SALE

For sell new white faux fur (artificial) coat size M and pre owned like new black leather coat size M made in Turkey Tel. No: 55020291 12-12-2016

PRAYER TIMINGS







enquiry about the Civil ID card is 1889988

Spacious & Luxurious **APARTMENTS**

(160 m2) In Benid Algar

- 3 Bedroom with Bath, Maid Room, Furnished Kitchen
- Large, Living Room with Bath.

Building Has:

- Swimming Pool, Sauna, Gym Internet & Satellite
- Channels, and Car Park in Basment

TEL: 50294929

Wanted For work immediately In a project in Al-Abdally

• Maintenance Supervisor with experience in staff residence project maintenance, making daily reports and managing, maintenance technicians, must have Kuwaiti driving license. • Electric Technician for large generators (Digital) 1600 KVA AC Technician and Assistant AC Technician Welding Technician • Half lorry driver with private license (Salary KD 170) General conditions 1- Transferable article 18 residency visa 2- Preference to Asians 3- Minimum five years experience **Company privileges:** (Visa+ Accommodation+ sustenance)

> Interested candidates e-mail C.V. to: soos1975@yahoo.com Or call: 99567431



Directorate General of Civil Aviation Home Page (www.kuwait-airport.com.kw)

DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

	-	ts on Monday 12/12/201		KAC	614	Bahrain	13:30		•	ghts on Monday 12/12/20		JZR	176	Dubai	13:
lirlines	Flt	Route	Time	KAC	564	Amman	13:40	Airlines		Route	Time	MSR	611	Cairo	14:
٩C	776	Riyadh	00:20	FEG	931	Alexandria	13:55	AIC	982	Ahmedabad/Chennai	00:05	UAE	872	Dubai	14:
ζR	267	Beirut	00:30	KNE	231	Riyadh	13:55	PIA	206	Lahore	00:40	KAC	693	Muscat	14:
ZR	539	Cairo	00:40	KAC	672	Dubai	14:00	FDB	072	Dubai	00:40	KNE	382	Taif	14:
ΗY	772	Istanbul	00:55	FDB	059	Dubai	14:20	JAI	573	Mumbai	00:50	FEG	932	Alexandria	14
AC	102	London	00:55	SVA	500	Jeddah	14:30	BBC	044	Dhaka	01:30	KAC	673	Dubai	15
AC	742	Dammam	01:00	KAC	414	Bangkok	14:35	KAC	417	Manila	02:00	FDB	060	Dubai	15
JA	642	Amman	01:05	GFA	221	Bahrain	14:40	THY	773	Istanbul	02:25	KAC	785	Jeddah	15
TR	1086	Doha	01:15	KAC	542	Cairo	14:45	DLH	635	Frankfurt	02:55				15
HY	764	Istanbul	01:50	KNE	529	Jeddah	14:55					PAL	669	Dubai/Manila	
LH	635	Doha	01:55	ETD	303	Abu Dhabi	15:15	ETH	621	Addis Ababa	03:05	GFA	222	Bahrain	1.
GT	858	Istanbul	02:00					PGT	859	Istanbul	03:35	SVA	501	Jeddah	15
TH	620	Addis Ababa	02:05	OMA	645	Muscat	15:35	UAE	854	Dubai	03:45	KNE	530	Jeddah	15
				UAE	857	Dubai	15:45	OMA	644	Muscat	03:55	KAC	619	Doha	16
AE	853	Dubai	02:30	ABY	127	Sharjah	15:50	KKK	6505	Istanbul	03:55	KAC	283	Dhaka	16
FA	211	Bahrain	02:30	KAC	154	Istanbul	15:55	THY	765	Istanbul	04:00	KAC	357	Kochi	16
RZ	193	TBS	02:30	SAW	705	Damascus	16:00	ETD	306	Abu Dhabi	04:10	ETD	304	Abu Dhabi	16
KK	6506	Istanbul	02:55	QTR	1072	Doha	16:10	MSR	613	Cairo	04:10	ABY	128	Sharjah	16
MA	643	Muscat	02:55	FDB	051	Dubai	16:25	QTR	1077	Doha	04:40	OMA	646	Muscat	10
OB	069	Dubai	03:05	KAC	788	Jeddah	16:30	MSC	502	Alexandria	04.40	SAW	706	Damascus	10
ISR	612	Cairo	03:10	KAC	662	Abu Dhabi	16:35								
TD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:10	RJA	640	Amman	16:55	CEB	0019	Manila	05:20	JZR	266	Beirut	1
EB	0018	Manila	03:15	SVA				BRZ	194	TBS	05:30	JZR	240	Amman	1
TR	1076	Doha	03:30		510	Riyadh	17:15	QTR	1087	Doha	05:50	FDB	052	Dubai	1
AC	358	Kochi	03:30	GFA	215	Bahrain	17:30	FEG	954	Asyut	06:00	KAC	363	Colombo	1
AC	784	Jeddah	03:55	JZR	777	Jeddah	17:45	JZR	560	Sohag	06:05	KAC	343	Chennai	11
ISC	501	Alexandria	04:05	UAE	875	Dubai	18:00	FDB	070	Dubai	06:30	QTR	073	Doha	17
AC	418	Manila	04:25	FDB	063	Dubai	18:10	KAC	153	Istanbul	06:50	JZR	538	Cairo	1
AC	284	Dhaka	04:55	JZR	177	Dubai	18:20	THY	771	Istanbul	06:50	UAE	858	Dubai	12
				KAC	502	Beirut	18:45	KAC	165	Rome	06:55	RJA	641	Amman	1
EG	933	Sohag	05:00	QTR	1080	Doha	18:50	JZR	164	Dubai	06:55	KAC	331	Trivandrum	18
ZR	503	Luxor	05:10	ABY	123	Sharjah	19:25	RJA	643	Amman	07:05	KAC	353	BLR	18
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:20	GFA	217	Bahrain	19:30	KAC							
(AC	354	BLR	05:20	KAC	674	Dubai	19:45		541	Cairo	07:15	SVA	511	Riyadh	18
(AC	332	Trivandrum	05:45					GFA	212	Bahrain	07:15	GFA	216	Bahrain	18
ΉY	770	Istanbul	05:55	KAC	620	Doha	19:50	KAC	163	Paris	07:25	JZR	184	Dubai	18
(AC	384	Delhi	06:05	FDB	057	Dubai	19:50	KAC	773	Riyadh	07:30	FDB	064	Dubai	19
(AC	364	Colombo	06:05	KNE	381	Taif	19:55	KAC	173	Munich	07:35	UAE	876	Dubai	19
(AC	206	Islamabad	06:20	KAC	166	Rome	19:55	KAC	563	Amman	08:00	QTR	1081	Doha	19
SAW	157	London	06:40	KAC	694	Muscat	20:00	BAW	156	London	08:40	ABY	124	Sharjah	20
AL	668	Manila/Dubai	07:00	OMA	647	Muscat	20:10	FDB	054	Dubai	08:55	GFA	218	Bahrain	20
DB	053	Dubai	07:50	QTR	1088	Doha	20:35	KAC	743	Dammam	09:00	KAC	383	Delhi	20
AC .	302	Mumbai	08:20	KAC	174	Munich	20:45	KAC	117	New York	09:00	FDB	058	Dubai	20
IAE	855	Dubai	08:40	DLH	634	Frankfurt	20:45	KAC		Dubai					
AC	382	Dubai Delhi	08:40	JAI	572	Mumbai	20:55		671 101		09:15	KAC	775	Riyadh Biyadh	20
	125			FDB	5053	Dubai	20.55	KAC	101	London	09:35	KNE	232	Riyadh	20
BY		Sharjah Abu Dhabi	09:05					ABY	126	Sharjah	09:45	KAC	1543	Cairo	21
TD	301	Abu Dhabi Kashi	09:05	KAC	786	Jeddah	21:15	UAE	856	Dubai	09:55	OMA	648	Muscat	2
AC	352	Kochi	09:10	ETD	307	Abu Dhabi	21:20	KAC	501	Beirut	10:00	KAC	205	Islamabad	2
TR	1070	Doha	09:30	MEA	402	Beirut	21:20	KAC	161	Geneva	10:10	KAC	345	Ahmedabad	2
DB	055	Dubai	09:40	ALK	229	Colombo	21:25	KAC	613	Bahrain	10:10	QTR	1089	Doha	2
RA	667	Esfahan	10:00	UAE	859	Dubai	21:40	ETD	302	Abu Dhabi	10:10	DLH	634	Doha	2
iFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	GFA	219	Bahrain	21:45	FDB	056	Dubai	10:35	DHX	171	Bahrain	2
YR	341	Damascus	11:00	QTR	1082	Doha	22:00	KAC	787	Jeddah	10:35	JAI	571	Mumbai	2
AC	774	Riyadh	11:05	ETD	309	Abu Dhabi	22:15	QTR		Doha		ETD		Abu Dhabi	
XB	889	Mangalore/Bahrain	11:10	AIC	975	Chennai/Goa	22:25		1071		10:40		308		2
ZR	165	Dubai	11:30	JZR	241		22:25	IRA	666	Esfahan	11:00	MEA	403	Beirut	22
IEA	404	Beirut	11:55			Amman		GFA	214	Bahrain	11:25	ALK	230	Colombo	22
AC	744	Dammam	12:10	KAC	164	Paris	22:55	SYR	342	Damascus	12:00	JZR	528	Asyut	2
				JZR	185	Dubai	23:15	KAC	661	Abu Dhabi	12:05	FDB	5054	Dubai	2
EG	953 561	Asyut	12:35	FDB	071	Dubai	23:45	JZR	776	Jeddah	12:05	GFA	220	Bahrain	2
ZR	561	Sohag	12:40	JAI	574	Mumbai	23:50	AXB	890	Mangalore	12:10	KAC	381	Delhi	2
	871	Dubai	12:50	BBC	143	Dhaka	23:55	MEA	405	Beirut	12:55	KAC	301	Mumbai	22
JAE ⁄ISR	610	Cairo	13:00												



CROSSWORD 1458

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50			51	\top	1	\top		52	\top	+	\top	\top	\top		
		53				54	55		\top		56	\top	\top		
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61			+	62					63		\top		64	65	66
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71				72		\square	73				74		75		
76				77	+	+	+		+	+	+		78		+

ACROSS

1. A Chadic language spoken south of Lake Chad.

5. A member of an Indian people formerly living along the Gulf coast of Louisiana and Texas.

12. A health resort near a spring or at the seaside.

15. The act of scanning.

16. With sweetening added.

- 17. Aromatic bulb used as seasoning.
- 18. (prefix) Within.

19. A Dravidian language spoken in southern India

20. (Norse mythology) One of the Aesir known for his beauty and skill with bow and skis.

21. A ductile gray metallic element of the lanthanide series.

22. A hard brittle gray polyvalent metallic element that resembles iron but is not magnetic.

24. Any of various long-tailed rodents similar to but larger than a mouse.

25. Large family of bark-boring or woodboring short-beaked beetles.

30. English physicist who studied the density of gases and discovered argon.

32. An informal term for a father.

33. In a competent capable manner. 34. The blood group whose red cells carry

both the A and B antigens. 39. Neckwear consisting of a long narrow

piece of material worn (mostly by men) under a collar and tied in knot at the front. 40. (astronomy) An indistinct surface feature of Mars once thought to be a system of channels.

- 45. Nonstandard usage adv 1.
- 48. Evergreen trees and shrubs. 50. A silvery soft waxy metallic element of

the alkali metal group. 51. A nearly horizontal passage from the

Aries (March 21-April 19)

STAR TRACK

Those around you are going to find it very easy to understand exactly what you mean when you speak. You should find it a good time to read a romantic novel or to take in a movie. You may decide to read a book to a young person, even though the young person is not present. A tape recorder can come in very handy for playing back another day. This method would also be fun when creating a story of your own. A typist could listen to your recording and type the story into a manuscript to submit to a publisher. You may be quite eloquent in speaking or communicating. Knowing how you feel about life should make the telling of some true story fun and captivating. Picture albums, hot tea and a bicycle ride for two end this weekend with a smile.

Taurus (April 20-May 20)

You should be feeling quite healthy and natural today. Everything points to your taking the initiative in some group endeavor. You may have a job that is parttime, perhaps as a tour guide. You could be giving assistance to newcomers in a religious group. Whatever the case, you really are involved in conversations that involve memories of the past, as well as places of interest from your travels or from reading. The elderly love to talk about these things and there are much laughter and fun conversations in your part of the world today. Taking chances on the emotional level just seems somehow natural to you. Common sense keeps you financially in check when it comes to a bit of shopping this afternoon. Do not loan or borrow money this month.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You may be put in control of people today. Orientation, controlling a crowd and organizing people are just part of what you do well. You encourage others to ask questions and this eases any frustrations for them at a later date. You encourage and instruct and could be a good part of a team that enlists the public in education, military or any new beginnings of a number of professions. This group you are leading today will probably be full of young people. Listening to some of the young people in this country may be like listening to the sages of the ages. Anything is possible and ideas for investments in the future may be apparent. By the end of this day, you will find that you will be looking for more opportunities like this day offers.

Cancer (June 21-July 22)

You set life examples for your family and friends. Today, however, you will want to leave the door open to some beneficial changes. A family meeting is the perfect time for decisions regarding the way that money is spent or the introduction of budgeting or entertaining requirements. You join the family in making group decisions about who is responsible for which decorations. You will be guiding or helping along the way but you will be pleased at the amount of cooperation and interest that you have ignited. You teach commonsense thinking when scheduling comes into play. You may also discover it is a relief to be able to share the responsibility of making decisions. An open mind and a positive attitude equal success.

Leo (July 23-August 22)

You could be looking to add a little color to your life, allowing your unique and unusual qualities to surface. It may surprise you to know that someone close to you understands you better than you thought and he or she is supportive. You could establish some new solutions or stumble on to something very inventive. Allowing your creative and intuitive talent to evolve can bring you many nice surprises. You just somehow know that anything is possible if you can picture the end result. You are not afraid to take risks at the deepest emotional level. Optimism and faith are the two guiding words. Allow yourself the luxury of exploring your feelings helps in understanding. Make an outline of the steps needed to get where you want to go.

Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Your attitude seems at peace-others only hope to become as evolved as you appear to be. You take problems as valued lessons, rather than obstacles. You seem to find a deep appreciation for responsibilities. Nurturing is a larger than usual component in your life and as you care for others they, in turn will care for you. Managing and directing others wherever you find yourself seems to be your specialty. If the kids in your family seem to be sports oriented, you might be the first to step in and help them with the techniques of any number of sports. You may even decide that a video of the game they like the most can be studied and critiqued. Later, this afternoon your private life has moved into the direction of music or a religious group gathering.

Libra (September 23-October 22)

You are able to captivate and spellbind the audience today. A birthday party, a teaching lesson, a story-reading class or whatever you have gotten yourself into will certainly result in positive returns for your effort. The audience is appreciative and you may decide this activity is something you would like to add as a repeat from time to time. Note that this activity was a voluntary activity and there was no paycheck. Having faith in yourself will assure your success in other areas of your life. The experience today is a good practice and a worthy one! You are ready, willing and able to accept new emotional experiences. This could mark a time when your life path changes. You and a mate open up to better communication at this time.

Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

Your close friend may have a business dinner to go to next week and wants to ask your loved one to go with him or her. A bit of diplomacy, however, goes a long way. You might smile and offer to help with a little money for an escort service. As it turns out, someone you and your friend know will be able to go to the dinner and will also appreciate the invitation. The result of this situation may leave you feeling very optimistic for the next few days. You enjoy experiencing life each busy day and you seem to be able to cram a large amount of activity into each day. If you have a way to visit an exercise club, diving into a warm pool, or a hot tub may be just what you need. You may be quite pleased with the results of today's busy activities.

Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

One way to measure your life-progress is whether you have the same problems now as you did the year before. Although you may still have some of the habits that get you into some of the situations that cause you problems, you have learned how to detect and diminish the onset and duration of the difficulties. Your progress toward your personal goals is praiseworthy. You have, however, been neglecting your creative talents lately. This afternoon you make it a point to spend time with loved ones. Paint or photograph the sunset. You may also find that this creative project would make a thoughtful gift to someone special. You appreciate your life, your talents, your opportunities and your friends-including loved ones.

Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

The emotions that you have or the way that you feel should be very clear. It's a great time to understand your own situation, just how you feel about yourself. Things seem to be working together on the outside to help you develop peacefully on the inside-or it could be the other way around. Whatever the case, your energies are peaceful and others take their guidance from your presence. You seem to truly understand anything of a theoretical nature and know just how to present or communicate this to others. You could be performing or enjoying a performance of some type this afternoon. Keeping up-to-date with the way entertainment trends develop can be a lot of fun for you-as well as a study in humanity. Your outlook on life is very optimistic.



A powerful need to nurture is a bigger than usual component in your life now. You could be feeling the need to care for others or to have them care for you, possibly on a public as opposed to a private level. You have needs and you sense the needs of others. Being able to piece the two together well is what will make for positive results. Accepting praise for your tastes or belongings helps to make your day even a bit more pleasant. You may not have any problem in valuing your own life situation today. This could be the perfect time to think and study. You could find yourself enjoying a long conversation, writing a letter or making a special phone call. Long-distance conversations can be productive. Study for a class is easy this evening.

Pisces (February 19-March 20)

You could find yourself in or around the activities that come with a parade or some other similar high-energy activity. The positive and magical looks on the faces of children delight everyone present for the experience. The air is crisp and people are talking, laughing and pointing to all sorts of eye-catching fantasies. You help to teach others through your actions and today you might have volunteered to help a wheelchair rider or handicapped person see this event. Your friends or family members may have decided they liked your idea and joined to help you share the day with others. There is much to learn from those less fortunate. Creative energy this evening may open a door to poetry, musical lyrics, advertising jingle, etc., etc.



surface into a mine 52. (chemistry) Having a valence of two or having two valences.

54. (Babylonian) God of storms and wind. 56. (the feminine of raja) A Hindu princess or the wife of a raja.

57. Someone who works (or provides workers) during a strike.

61. A government tax on imports or exports.

67. Give an education to.

70. Type genus of the family Arcidae.

71. A condition (mostly in boys) characterized by behavioral and learning disorders. 72. Large genus of tropical American trees that yield a bast fiber used for cordage

and bark used in tanning. 75. Relating to or characteristic of or

occurring in the air. 76. Extinct flightless bird of New Zealand. 77. The activity of converting from plain

text into code. 78. An insecticide that is also toxic to ani-

mals and humans.

DOWN

1. One thousandth of a second. 2. An inflammatory disease involving the sebaceous glands of the skin.

3. An interest followed with exaggerated zeal.

4. Deviation from the normal or common order or form or rule.

5. Inquire about.

6. A member of a nomadic Berber people of the Sahara.

46. (prosody) Of or consisting of iambs. 47. A ductile silvery-white ductile ferromagnetic trivalent metallic element of the

7. Eel-shaped vertebrate without jaws or

paired appendages including the

8. Influential German idealist philosopher

9. A constellation in the southern hemi-

11. Extinct small mostly diurnal lower pri-

12. Of or relating to Saudi Arabia or its

13. Rice cooked in well-seasoned broth

with onions or celery and usually poultry

or game or shellfish and sometimes toma-

14. A narrow street with walls on both

23. The compass point that is one point

26. An agency of the United Nations affili-

27. Elected Vice President and became the

10th President of the United States when

28. Chinese tree cultivated especially in

29. A public promotion of some product

31. A promontory in northern Morocco

36. A fabric woven with fibers from the

37. Place in a line or arrange so as to be

41. Essential oil or perfume obtained from

43. Scarabaeid beetle considered divine

Philippines and India for its edible fruit.

east (clockwise) of due north.

ated with the World Bank.

Harrison died (1790-1862).

opposite the Rock of Gibraltar.

38. Disposed to avoid notice.

by ancient Egyptians.

A genus of Cichlida

42. Set down according to a plan.

35. Capital and largest city of Iraq.

cyclostomes and some extinct forms.

sphere near Telescopium and Norma. 10. A tricycle (usually propelled by ped-

mates that fed on leaves and fruit.

(1724-1804).

alling).

people.

toes.

sides.

or service.

flax plant.

parallel.

flowers

rare earth group. 49. A motorized wheeled vehicle used for camping or other recreational activities. 53. Supernatural half-man and half-bird vehicle or bearer of Vishnu.

55. An informal term for a father. 58. A group of Plains Indians formerly living in what is now North and South Dakota and Nebraska and Kansas and Arkansas and Louisiana and Oklahoma

and Texas. 59. Many times at short intervals.

- 60. A bowl-shaped vessel.
- 62. The front of the head from the forehead to the chin and ear to ear. 63. A member of the Shoshonean people of northeastern Arizona.
- 64. (British) Traditional jazz as revived in the 1950s. 65. Harsh or corrosive in tone.
- 66. Tasting sour like a lemon. 68. (computer science) A coding system that incorporates extra parity bits in order to detect errors.
- 69. Alternative names for the body of a human being.
- 73. An artificial language for international use that rejects rejects all existing words and is based instead on an abstract analysis of ideas.

74. A soft white precious univalent metallic element having the highest electrical and thermal conductivity of any metal.

	Yesterday's Solution														
Μ	S	G		S	С	Н	N	Α	Р	Р	S		С	F	С
Α	L	Ι		Р	Α	Ν	Α	Т	Е	L	Α		Α	R	Α
L	Α	Ν	D	Α	U		М	Α	D	Α	Μ		В	Α	R
L	W	Е	Ι		S	Р	Ι	R	Ι	Т		L	Α	М	Α
		Р	Α	Р	Α	Ι	Ν		С	Α	В	Ι	Ν	Е	Т
Α	D		G	U	L	Α	G		Α	Ν	Ι	Μ	Α		
В	Е	Α	R	D		Ν			В		D	Α		S	В
Α	G	R	Α		s	0	Р	S		0	Α	Х	Α	С	Α
Т	Α	R	М	Α	С		Ι	В	Ι	S			С	R	Т
Ι	G	Α		Р	Α		С	Е	D	Ι	Ν	G		Α	Т
С	Е	S	Т	Ι	D	Α	Е		0	R	0	L	0	G	Y
			R	Α	S	Т	Α		L	Ι	Т	Е	R		
С	L	Е	Α	Ν		Е		D	Ι	S	Ι	Ν	Т	Е	R
Η	Α	D	J		Α	L	Ι	Α	S		0	Ν	Е	G	Α
Е	D	D	Α		L	Е	С	Т	Е	R	Ν		G	Ι	N
N	Е	0	N		Α	S	С	Α	R	Ι	S		Α	S	K

Wordsearch Puzzle

90's Songs 2

Find and circle all of the 1990's songs that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell an additional song

MEVELLEBARBLEGIRLO SSELDNEL 0 INGER 0 E V 0 0 0 N S S D F Т S W T 0 B G B B B в YG F \circ F V G N 0 Μ w LL w D E R E S C S D S Α 0 B BO 0 G D DWG AASK G S 0 YMYYSHEMANAIA нкон H T O O M S O M A L I A B D G E N C C NDOWNTOWNTRAINAIRIS

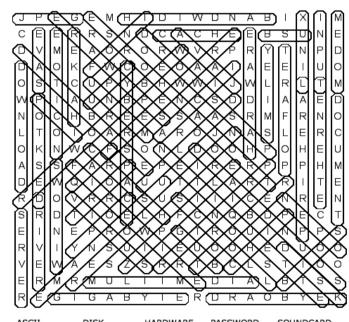
AGAIN	EPIC	MOUTH	STAY
BABY, BABY	ESCAPADE	MY WAY	STRONG ENOUGH
BAILAMOS	FANTASY	NAME	SUMMER GIRLS
BARBIE GIRL	FUNKDAFIED	NO SCRUBS	THE SIGN
BELIEVE	GETTO JAM	NOBODY	THIS KISS
BOOMBASTIC	HONEY	ORDINARY WORLD	TODAY
CAN'T STOP	IRIS	PLUSH	TOO FUNKY
CRUSH	LET'S RIDE	REAL LOVE	TWISTED
DANGEROUS	LINGER	RUNAWAY	UNDERSTANDING
DOWNTOWN TRAIN	LONGVIEW	SLAM	UNSKINNY BOP
EMOTIONS	LOVE IS	SMOOTH	WEAK
ENDLESS LOVE	MOTOWNPHILLY	SPOONMAN	WONDERWALL

Daily SuDoku

							3	
	8	9		4	6	1		
		7					9	
		4		8			2	5
		5				6		
2	3			7		9		
	1					8		
		2	1	9		3	5	
	4							

Yesterday's Solution

Computer Jargon 2



ASCII	DISK	HARDWARE	PASSWORD	SOUNDCARD
BANDWIDTH	DOCUMENT	INPUT	PCI	SPYWARE
BIOS	DOWNLOAD	JAVA	PERIPHERAL	TERAFLOP
BUG	DRIVER	JPEG	PORT	TROJAN HORSE
CACHE	EMOTICON	KEYBOARD	PRINTER	UPLOAD
CHIP	ETHERNET	LINUX	REBOOT	USB
COPY	FAQ	MENU	RESOLUTION	USERNAME
CPU	FIREWIRE	MODEM	SAVE	VIRUS
CRASH	FONT	MULTIMEDIA	SCROLL	WEB BROWSER
CYBERSPACE	FREEWARE	NETIQUETTE	SERVER	WINDOWS
DATABASE	GIGABYTE	OPEN	SMILEY	ZIP FILE
DESKTOP	HACKER			

The hidden word is: MICROPROCESSOR

Yesterday's Solution								
9	5	1	2	3	7	8	6	4
6	8	7	1	4	5	3	9	2
3	2	4	6	8	9	1	5	7
1	3	8	4	7	6	5	2	9
2	7	9	3	5	1	6	4	8
5	4	6	8	9	2	7	3	1
4	1	5	7	2	З	9	8	6
7	9	2	5	6	8	4	1	3
8	6	3	9	1	4	2	7	5

Kuwait - Times 55.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2016

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

PHARMACIES ON 24 HRS DUTY

PHARMACY	ADDRESS
Sama Safwan	Fahaeel Makka St
Abu Halaifa	Abu Halaifa-Coastal Rd
Danat Al-Sultan	Mahboula Block 1, Coastal
Modern Jahra	Jahra-Block 3 Lot 1
Madina Munawara	Jahra-Block 92
Ahlam	Fahad Al-Salem St
Khaldiya Coop	Khaldiya Coop
New Shifa	Farwaniya Block 40
Ferdous Coop	Ferdous Coop
Modern Safwan	Old Kheitan Block 11
Tariq	Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak
Hana	Salmiya-Amman St
Ikhlas	Hawally-Beirut St
Hawally & Rawdha	Hawally & Rawdha Coop
Ghadeer	Jabriya-Block 1A
Kindy	Jabriya-Block 3B
Ibn Al-Nafis	Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak
Mishrif Coop	Mishrif Coop
Salwa Coop	Salwa Coop

23915883 23715414 ıl Rd 23726558 24575518 24566622 22436184 24833967 24734000 24881201 24726638 St 25726265 25647075 22625999 22564549 25340559 25326554 St 25721264 25380581 25628241

PHONE

Tel: (+965) 161 Ext: 2627 - 2630 Fax: (+965) 24348714 www.met.gov.kw

MUTRIBA

Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours Issued 11/12/2016-19:00 LT UTC +3hr

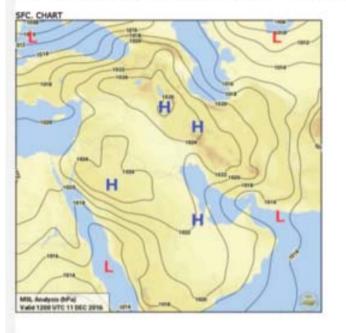
DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT

STATE OF KUWAIT

MIN Temperature 4 °C

By Night :Cold with light to moderate north westerly to light variable wind, with speed of 06 - 28

By Day : Sunny with light to moderate north westerly wind, with speed of 08 - 30 km/h



Four-Day Forecast

ther Watches 0 Frost Kuwait Forecast MIN *C EXP Max *C REC Station 19 KUWAIT CITY 07 KUWAIT AIRPORT 04 17 ABDALY 17 03 BUBYAN 17 04 JAHRA 19 07 17 FAILAKA ISLAND 07 SALMIYAH 10 17 AHMADI 17 09 JAL ALTYAH 64 17 17 QAROH ISLAND 14 UMM AL-MARADEM 16 14 NUWA2518 05 19 WAFRA 03 18 MANAGISH 05 16 SALMY 16

Recorde	d Yesterday a	et Kuwa	it Airport	
Max Temp (*C)			16	
Min Temp	(*C)		04	
Max Rel I	Hum (%)		52	
Min Rel H	ium (%)		17	
Max Wind and Direc	t Speed (km/h tion	0	46 NW	
TOTAL RA	AINFALL IN 24	HR	0 mm	
*	Sunrise		06:33	
-	Sunset		16:51	
fomorro	w Prayer Tim	100		
Fajr		05:08		
Sunrise		06:33		
Zuhr		11:42		
Asr		14:32		
Sunset		16:51		
Isha		18:13		

04

02

20

INTERNATIONAL CALLS



Afabanistan	0093	Lithuania	00370
Afghanistan Albania	0093	Luxembourg	00370
Algeria	00213	Macau	00853
Andorra	00376	Macedonia	00389
Angola	00244	Madagascar	00261
Anguilla	001264	Majorca	0034
Antiga	001268	Malawi	00265
Argentina	0054	Malaysia Maldiyos	0060
Armenia	00374	Maldives Mali	00960
Australia Austria	0061	Malta	00223 00356
Azerbaijan	00994	Marshall Islands	00692
Bahamas	001242	Martinique	00596
Bahrain	00973	Mauritania	00222
Bangladesh	00880	Mauritius	00230
Barbados	001246	Mayotte	00269
Belarus	00375	Mexico	0052
Belgium	0032	Micronesia	00691
Belize Benin	00501	Moldova Monaco	00373 00377
Bermuda	00229	Mongolia	00377
Bhutan	00975	Montserrat	001664
Bolivia	00591	Morocco	00212
Bosnia	00387	Mozambique	00258
Botswana	00267	Myanmar (Burma)	0095
Brazil	0055	Namibia	00264
Brunei	00673	Nepal	00977
Bulgaria	00359	Netherlands	0031
Burkina Burundi	00226	Netherlands Antilles New Caledonia	00599 00687
Cambodia	00257	New Zealand	00687
Cameroon	00237	Nicaragua	00505
Canada	001	Nigar	00227
Cape Verde	00238	Nigeria	00234
Cayman Islands	001345	Niue	00683
Central African	00236	Norfolk Island	00672
Chad	00235	N. Ireland (UK)	0044
Chile	0056	North Korea	00850
China Colombia	0086 0057	Norway Oman	0047 00968
Colombia	0057	Oman Pakistan	00968
Congo	00289	Palau	00680
Cook Islands	00682	Panama	00507
Costa Rica	00506	Papua New Guinea	00675
Croatia	00385	Paraguay	00595
Cuba	0053	Peru	0051
Cyprus	00357	Philippines	0063
Cyprus (Northern)	0090392	Poland	0048
Czech Republic Denmark	00420	Portugal Puerto Rico	00351 001787
Diego Garcia	0045	Qatar	00974
Djibouti	00253	Romania	0040
Dominica	001767	Russian Federation	007
Dominican Republic	001809	Rwanda	00250
Ecuador	00593	Saint Helena	00290
Egypt	0020	Saint Kitts	001869
El Salvador	00503	Saint Lucia Saint Pierre	001758
England (UK) Equatorial Guinea	0044	Saint Pierre Saint Vincent	00508 001784
Eritrea	00240	Samoa US	00684
Estonia	00372	Samoa West	00685
Ethiopia	00251	San Marino	00378
Falkland Islands	00500	Sao Tome	00239
Faroe Islands	00298	Saudi Arabia	00966
Fiji	00679	Scotland (UK)	0044
Finland France	00358	Senegal Seychelles	00221 00284
French Guiana	00594	Sierra Leone	00232
French Polynesia	00689	Singapore	0065
Gabon	00241	Slovakia	00421
Gambia	00220	Slovenia	00386
Georgia	00995	Solomon Islands	00677
Germany	0049	Somalia	
Observe	00233	Courtly Adult	00252
	00250	South Africa	0027
Gibraltar	00350	South Korea	0027 0082
Gibraltar Greece	00350 0030 00299		0027
Ghana Gibraltar Greece Greenland Grenada	0030	South Korea Spain	0027 0082 0034
Gibraltar Greece Greenland Grenada	0030 00299	South Korea Spain Sri Lanka	0027 0082 0034 0094
Gibraltar Greece Greenland Grenada Guadeloupe	0030 00299 001473	South Korea Spain Sri Lanka Sudan	0027 0082 0034 0094 00249
Gibraltar Greece Greenland Grenada Guadeloupe Guam	0030 00299 001473 00590	South Korea Spain Sri Lanka Sudan Suriname Swaziland Sweden	0027 0082 0034 0094 00249 00597
Gibraltar Greece Greenland Grenada Guadeloupe Guam Guatemala Guatemala	0030 00299 001473 00590 001671 00502 00224	South Korea Spain Sri Lanka Sudan Suriname Swaziland Sweden Switzerland	0027 0082 0034 0094 00249 00597 00268 0046
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Gibraltar Greece Greenland Grenada Guadeloupe Guam Guatemala Guinea Guyana Haiti Holland (Netherlands)	0030 00299 001473 00590 001671 00502 00224 00592 00509 0031	South Korea Spain Sri Lanka Sudan Suriname Swaziland Sweden Switzerland Syria Serbia Taiwan	0027 0082 0034 0094 00597 00268 0046 0041 00963 00381 00886
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Gibraltar Greece Greenland Grenada Guadeloupe Guam Guatemala Guinea Guyana Haiti Holland (Netherlands) Honduras Hong Kong Hungary Ibiza (Spain) Iceland India	0030 00299 001473 00590 001671 00502 00224 00592 00592 0031 00504 00352 0031 00354 00354 00354	South Korea Spain Spain Suri Lanka Sudan Suriname Swaziland Swaziland Swaziland Switzerland Syria Serbia Taiwan Taiwan Tanzania Thailand Togo Tonga Tokelau Tinidad	0027 0082 0034 0094 00597 00268 0046 0041 00963 00381 00886 00255 0066 00228 00676 00690 001868
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Gibraltar Greece Greenland Grenada Guadeloupe Guam Guatemala Guinea Guyana Haiti Holland (Netherlands) Honduras Hong Kong Hungary Ibiza (Spain) Iceland India India Ocean Indonesia Iran Iraq Iraq	0030 00299 001473 00590 001671 00502 00224 00592 00509 0031 00504 00352 0036 0034 0091 00873 0062 0098	South Korea Spain Sri Lanka Sudan Suriname Swaziland Sweden Switzerland Syria Serbia Taiwan Tanzania Thailand Togo Tonga Tonga Tokelau Trinidad Tunisia Turkey Tuvalu	0027 0082 0034 0094 00597 00268 0040 0043 0046 0046 0043 0046 0046 0047 00486 00493 0044 0045 0046 0047 00486 004258 00676 00490 00456 00476 00476 00476 00476 00476 00476 00476 00476 00476 00476 00476 00476 00476 00476 00488 00490 00488 00488 00488 00488 00488 00488 0449
Gibraltar Greece Greenland Grenada Guadeloupe Guatemala Guatemala Guinea Guyana Holland (Netherlands) Honduras Hong Kong Hungary Ibiza (Spain) Iceland India India Ocean Indonesia Iraq Iraq Ireland	0030 00299 001473 00590 001671 00502 00224 00592 00592 00504 00505 0031 00504 00352 0036 00354 0091 00873 0062 00984 00954	South Korea Spain Sri Lanka Sudan Suriname Swaziland Swaziland Sweden Switzerland Syria Serbia Taiwan Taiwan Taiwan Tailand Tailand Togo Tonga Tokelau Tokelau Tinidad Tunisia Turkey Tuvalu Uganda	0027 0082 0034 0094 00597 00268 0040 0043 0046 0046 0043 0046 0046 0047 00486 00493 0044 0045 0046 0047 00486 004258 00676 00490 00456 00476 00476 00476 00476 00476 00476 00476 00476 00476 00476 00476 00476 00476 00476 00488 00490 00488 00488 00488 00488 00488 00488 0449
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	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
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Expected Weather	sunny	clouds to increase + scattered rain later on	partly cloudy + scattered rain	sunny
Min Temp *C	04	05	08	07
Max Temp *C	19	20	23	19
Wind Direction	north westerly	variable wind changing to south easterly	south easterly changing to north westerly later on	north westerly
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Ophthalmologis	sts		
Dr. Abidallah Al-Mansoor	25622444		Dr. M
Dr. Samy Al-Rabeea	25752222		Dr. Ab
Dr. Masoma Habeeb	25321171		Dr. Ak
Dr. Mubarak Al-Ajmy	25739999		
Dr. Mohsen Abel	25757700		Dr Di
Dr Adnan Hasan Alwayl	25732223		
Dr. Abdallah Al-Baghly	25732223		
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Dr. Abdallah Al-Ali	25644660		
Dr. Abd Al-Hameed Al-Taweel	25646478		DrAd
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. Al
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Dr. Yousef Al-Omar	24719312		
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Dr. Kathem Maarafi	25730465		Dr. M
Dr. Abdallah Ahmad Eyadah	25655528	_	
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Dr. Dina Abidallah Al-Refae	25333501		Dr. M
Urologists			Dr. La
Dr. Ali Naser Al-Serfy	22641534	_	Dr. Na
Dr. Fawzi Taher Abul	22639955		
Dr. Khaleel Abidallah Al-Awad			Dr. M
Dr. Adel Al-Hunayan FRCS (C)			Dr Na
Dr. Leons Joseph	66703427		
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	25625030/60	Dr. Zahra Qabazard	25710444		
tor		Dr. Sohail Qamar	22621099		
23	729596/23729581	Dr. Snaa Maaroof	25713514		
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	22635047	Dr. Zacharias Mathew	24334282		
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237	29596/23729581	Bern University	23845955		
257	2-6666 ext 8321	Dentists	Dentists		
	22655539	Dr Anil Thomas	3729596/3729581		
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	25739272	Dr. Anesah Al-Rasheed	22562226		
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	22639939	Neurologis	ts		
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	25728004	Dr. Jasem Mola Hassan	25345875		
	25355515	Gastrologis	ts		
	24726446	Dr. Sami Aman	22636464		
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Dr. Ahmad Al-Ansari 25658888	
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Head, Division of Cardiology Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital	25339667
Consultant Cardiologist	
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Inaya German Medical Center Te: 2575077	
Fax: 25723123	
William Schuilenberg, RPC 2290-1677 Zaina Al Zabin, M.Sc. 2290-1677	

Kuwait 🗻 Times 55.





Bela Tarr during the awards ceremony of the 14th edition of the Marrakech

International Film festival in Marrakech. — AFP photos



Chinese director Zang Qi Wu receives his award from Hungarian director Afghanistan actress Fereshteh Hosseini holds her trophy after receiving the best actress award.



Island's actor Blaher Hinriksson (right) and Denmark's actor Baldur Einarsson hold their trophy after receiving the best actor award.

Chinese directors win top prizes at Marrakesh film festival

wo Chinese filmmakers won the top awards at the Marrakesh film festival this weekend, with Zang Qiwu's "The Donor" on the controversial issue of organ transplants taking the coveted Golden Star. The best director award went to China's Wang Xuebo for "Knife in the Clear Water". Fourteen films competed in the annual festival but the top prize was Saturday handed to "The Donor" a drama about a poor father forced to sell his kidney to look after his family. Both Zang and Wang, seen as up and rising filmmakers, had also taken the two main prizes at the Busan International Film Festival in South Korea in October. Zang has

long worked alongside acclaimed Chinese director Zhang Yimou but "The Donor" was his first work as a director and portrayed the tragedies that come with organ transplants. "Knife in the Clear Water", also Wang's first

feature film, tells the story of a farmer and the

Prize at the festival was awarded to "Mister Universo" a film co-directed by Italian Tizza Covi and Austrian Rainer Frimmel. Best actress award went to Fereshteh Hosseini for her performance in the film "Parting" of Afghan director Navid Mahmoudi.

Baldur Einarsson and Blaer Hinriksson

shared the best actor award for their roles in the Icelandic movie "Heartstone" of director Gudmundur Arnar Gudmundsson. Hungarian director Bela Tarr presided over the jury at this year's festival, which paid a special tribute to Iranian filmmaker Abbas Kiarostami who died in July. — AFP

Arab film industry execs to launch first regional film awards in Dubai

he Arab film industry is starting up its first unified motion picture association and launching the Arab Film Awards, its version of the Oscars. The potentially game changing initiative, still in early stages, was announced yesterday by a group of prominent Arab producers and industry execs during the 13th edition of the Dubai Film Festival, the world's leading Arab cinema platform, which is among early supporters of the prizes.

Plans are underway for the first edition of the Arab Film Awards to take place in Dubai in March 2018 with statuettes to be handed out in 19 categories. The nascent entity behind the initiative is a nonprofit called the Arab Film Institute which will be headquartered in



The cast of Rogue One: A Star Wars Story at the World Premiere at The Pantages Theatre on Saturday, in Hollywood, CA, where Nissan debuted their new Star Wars Limited Edition Nissan Rogue. —AP photos



Isaiah Crews, left, and Terry Crews jump as they arrive at the world premiere of "Rogue One: A Star Wars Story".

Dubai. The goal is to have at least 500 members next year, said Lebanese producer Paul Baboudjian, a former executive director of funding org. Screen Institute Beirut, who conceived and got the ball rolling on what is intended to become the Arab rough equivalent of the European Film Academy, or the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences in the US. "Being a witness and active member of the bright and rich Arab film scene, I felt we needed to bring together all this energy and exchange experiences and ideas as well as offer wider opportunities in a fast-changing world to our film community," Baboudjian said at a packed presser. The initial nucleus on the board of the institute behind the first pan-Arab film prizes includes prominent Egyptian indie producer and screenwriter Mohamed Hefzy ("Clash"); Tunisia's top arthouse producer Dora Bouchoucha ("Hedi"); the head of Jordan's Royal Film Commission George David; Moroccan filmmaker and producer Nabil Ayouch ("Much Loved"); Al Zain Al Sabah, who is Undersecretary of Kuwait's Ministry of State for Youth Affairs and also a film producer; and Jawaheer Abdulla Al Qassimi, who is director of - Director of the UAE's Funn, Media Arts for Youth org. and the Sharjah Children International Film Festival.

Aside from launching the first pan-Arab film nods, the Arab Film Institute will seek to become a forum for the region's film industry to try and collectively tackle stumbling blocks such as distribution impediments caused by different varieties of Arabic in different countries, and collectively address the lack of a real pan-Arab star system. "We currently work in silos," said Hefzy. "More interaction is necessary," he noted.

"We are a single market; we need to build this market and this has not been happening," said Algerian director and producer Salem Brahimi ("Let Them Come"). Asked about potential rifts that could arise within the org. Brahimi said: "we are going to be messy! We are going to quarrel, we are going to learn as we go, we know that. But even if we make mistakes, we will achieve more than we are achieving right now, which is nothing." — Reuters

'Rogue One' premiere bring the Force back to Hollywood

ans cheered wildly Saturday as the star-studded world premiere of the hotly anticipated "Rogue One: A Star Wars Story" continued the space saga after the last episode shattered box office records. The \$200 million spin-off is expected to be the hottest ticket of 2016, recording the second-highest first day of domestic pre-sales ever, behind last year's "The Force Awakens." Police cordoned off the area around the Pantages Theater in Hollywood hosting almost 3,000 guests, setting up metal detectors and deploying scores of officers and sniffer dogs.



Jaime King arrives at the world premiere of "Rogue One: A Star Wars Story".

"I feel honored to be part of this family, and by that I mean the fans, not just the filmmakers," British actor Riz Ahmed, who stars as pilot Bodhi Rook, told AFP ahead of the screening. "They are what keep this alive. And it's them that we're all looking to. to gauge how we've done. I really feel proud of the film, and I hope they connect with it too." Set just before "A New Hope"the original 1977 film-Gareth Edwards's "Roque One" stars Felicity Jones as rebel Jyn Erso alongside Diego Luna, Donnie Yen, Mads Mikkelsen, Alan Tudyk, Jiang Wen and Forest Whitaker.

Jyn-a delinquent with a string of convictions for forgery, assault and theft-is recruited by the Rebel Alliance for a mission to destroy a planet-sized weapon of mass destruction recently named the Death Star. Mikkelsen told AFP it felt "surreal" to be part of the iconic saga, having grown up with the original trilogy.

"People will be surprised that we did a grittier film than the former ones, and more character driven," he said.

'Perfect film'

As well as the cast and crew, celebrities including actors Michael Douglas and Christian Bale, as well as maverick filmmaker Kevin Smith, walked the red carpet ahead of the screening. The intergalactic tale of good versus evil, friendship, loyalty and love created a defining moment in the history of popular culture, and launched one of the biggest movie franchises ever. The original "Star Wars" (1977) and its 1980 sequel "The Empire Strikes Back" turned Harrison Ford, Carrie Fisher and Mark Hamill-who play its heroes Han Solo, Princess Leia and Luke Skywalker-into Hollywood's biggest stars.

"I love 'Star Wars' because it's a gateway drug, but 'Empire' is a perfect film, a top five movie of my lifetime," "Chasing Amy" and "Clerks" director Smith, 46, told AFP. Excitement around the "Rogue One" premiere had been building for days as the environs of the Pantages were closed to traffic to make way for a huge marquee and a full size model of an X-Wing fighter, parked in the street. Earlier in the day parody "Rogue Won: A Culture War" posters appeared at bus shelters and benches around Hollywood, featuring President-elect Donald Trump as the hero of the piece.

Earlier in the week a #DumpStarWars hashtag began trending on Twitter after one user made the claim-strongly denied by Disney-that the movie had been reshot to include an anti-Trump message. The campaign appeared not to have reached scores of fans who lined up to catch a \$2 billion to become 2015's biggest release, glimpse of the "Roque One" cast, several in the outfits of their favorite characters.

'Awesome'

"My husband is a collector. He owns 65,000 pieces. Jyn Erso is a great female character. I love that they have incorporated female characters with great leadership," said Anne Jenkins, 48, of Kansas City. "Rogue One" is part of an attempt to revitalize the franchise since Disney bought Lucasfilm in 2012, when it was still reeling from grim reviews for the much-maligned 1999-2005 prequel trilogy. The idea was to bring out a sequel trilogy with a movie every other year-starting with "The Force Awakens" in 2015 — and intersperse those releases with an "anthology trilogy" of oneoff, standalone movies in the even years.

J.J. Abrams's "The Force Awakens," made



the most successful Disney motion picture and the third-highest grossing movie of all time. Pundits expect "Rogue One" to open at \$130-\$150 million, some way behind the \$248 million debut weekend for "The Force Awakens," and end up with a final global total around \$1.4 billion.

The premiere will be followed by a global rollout taking in 11 countries beginning on Wednesday before the film gets a wide US release on Friday.

"This is what the prequels should have been all along," TV host and film critic Scott Mantz told AFP after the screening. "I thought it was awesome. I thought it was clever the way they tied the original 'Star Wars' in with this... I actually felt like this was a more entertaining and rewarding 'Star Wars' experience than 'The Force Awakens.^{'''} — AFP

Dylan Michael Douglas, from left, Michael **Douglas and Carys Zeta** Douglas arrive at the world premiere of "Rogue One: A Star Wars Story".



Characters from "Rogue One: A Star Wars Story" appear at the film's world premiere.



Actors, directors and producers of the film "Toni Erdmann" (from left) Dutch actress Hadewych Minis, producer Michel Merkt, producer Jonas Dornbach, German actress Sandra Hueller, German director Maren Ade, Austrian actor Peter Simonischek, producer Janine Jackowski and German actor Trystan Puetter pose with their trophies they received in the category "European Film 2016" during the 29th European Film Awards at the National Forum of Music in Wroclaw, Poland. — AFP



The German-Austrian drama "Toni Erdmann," written and directed by Maren Ade, swept this year's European Film Awards, winning five awards, including for best film, director and screenwriter. "Toni Erdmann" also won best actress for Sandra Hueller and best actor for Peter Simonischek. The 29th European Film Awards took place Saturday in the Western Polish city of Wroclaw. The show was peppered with political commentary by presenters, with a focus on the plight of refugees and Russia. Maria Alyokhina from the punk rock group Pussy Riot, whose members have been imprisoned for criticizing Russian President Vladimir Putin's, appealed for the release of Oleg Sentsov, a Ukrainian director carrying out a 20-year prison term in Russia on terrorism charges seen as politically motivated. — AP



(From left) Director Claude Barras and producers Pauline Gygax, Kate Merkt and Michel Merkt pose for a photo during the 29th European Film Awards.



German director Maren Ade poses with her trophy after she was awarded the European Director Award for her



Alice Normington poses with her trophy she received in the category "European Production Designer 2016".



German actress Sandra Hueller poses with her

trophy she received in the category "European Actress 2016"

for her role in

the film "Toni

Barbara

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Polish director Malgorzata Szumowska poses with her trophy she received in the category "Audience Award".



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Italian director Gianfranco Rosi poses with his trophy he received in the category "European Documentary 2016" for his film "Fire at Sea".

List of winners

European Film:

"Toni Erdmann" (Maren Ade, Germany, Austria) **European Director:** Maren Ade ("Toni Erdmann," Germany, Austria) **European Actor:** Peter Simonischek ("Toni Erdmann") **European Actress:** Sandra H,ller ("Toni Erdmann") European Screenwriter: Maren Ade ("Toni Erdmann") **European Documentary:** "Fire At Sea" (Gianfranco Rosi, Italy, France) **European Animated Feature:** "My Life as a Zucchini" (Claude Barras, France, Switzerland) **European Comedy:** "A Man Called Ove" (Hannes Holm, Sweden, Norway) Fipresci Prize - European Discovery:

"The Happiest Day in the Life of Olli M?ki" (Juho Kuosmanen, Finland, Sweden, Germany). "European Achievement in World Cinema" Pierce Brosnan — Reuters

Danish camerawoman Camilla Hjelm Knudsen poses with her trophy she received in the category "European Cinematographer 2016 - Prix Carlo di Palma".





Austrian actor Peter Simonischek poses with his trophy he received in the category "European Actor 2016" for his role in the film "Toni Erdmann".





PETANQUE FEVER KINDLES PASSION OF WORLD CHAMPS MADAGASCAR





Antananarivo residents playing bocce (Petanque) at the city's club, in Antananarivo. — AFP photos



t's not even midday in the middle of the work week, but already the clacking of steel balls colliding on a makeshift pitch rings out in Madagascar's capital, Antananarivo. Curious bystanders watch as players swing their arms, releasing the balls in gentle arcs whilst avoiding a large tree root protruding from the square pitch. This is petanque, a form of boules or bowling beloved across the Indian Ocean island nation. And with Madagascar recently crowned world champions, the country's passion for the sport has reached fever pitch-at any time of the day. "Petanque is very, very important. It's everything to us," says Andry Maminirina, who built the field next to the majestic Lake Anosy three years ago.

Across the lake, at the foot of a hill where 'Antananarivo' is spelled out like the Hollywood sign, several games are well under

way at the Tana Bowls Club (TBC). Tree roots are not a problem here, and about a hundred players-men and women, young and old-fill the well-maintained fields. Originating in the south of France, the goal of petanque is for players to toss their balls as close as possible



to a smaller wooden ball called a 'cochonnet' (piglet) or jack. When the French colonised Madagascar, they brought petanque with them. "I played petanque for the first time in 1964 when I was in the French army," said Clet Ramamonjisoa, 75, an amateur player. But getting hold of the necessary equipment to train with is a challenge. Players rely on second-hand balls sent over by family members that have emigrated to Europe. "We don't have much opportunity to get equipment here-even just the balls, you can't get them in Madagascar. If you do find a pair, they're usually very expensive," said Michel Ranarivelo, another amateur player.

'Like football in Brazil' Petanque fever was soaring when in late Madagascar is like football in Brazil," said Beryl Razafindrainony, president of Madagascar's petanque federation. "At first it was just a leisure activity, but the 1999 victory really popularised it across the country."

But at TBC, many players mentioned rumours of "corruption" at the highest levels of the sport. Madasgacar's slew of silver medals sparked allegations of match fixing and that the island's team was throwing finals for bribes worth thousands of euros (dollars) — an astronomical amount in a country where the average salary is just 45 euros a month.

This year, the national team was housed in a top secret location, their cellphones confiscated and all communication with their families cut off.

"There will always be ill-intentioned people to cause trouble with our players," said Razafindrainony. "The players feel motivated and I don't think they would be influenced by any sum of money. But the suspicion was still there and so to avoid all that we decided to remove them from society."

Whether the suspicions were fair or not, the move worked. When France-the undisputed champ since 2001 — was knocked out in the semi-final, Madagascar grabbed the opportunity to take back their crown. In a final more akin to a football match, the crowd whooping and cheering, Madagascar crushed Benin 13-5. Seventeen years after the title that started petanque fever in Madagascar, the island's enthusiasm for the sport is greater than ever. — AFP



November the world championship was just a week away-and Madagascar was the host country. It would be the island's first time hosting a championship in any sport, ever. Madagascar has no more than 20 professional petanque players, but in 1999 it took gold and has racked up an impressive list of second places since then. "Petanque here in

Acolytes of Pina Bausch keep her dance in motion



Picture shows Australian dancer Josephine Ann Endicott, former assistant to German choreographer Pina Bausch. — AFP photos

The dance company that legendary German choreographer Pina Bausch, who died in 2009, built into one of the world's most acclaimed is doing its utmost to foster her moving legacy. Beloved of fellow artists and seen as a visionary by her peers in the dance world, Bausch mixed dance and theatre to produce a tumult of emotions, free from traditional constraints, that often divided audiences. "I'm not interested in how people move, but in what moves them," she said shortly before her death from cancer.

Now her life's work is being honored with a Berlin exhibition, "Pina Bausch and the Tanztheater", where members of the company will offer up to five workshops a day to curious visitors and dance lovers until January 7. "I couldn't have imagined that you could express yourself without difficult technique, and that it could be so much fun," said 38-year-old Kerstin

Brennscheidt, who had brought her son to rehearse a piece from Bausch's 1982 work "Nelken" (Carnations).

The exhibition recreates the "Lichtburg", a former cinema in the western industrial city of Wuppertal that Bausch turned into the headquarters of her dance revolution. "Somehow she's still there in us. I feel her aura around us. It's overpowering," said Australian Jo Ann Endicott, 66, who became the choreographer's assistant after being one of the star dancers of the Tanztheater.

'Reinvented from scratch'

By the time Bausch passed away her popularity was such that her company had to take to the stage that very same night to satisfy demand. Things had been very different when she began her work in the 1970s. "We would begin our shows in packed rooms and end





Australian dancer Josephine Ann Endicott, former assistant to German choreographer Pina Bausch, giving a dance workshop to visitors at the reconstructed "Lichtburg" practice space. A visitor looking on a picture wall with photographs from the unique hold-ings of the Pina Bausch Archives, at the "Pina Bausch and the Tanztheater" exhibition.

them in half-empty ones," the Tanztheater's Mechthild Grossmann told feminist magazine Emma in 2010. "In Bochum, in 1978, we had to stop the show. People were standing and throwing things onto the stage." Bausch's personal style was a stark contrast to the classical forms that dominated the world of choreography at the time.

She employed exaggerated expressions and scenery to explore the human condition with a mixture of mischief, sarcasm, joy and despair. Beyond the choreography's energy, the Tanztheater survivors strive to communicate Bausch's humor and sensitivity to audiences that may not be steeped in the world of modern dance. There's no doubt that the choreographer made history with her work, and the earth, fields of carnations, waterfalls and animals that inhabited her stages have inspired many who came later. But only the performers, with their deep bond to the company, can pass on their roles to others-a demanding task for such an intangible art form. Bausch would set dancers in motion with hints-"full moon", "desire", or "at the beginning"-before combining their responses into a whole. "When you've found what you're looking for, you know it," she once said. "Everything had to be reinvented from scratch," said Grossmann. "Just don't sing like a singer, just don't act like an actor, just don't dance like a dancer."

Disciples' task

Since Bausch's death, her company has stepped up the effort of passing on her works to the younger generation within their own ranks and to other professional dancers. The choreographer's disciples have communicated their secrets to the Paris Opera Ballet, the Bavarian state ballet and the National English Ballet in recent years. And Bausch deputy, Endicott, has branched out even further by staging the dance "Kontakthof" with a group of teenagers and over-65s. Perhaps the greatest challenge for the troupe now is to begin creating something new, rather than just remaining in their founder's shadow as a living monument.

For that, they need a new artistic directorbut as Endicott says, "you can't bring a copy of Pina, that's the most ridiculous thing you could do." The three pieces offered by the Tanztheater at the end of 2015 met with mixed receptions. Now, the faithful who Bausch left behind have pinned their hopes on Adolphe Binder, a Romanian without dance training who will have to convince sceptics that she can rekindle the magic in Wuppertal when she takes the reins in May. — AFP

LIFESTYLE FEATURES



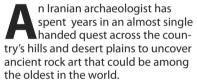


Iranian archeologist Mohammed Naserifard displays ancient engravings in the hills outside the town of Khomein An ancient engraving of a hunter is seen in the hills outside the town of Khomein in central Iran. in central Iran. — AFP photos

The ibex code Deciphering Iran's ancient rock art



Ancient engravings of animals are seen in the hills outside the town of Khomein in central Iran.



Now he hopes that renewed ties

ble for Iranian archaeologists. "Sanctions have deprived us of the technology," Naserifard told AFP. "We hope with the situation improving now,



Ancient engravings of ibex deer are seen in the hills outside the town of Khomein.

treasure." He estimates he has since travelled more than 700,000 kilometers (450,000 miles) across two dozen Iranian provinces, unearthing some 50,000 ancient paintings and engravings. Naserifard now teaches at a local university, and his discoveries have been catalogued by the Bradshaw Foundation, a Swiss NGO specializing in rock art, bringing them international attention. "His work is really important-there have been these blank spots on the map that we are finally starting to fill in," said Genevieve von Petzinger, a Canadian cave art expert and author of "The First Signs: Unlocking the Mysteries of the World's Oldest Symbols". The engravings could even date back to when humans made their first forays out of Africa, she said.





Iranian archeologist Mohammed Naserifard displays ancient engravings in the hills outside the town of Khomein.

Naserifard has done all this diligent work, but he needs access to the big labs. Hopefully, people can now come to help him."

The Khomein hills are typical of rock art locations around the world-a once-fertile riverside spot that sup-

with the West after years of international isolation could help decipher its mysteries. Despite its rough beauty, it is hard to imagine that the desolate, rock-strewn landscape outside the town of Khomein in central Iran conceals any treasures. But Dr Mohammed Naserifard scrambles up a hillside, and waits eagerly at the top, his walking stick pointing out the long curled horns of a 4,000-year-old ibex deer scratched into a flat stone.

Over the next few hours, he leads AFP on a journey through valleys and up steep slopes, revealing dozens more images of ancient hunters, tribal dances, deities and beasts. Despite their potential world-historical importance, they have been seen by just a handful of people. All are thousands of years old, but some of the markings-such as a line of cup-marks that may have been used in religious ceremonies-could be much older.

Dutch enthusiasts who visited the area with Naserifard in 2008 dated the cup marks to more than 40,000 years

we can soon bring this technology to Iran and gain more accurate and scientific information on these engravings."

ago, putting them among the oldest

definitive data has been all but impossi-

rock art on the planet. But getting

'Finding a treasure'

The sanctions imposed by world powers prior to last year's nuclear deal meant Iranian scientists were cut off from their global colleagues, deprived of modern lab equipment and the latest research, and faced severe funding shortages. Added to that was the fact that rock art has never been a priority in Iran, where pre-Islamic history can be a controversial subject. It has been left instead to Naserifard's personal determination. Having read about the subject in a German magazine, he hunted everywhere for examples.

Then one day in 2002, in the hills outside Khomein, he got lucky. "We were on a picnic and all my friends were taking an afternoon nap. I went wandering and observing the rocks in the valley and I found a rock full of shapes," he recalled. "I was so excited! Finding these works was like finding a

'Eerie similarities'

Naserifard's discoveries support the growing evidence that humans may have started to develop a common art tradition before leaving Africa, which might explain why the same themes and shapes have turned up in sites as far-flung as California, Spain and South Africa. "Iran could be a really important part of the puzzle. It is a very strategic location-humans migrated through there heading both

Ancient engravings are seen in the hills outside the town of Khomein.

east and west," said von Petzinger. New methods such as uranium dating-which enables scientists to date samples even older than is possible with carbon dating-are now needed in Iran, along with broader archaeological work to put the findings in context.

"These new methods are very expensive," said von Petzinger. "Dr

ported sizeable settlements. As in other places around the world, the artists were fixated by a single image: in Iran, pictures of the ibex deer account for more than 90 percent of the ancient engravings catalogued by Naserifard.

The Kozo hunters of South Africa obsessively drew and redrew a bighorned sheep that looks surprisingly similar. "We don't know why they picked a favorite motif and ran with it, but we see the same pattern in very different places," said Peter Robinson of the Bradshaw Foundation. He said the ibex may have been part of an origin myth, or perhaps the engravings were an attempt to summon magical hunting powers or encourage the deer to multiply.

"The similarities across time and space can be eerie. We see examples in which Ice Age art didn't vary across 30,000 years," said Robinson. "But one thing that seems clear is this innate human characteristic to want to mark a wall, to graffiti." — AFP



An unknown artist calling himself "Anonymouse" has created a mini restaurant and deli-shop for mice in central Malmo, Sweden. — AFP photos



An unknown artist calling himself "Anonymouse" takes pictures of a mini restaurant and deli-shop for mice he has created in central Malmo, Sweden.

'Anonymouse' opens miniature restaurant for rodents in Sweden

n art group named 'Anonymouse' has opened a new chain of miniature restaurants designed to specifically cater for mice in Sweden. The quaint 70cm x 30cm (about 25012 inch) stores, located in the Swedish city of Malmo, offer everything a modern-day mouse would need, including a wide selection of nuts and cheeses, to notices about upcoming mouse events.

While the mice are surely thrilled with the giant step in rodent evolution, it's the exquisite attention to detail that has humans coming back for more.

The street art creations have become something of a Banksy for rodents; the anonymous 'Anonymouse MMX' crew behind the installations has yet to reveal itself. "It's just too darn charming to imagine a world ... [in which] mice live parallel to us, but just slightly out of sight," said a representative for the art group - which has no affiliation to the Anonymouse.org website to the HuffPost.-www.rt.com



Celebrating 'Al-Mawlid Al-Nabawi'





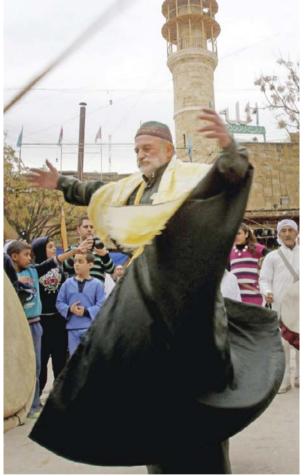


A Lebanese Muslim Sufi child plays music

A Lebanese Muslim Sufi young man poses with a spike pierced into his cheek.



A Lebanese Muslim Sufi young man has a spike pierced into his cheek during a ritual ceremony.



A Lebanese Muslim Sufi man performs a traditional dance during a ritual ceremony.

Lebanese Muslim Sufi men play music during a ritual ceremony to commemorate the birth of the Prophet Mohammad (PBUH).



A Lebanese Muslim Sufi child plays music during a ritual ceremony to commemorate the birth of the Prophet Mohammad (PBUH).

ARTIST WORKS TO PRESERVE CHRISTIAN HERITAGE IN HAMAS-RUN GAZA

Gaza Christians make up fraction of population

nly about 1,200 Christians remain in Gaza-only a tiny fraction of the population in a territory run by Hamas Islamists-but artist Naser Jeldha is doing what he can to preserve its Christian heritage through art. In his studio in the heart of old Gaza, not far from a 5th century Orthodox church, Jeldha spends his days carving religious figurines, chiselling low-relief carvings of Biblical scenes and painting portraits of Jesus (PBUH), Mary Magdalene and the saints. "My message is about my religion," said the greybearded 57-year-old, a member of the Greek

Orthodox community. "I want to make it visual, I want to make people see it, not only to be kept as texts in church."

As he works, steel-rimmed spectacles perched on his nose, Jeldha listens to Byzantine prayer music that echoes softly around the studio, creating an atmosphere from another era. The walls are covered in his pictures, with more laid out on the arms of chairs and sofas, and others propped on a 150year-old Russian piano in the corner. As well as painting and sculpture, Jeldha plays the accordion, piano and guitar.

In the run up to Christmas - celebrated on Jan. 7 in the Orthodox church - Jeldha is busy making pieces as gifts for friends and relatives. While he has been an artist for 35 years, he does not display his works or offer them for sale. Instead, he presents them as gifts at weddings or events on the Christian calendar. He does, however, have plans for a public showing soon. In the next two weeks, he is also hoping he will be one of about 800 Christians granted a permit by Israel to leave Gaza and travel to Bethlehem, in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, to attend prayer services in Jesus's(PBUH),

birthplace. "We have applied for permits and if we get them I intend to travel with my family," said Jeldha, who is determined to remain in Gaza despite the departure of many Christians over the last decade in the face of rising economic hardship. While Gaza's Christians generally enjoy good relations with their Muslim neighbours, there have been isolated attacks by hardline Salafist groups on Christian tombs and symbols. Hamas, the Islamist movement that has ruled Gaza since 2006, is keen to ensure the Christian community feels safe and protected. Its leaders occasionally visit the

heads of the three Gaza churches to build stronger relations. Jeldha acknowledged that the economy was suffering, with the blockade imposed by Israel and Egypt, a move to pressure Hamas, limiting trade, driving up costs and causing despair. Despite that, Jeldha, whose white front door is adorned with a small cross painted in blue, said he would never leave. "I have lived in this neighborhood for 54 years. I have brotherly and wonderful relations with Muslims," said the father of four. "Gaza is beautiful and I will not leave it...I do not feel I am a stranger here." — Reuters