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MPS CALL TO END SPORTS CRISIS

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: In its first special debate, the National Assembly demanded yesterday that the sports crisis that attracted international suspensions must be resolved within two months by issuing new legislation that conform to world sports charters. MPs voting by a large margin a recommendation calling to form a sports and youth committee next week that will start immediately to work on a new sports law agreed by all sides and also by the international sports organizations.

The recommendation, which was approved by all

Cabinet ministers present in the Assembly, also calls on the government to contact international sports bodies and inform them of the plan and request a temporary lifting of the 14-month suspension to allow Kuwaiti teams to take part in international events.

The resolutions were approved after a marathon sixhour debate called by 11 lawmakers to find a solution to the suspension imposed on Kuwaiti sports since Oct 2015, allegedly over government interference in sports. During the debate, a large number of MPs spoke, and most of them strongly lashed out at what they called a political struggle between leading figures in the coun-

try for personal and political objectives.

Many MPs accused the government of a lack of will to lift the ban on Kuwait by failing to convince international organizations, and also for interfering in local sports. Minister of Information and State Minister for Youth Sheikh Salman Al-Humoud Al-Sabah denied that the government was unwilling to end the ban, but insisted that the suspension imposed on Kuwait has no legal basis

He said the laws issued in the past few years, and specifically the law issued in June this year, did not constitute any interference in local sports. The minister

directly accused Kuwaitis holding leading positions in international sports organizations of causing the suspension in collaboration with certain officials in local sports bodies, who complained against the country.

Speaking during the debate, opposition MP Shuaib Al-Muwaizri said the problem of sports in the country is a struggle between top officials.

He said the struggle festered because the government could not stop it, adding that every side is trying to push the solution that serves its interests. Opposition MP Mohammad Al-Dallal said the struggles that led to

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photo with 2016 KFAS award winners. — Amiri Diwan photos



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah poses for a group His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah poses for a group photo with KFAS officials.

AMIR PATRONIZES, ATTENDS 2016 KFAS AWARD CEREMONY

Supporting scientific research in Kuwait, Arab World

KUWAIT: With patronage and attendance of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the Kuwait Foundation for

award ceremony at Bayan Palace yesterday. The awards include the Kuwait Prize awarded to Kuwaiti and Arab researchers, the Scientific Production Prize awarded to Kuwaiti researchers, and Anwar Al-Nouri Prize, offered for Best PhD thesis in Education in the Arab World. The Kuwait Prize, established in 1979, is consistent with the KFAS objectives, fulfilling its mission to support scientific research in various branches seeking to motivate Arab scientists and researchers.

Advancement of Science (KFAS) held its 2016

Kuwait Prize

The 2016 Kuwait Prize was awarded in three categories. The first category's prize, on basic sciences in physics, was awarded to Dr George Tanios Helou (Lebanese), Executive Director of the Infrared Processing and Analysis Center, and Research Professor of Physics at the University of Caltech in Pasadena, California, USA. Prize in the second category, Applied Sciences in food and Agriculture, was awarded to Dr Sufian Abdul Salam Kamoun (Tunisian), Professor of Biology at West Anglia University, and a senior fellow at the Sainsbury Laboratory, John Innes Centre in the UK.

As for the third category of the Kuwait Prize, Arts and Literature, the prize was equally shared by Prof. Dr Nihad Mohammad Saliha (Egyptian) and Dr Afif Ahmad Rafig Bahnasi (Syrian). Saliha is a professor of drama and criticism at the Higher Institute of Art Criticism at Egypt's Art Academy, for her distinction in the Egyptian, Arab and international theater movement and her creativity in using postmodernism art criticism curricula.

Co-Winner Bahnasi is a retired professor at the University of Damascus. Dr Afif was awarded the prize for his in-depth studies in dealing with the unique aesthetic aspects of Arab heritage and the contemporary Arab reality, particularly, his interest in Islamic and Arab art. The fourth category of the Kuwait prize, Economics and Social Sciences in Banking and Finance, was withheld this year.

Scientific Production

As for the 2016 Scientific Production Prize, established in 1988, KFAS offered it in four researchers in four categories. Prize of the first category, Physical Sciences and Mathematics, went to Dr Halima Ali Mohammed Al-Kandari, Associate Professor, College of Health Sciences, Environmental Health Department, at the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training.

The second category, Engineering Sciences, was awarded to Professor Issa Mohammed Issa Safran, Department of Petroleum Engineering, Faculty of Engineering and Petroleum at Kuwait University. The third category prize, Medical Science and Allied Health Sciences, was awarded to Professor Walid Ibrahim Al Herz, Department of Pediatrics, and Faculty of Medicine at Kuwait University.

Winner of the fourth category prize, Social Sciences and Humanities, was Professor Abdullah Abed Ali Alqatem, Department of Arabic Language and Literature, Faculty of Arts at Kuwait University in the category of Social sciences and humanities. The Scientific Production Prize in Biological Sciences, and Administrative and Economics, was withheld this year.

Kev role

The Anwar Al-Nouri Prize, has been launched only this year, in recognition of the key role played by the late Anwar Al-Nouri in education both at home and on the Arab level, as well as the services he offered to KFAS as a member of the board of directors.

Winner of the first place, Dr Amira Hussein Traish (Palestinian), was awarded her PhD in 2014 from the British University in Dubai, UAE, for her dissertation titled: Comparative analysis of competence grades of students in universities of the United Arab Emirates: The effectiveness of using mother tongue in teaching reading in a second language. Dr Traish is currently a Coordinator of the English language Center, Faculty of Arts and Humanities and Social Sciences at the University of Sharjah.

The second place has been equally shared by Dr Nasser Saud Abdul Aziz Al Rais (Saudi Arabia), and Dr Dalal Samir Rizkallah (Lebanese). Rais earned his PhD in 2015 from the College of Education at King Saud University for his dissertation titled: School accreditation in public schools in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia). He is currently an Assistant Professor at the Deanship of the Foundation Year and Elective Studies, Department of Selfdevelopment at the University of Dammam, Saudi Arabia.

Co-winner Rizkallah received her PhD in 2015 from the Institute of Advanced Studies of Arts and Humanities at the Lebanese University for her dissertation titled: The Development of Collaborative Self-Assessment Standards and Procedures in Vocational Education Settings. Dr Riskallah is currently the Principal of the Antoine Sisters School in Hazmieh, Lebanon.

Warm welcome

On arrival at the venue, His Highness the Amir, who is also KFAS Chairman, was warmly welcomed by Director General Dr Adnan Shehabeddine and board members. His Highness the Amir was briefed on the KFAS and the Dasman Diabetes Institute achievements and projects.

Attending the ceremony were His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Sheikh Jaber Al-Abdullah AlJaber Al-Sabah, Sheikh Faisal Al-Saud Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah, His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and Deputy Minister of the Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Ali Jarrah Al-Sabah, together with governors and senior state officials as well as military, police and Kuwait National Guard (KNG) commanders. The ceremony included a documentary on KFAS' major achievements.

Addressing the ceremony, Shehabeddine emphasized His Highness the Amir's keenness on honoring scientists and researchers out of a strong belief in the essential role of science for establishing a renaissance with sustainable economy.

He added that on the sidelines of the 4th Africa-Arab Summit recently held in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, His Highness the Amir honored winners of Al-Sumait Prize for African Development for health and food security.

40th anniversary

Shehabeddine noted that yesterday's award ceremony coincided with KFAS 40th anniversary, saying that the great scientific stronghold was established by an Amiri Decree in 1976. It was then supported by an initiative led by the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) for the private sector firms to contribute to the financing of KFAS research projects as part of their social responsibility. The ceremony also coincided with the fulfillment of the last year of the institution's five-year strategy plan, he said.

In November, KFAS completed preparation of its new five-year strategic plan, based on a world level assessment of the performance of its programs and status over the past two years, as well as on an independent questionnaire that covered major companies and beneficiaries, he said.

The new plan, coming the form of programs

covering three main pivots; enhancing scientific awareness among the public in cooperation with the Ministry of Education for boosting the dissemination of scientific culture through the e-media targeting young people.

It also aims to build research capabilities for developing effective solutions for the obstacles to sustainable development, in addition to carrying on with the official scientific bodies to increase the share of scientific research in state budget to one percent, at least, the KFAS director said. The plan will also seek to achieve a rise in spending on the programs on bolstering the role of the private sector.

Shehabeddine noted that coordination with the Supreme Council for Planning and Development (GSSCPD) led to comprising several of the KFAS project in the development plan to be carried out with scientific bodies such the Ministry of Education and the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC). In conclusion, Shehabeddine highly appreciated His Highness the Amir's directives and patronage of the annual ceremony. He also congratulated the winners of the KFAS 2016 awards.

Developing science

Speaking on part of the award winners, Dr Helou, thanked His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah for attending and patronizing the event which aimed at developing science in Kuwait and the Arab region. Helou said that science was an ongoing quest for perfection and finding answers for questions bewildering human beings, adding that the Arab and Islamic civilization was keen on the scientific development of mankind and without such dedication. Europe and the world would not have reached the age of enlightenment. The honoree thank KFAS for always supporting scientists in the region and around the globe, saying that such encouragement will always push for more scientific advancement in the future.



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and top state officials attend the ceremony.



KFAS' Director General Dr Adnan Shehabeddine delivers his speech.



Dr George Tanios Helou, winner of the 2016 Kuwait Prize in the basic sciences in physics' category delivers his speech.



KFAS' Director General Dr Adnan Shehabeddine presents a memento to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah waves as he enters



KFAS Board Member Dr Faiza Al-Kharafi welcomes His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.









His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah honors winners of the 2016 KFAS awards.



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and a number of Kuwaiti lawmakers meet with Chairman of Mongolia's Parliament Miyeegombyn Enkhbold and his accompanying delegation. — Amiri Diwan and KUNA photos



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Chairperson of the Kuwaiti Voluntary Work Center Sheikha Amthal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

Amir meets Mongolian parliament's chairman

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah Jaber Al-Sabah and Deputy Minister of the Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Ali received yesterday at Bayan Palace Chairman of Mongolia's Parliament Miyeegombyn Enkhbold and his accompanying delegation. The reception was attended by His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-

Earlier yesterday, His Highness the Amir met with His Highness the Crown Prince and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-

Hamad Al-Sabah, while His Highness the Crown Prince met with His Highness the Prime Minister as well. Meanwhile, His Highness the Crown Prince also met with Sheikha Amthal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the Chairperson of the Kuwaiti Voluntary Work Center. — KUNA

AMIR TO PATRONIZE ISLAMIC CAPITAL FESTIVITIES' CONCLUSION

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah will patronize today a ceremony marking the conclusion of the national festivities for designating Kuwait as the Capital of Islamic Culture (2016), the Minister of Information announced on Wednesday. Sheikh Salman Al-Humoud, also Chairman of the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL), said in a statement that the event, to be hosted by Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Cultural Center, will be attended by a large number of renowned cultural and intellectual figures from Arab and foreign countries, noting their presence will depict support for Kuwait's "cultural message."

Today's festival will conclude with the State of Kuwait Cultural Declaration. Moreover, the Islamic Organization for Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO) will honor General Supervisor of Dar Al-Athar Al-Islamiyyah Sheikha Hussa Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah, in apprecia-



Sheikh Salman Al-Humoud Al-Sabah

tion for her international efforts in support of Islamic arts and culture.

Furthermore, the festival program includes 'a cultural operetta,' contents of which shed light on the Kuwaiti leaders' concern for culture. The activity will also mark the designation of Kuwait as the Capital of Arab Youth Capital (2017). — KUNA

AMIR RECEIVES LETTER FROM JORDANIAN KING

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received yesterday a written letter from Jordanian King Abdullah II which included an invitation to the World Economic Forum meeting on the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) which is scheduled for May of 2017. Jordanian Ambassador to Kuwait Mohammad Salam Al-Kayed delivered the invitation letter to Deputy Minister of the Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Ali Jarrah Al-Sabah. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Jordanian Ambassador to Kuwait Mohammad Salam Al-Kayed delivers the invitation letter to Deputy Minister of the Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Ali Jarrah Al-Sabah. — Amiri Diwan photo



KUWAIT: Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Suleiman Al-Jarallah (third from left) chairs the Kuwaiti-Iraqi Commission departments' meeting yesterday. — KUNA

KUWAIT PREPARES FOR MEETING WITH IRAQ

KUWAIT: Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Suleiman Al-Jarallah chaired a meeting yesterday for national departments involved in sessions of the Kuwaiti-Iraqi Commission. The meeting aimed at discussing preparations for the commission's scheduled sixth session, on December 27-28. The joint committee is headed by the First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and his Iraqi counterpart, Ibrahim Al-Jaafari. — KUNA

CONDOLENCES

Kuwait Times Editor-in-Chief, management and staff

convey their deepest condolences to

Al-Fulaij family

on the sad demise of

Abdullatif Fahad Abdulaziz Al-Fulaij

May Allah Almighty bestow His mercy on him

Kuwait 🗻 Times 🎫 THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2016



KUWAIT: Turkish ambassador to Kuwait Murat Tamer writes in the condolences book at the Russian embassy in Kuwait City yesterday, as they received condolences for the death of Russian ambassador in Turkey Andrei Karlov (portrait) earlier this week. It is worth mentioning that the slain ambassador was awarded the title of the hero of Russian Federation by the Russian President Vladimir Putin for his great contributions to Russia's foreign policy.—Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

KUWAIT SEEKS ROADMAP TO REVAMP EDUCATION

KUWAIT: Minister of Education and Higher Education Dr Mohammad Al-Fares said yesterday that he had asked officials of the World Bank to work out a 'roadmap' for overhauling the teaching sector in the country. Speaking as he emerged from a meeting with the WB officials, Minister Fares indicated that the discussions dealt with the achievements made over the past years at this level and future schemes.

He added that the talks also addressed obstacles that had emerged in implementing the integrated educational revamp program, namely with respect of teachers' training and students' assessment. The minister stated that he asked the WB to work on specifying the Kuwaiti and bank responsibilities in the educational development process and report to him in details by next week. —KUNA

PIC PLANS TO PRODUCE 16M tons per annum by 2040

KUWAIT: Kuwait's Petrochemical Industries its of KD 54 million for the same period of Company (PIC) said yesterday its 2040 strategy aims at expanding the volume of its petrochemical production up to 16 million tons annually. It said in a press release that its current output stands at 8 million tons, including 3 million tons of fertilizers, 2 million tons of olefins and 2 million tons of aromatics.

It added that its 2040 strategy being worked out by the Kuwait Petroleum Cooperation (KPC) would pave the way for a threefold increase in the number of the company's employees who are required for future projects.

Mohammed Al-Farhoud, Chief Executive Officer for PIC was quoted in the release as saving that his business has managed to post KD 431 million in profits for the fiscal year 2015-2016 thanks to its workers' great efforts. The rise accounted for 141 percent over last year's figures, KD 263 million higher than the company's KD 168 million target, he added. He ascribed the surge in net profits to the acquisition by Equate Petrochemical Company, a PIC subsidiary, of the MEGlobal.

The company's operating profits amounted to KD 50 million in late September compared with estimated proflast year, Farhoud said, expecting it to post profits worth KD 106 million for the FY 2016-2017.

Furthermore, the company has saved a total of KD 20 million in operating expenses during 2015-2016 through great efforts being exerted in order to save spending and boost revenues, he pointed out. Farhoud estimated the firm's net financial surplus at around KD 9 million by means of applying the Six Sigma approach which is primarily meant to overhaul the company's various operations in 2016.

Based in Kuwait, Petrochemical Industries Company (PIC) was founded in 1963 as the first chemical fertilizer complex of its kind in the region. Today, PIC is a subsidiary of the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) and is a petrochemical industry leader in Kuwait and throughout the Middle East, and a growing leader

In addition to manufacturing and marketing fertilizers, olefins and aromatics in Kuwait, the Petrochemical Industries Company (PIC) participates in multiple joint ventures that also produce and market chemicals both locally and internationally. — KUNA

OIL SECTOR'S CAPITAL EXPENDITURE REACHES KD 13BN IN FIVE YEARS: KPC

KUWAIT: Acting Managing Director of Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) for Financial Affairs Saad Abukhosah estimated capital expenditure of Kuwait's oil sector in the past five years at KD 13 billion (\$42.57 billion). In a press statement, Abukhosah pointed out that the KPC is doing its utmost to upgrade the performance and status of Kuwait's petroleum sector through a slew of projects to boost growth and promote integration among KPC different arms.

He described KPC's five-year plan as ambitious, noting that it comprises several mega projects such as the establishment of the clean fuel project, Al-Zour refinery, liquefied natural gas importation facilities and the purchase of eight new oil tankers. KPC also have plans for several oil exploration and production, heavy crude and flare gas facilities, and petrochemical projects inside Kuwait and abroad, he stated. Abukhosah estimated that total cost of these projects at KD 35 billion (\$114.6 billion). KPC would finance these projects through investing some of its revenues in them or restoring to other financial alternatives provided by banks and financial institutions, he said. He expected that the execution of such plans would elevate KPC status as one of the leading regional and international energy corporation and increase Kuwait's oil revenues. —KUNA

MINISTER ATTENDS CONTRACT SIGNING to establish TUM Kuwait branch

KUWAIT: Minister of Education and Minister of Higher Education Dr Mohammad Al-Fares reaffirmed Kuwait's keenness on supporting scientists and adoption of modern and innovative techniques to promote scientific research. Science is key to building a knowledgebased society, finding solutions to the problems facing the improvement of infrastructure and realization of development targets, he said Tuesday evening.

The minister made the comments during the signing ceremony of a contract to launch Kuwait branch of the Technical University of Munich (TUM) in the presence of German Ambassador to Kuwait Karlfried Bergner and TUM President Wolfgang A Herrmann.

Dr Fares attended the ceremony on behalf of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, the sponsor of the event. He said the patronage of the event by His Highness the Prime Minister signals that Kuwait attaches great importance to science and scientists, recalling the Amiri decrees to approve the launching of private universities.

He voiced hope that the new TUM subsidiary will provide a platform for scholars to keep abreast with the latest developments in the hi-tech fields and find effective solutions to the economic, political and social challenges facing the nowadays world. "The accelerated changes in the world of technology and the requirements of the labor market prompted Kuwait's political leadership to prioritize the strategies for provision of quality education and modernization of academic programs," Dr Fares pointed out.

He praised the TUM as one of the world's top universities that is committed to excellence in research and teaching, interdisciplinary education and the active promotion of promising young scientists. The university was one of the first universities in Germany to be named a University of Excellence; it is regularly ranks among the best European universities, he added.

Meanwhile, Ambassador Bergner commended as exemplary the German-Kuwaiti relationships in the political, economic, cultural and educational areas. The launching of TUM branch in Kuwait will give momentum to bilateral ties in all these fields, he said. Bergner noted that the number of Kuwaiti students studying in Germany lags behind the potentials of the close relationship between the two countries, voicing hope for increasing this number in the coming years. On his part, TUM President spoke of the history of the TUM, saying it goes back to the founding year of 1868.

The idea TUM embodies has deservedly made it famous for excellent education in the scientific and technical disciplines. energized by the allure and adventure of research, cultivating both personal character and a shared culture, Wolfgang A Herrmann said.—KUNA

CONSTITUTION PROTECTS CHILD RIGHTS: JARALLAH

By Nawara Fattahova

KUWAIT: The Saud Nasser Al-Sabah Kuwait Diplomatic Institute held a symposium yesterday on adopting the child rights' law no. 21/2015, during which experts from various institutions spoke about children's rights. Khaled Al-Jarallah, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, said the Kuwaiti constitution enshrined the rights of children in its articles 9 and 10, which the law 21/2015 later specified.

"Kuwait has ratified many conventions on child rights, out of which the most significant one is the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its two protocols, which became part of the national law. This law includes 97 articles that provide complete protection to children in all aspects including health, social education, cultural and legal, in addition to the disabled," Jarallah pointed out.

According to him, Kuwait is a leading country in childcare and in adopting child laws. "The constitution and other laws secure the protection of children to assure a suitable environment for their upbringing. Kuwait is developed

in this field through local laws and international conventions. This symposium raises social awareness about this law," he said.

Jarallah also spoke about the four Kuwaitis who were freed by Iran this week. "Kuwaiti diplomacy played an essential role in releasing the four who were arrested in Iran. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs worked on this case through its embassy in Tehran and the Iranian Embassy in Kuwait. I would like to thank Iran for its cooperation. It also allowed us to meet the arrested citizens and simplify the procedures of their release," Jarallah said after the symposium.

Regarding security protection of the Russian ambassador, he noted that protection is provided to all diplomats. "Kuwait has denounced the assassination of the Russian ambassador in Ankara. This act is against diplomatic norms and Islamic principles, and s unacceptable," Jarallah said.

Many specialists spoke during the symposium, including Amal Al-Dosari, Deputy of the International Committee for Child Rights at the United Nations, Dr Siham Al-Fraih, Head of the National Society for Child Protection, Dr Mona



KUWAIT: Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah speaks during the symposium. —Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

Al-Khawari, Head of the Child Protection Department at the Ministry of Health, and Consultant Dr Adel Al-Failakawi, Undersecretary of the Appeals Court.



Some students pose for a group photo with representatives of KFH during the meeting.

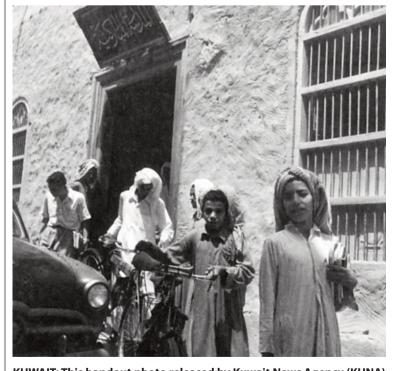
KFH SPONSORS STUDENT FORUM, EXHIBITION OF FINANCE CLUB

KUWAIT: Under the patronage of Kuwait Finance Business Administration, their counterparts from passing through preparations and getting nec-House (KFH), the sponsor, Finance Club at College of Business Administration at Kuwait University organized a forum and exhibition for the students and other universities at the parking area of Al-Tilal Complex in Shuwaikh during the last period within the club's activities in its student environment and the university level. KFH's sponsorship for the event comes within the strategic partnership of the two sides which is continued during the academic year 2016/2017.

Over two consecutive days in a youth atmospheres mixed with seriousness and desire for cooperation and mutual acquaintance and within many of the cultural, social and educational activities, thousands of students of College of other universities and members of some clubs took part in a variety of activities suited with different interests and ages, as well as specialties including contests and prizes for evaluating capabilities and to get knowledge of the information and experiences of the participants.

During the significant student meeting and in the exhibition, which was held within the event, more than 20 projects of small enterprises owned and managed by young Kuwaiti, have been exhibited which provided the opportunity for thousands to participate to learn about the experiences, ideas and initiatives of a group of small entrepreneurs who offered up the phases of the project since its inception as an idea and essary approvals to be achieved, including the definition of some difficulties and obstacles and the ways to overcome.

The patronage, partnership and the presence of Kuwait Finance House at such comprehensive student meeting of the Finance Club emphasizes its permanent keen interest on performing social responsibility and executing its role in supporting and providing all aspects of care and paying attention to the different segments of society at all levels. Furthermore, to participate in the youth and students welfare efforts and support the activities and services provided to them from concerned clubs, committees, bodies and associations.



KUWAIT: This handout photo released by Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) yesterday shows students stand outside Al-Mubarakiya School's entrance (ca. 1951).— KUNA



This photo shows a scene from a play held at Al-Mubarakiya school on

AL-MUBARAKIYA SCHOOL MARKS 105TH ANNIVERSARY

KUWAIT: Al-Mubarakiya school, the first organized educational facility in Kuwait, celebrates its 105th anniversary today. Opened on December 22, 1911, the school was founded in the era of the late Amir Sheikh Mubarak Al-Sabah. Around 77,000 Rupees of donations were gathered for its establishment with the first headmaster being Sheikh Yousef bin Issa Al-Qanani. Some 254 students attended the school.

According to historical sources, the idea for Al-Mubarakiya School stemmed from a meeting between Yaseen Al-Tabtabai, Sheikh Yousef Al-Qanani, and Sheikh Nasser Mubarak Al-Sabah at Al-Qanani Diwan during the anniversary celebrating the birth of the Prophet Mohammad (PBUH). — KUNA



This undated photo shows teachers and students from Al-Mubarakiya School pose for a group photo.







23,663 LIQUOR BOTTLES DESTROYED

By A Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: Over two days, 23,663 liquor bottles were destroyed under the supervision of the Director General of the Interior Ministry's Investigations General Department Maj Gen Dr Fahd Al-Dousary and his Deputy Maj Gen Asaad Al-Ruwayeh. Dousary said that a team of 15 members worked over two months to filed to investigate the cause of the fire. account and document the haul.

No injuries

Farwaniya Fire Department responded to a call about a fire in a restaurant, which was put out and kept from spreading to nearby buildings. No injuries were reported. A case was

New exits

The Interior Ministry's Traffic General Department announced the opening of new exits on Jahra Road for Saad Al-Abdullah City across block 11. The opening will be on

KUWAIT URGES RESPONSE TO TERROR BY MANIFESTING ISLAMIC HERITAGE

JEDDAH: Kuwait said yesterday it is imperative to confront terrorism by promoting Islamic cultural heritage in order to debunk stereotypes about the religion of Islam. The remark was made by Assistant Undersecretary of Minister of Information for the Sector of Press, Publication and Printing Khaled Al-Rashedi in a speech he delivered on behalf of the Minister of Information during the Islamic Conference of Ministers of Information of Islamic Cooperation Organization (OIC) member states. He expressed belief that response to extremism and terrorism should proceed from promoting Islamic cultural heritage and correcting stereotypes of Islam as well as establishing the concepts of amity, tolerance and fraternity.

He also called for cementing cooperation among the OIC member states through a single media and cultural discourse based on decrying sectarianism and intolerance but promoting togetherness and tolerance.

They are further required to boost cultural exchange and integration among their media and cultural organizations as a springboard for defending the Muslim nation's issues and rights, mainly Jerusalem and Al-Aqsa Mosque. In this context, the Kuwaiti official emphasized that it is necessary to attach more attention to the African continent which constitutes a considerably weighty Islamic depth for Arab and Islamic issues. Kuwait has taken tangible steps in this regard by hosting an Arab-African summit in 2013 and providing \$1 billion in grants and concessionary development loans valued at \$5 billion to development projects in Africa, he boasted.

Rashedi pointed to a \$1 million annual award in the name of the late Dr Abdulrahman Al-Sumait for development and intellectual research in the African continent. Furthermore, there should be some sort of cooperation and coordination between media and diplomatic channels with a view to backing the OIC's internal and external media orientations and programs, he urged.

Kuwait attaches much significance to the question of pushing forward the culture of peace and encouraging dialogue among religions, civilizations and cultures, particularly as waves of extremism, intolerance and terrorism are remarkably growing, he added.

All the news agencies of the OIC member states are required to work together in earnest in order to play a more effective part in manifesting the real image of the tolerant religion of Islam, he noted. The Islamic Conference of Ministers of Information of Islamic Cooperation Organization (OIC) member states started its 11th session in the Saudi city of Jeddah earlier yesterday under the title 'Renewed Media Role in Countering Terrorism and Islamophobia'. It is chaired by Saudi Minister of Culture and Information Dr Adel bin Zaid Altoraifi and mainly attended by OIC Secretary General Dr Yusuf bin Ahmed Al-Othaimeen and OIC Ministers of Information. — KUNA

UN HAILS KUWAITI AID FOR DISPLACED

IRBIL: International Organization for Migration in Iraq (IOM) hailed Kuwait's humanitarian aid for displaced Iraqis affected by the ongoing military operations in Mosul. Kuwait has donated \$4 million for the organization, IOM said in a statement

IRAQIS IN MOSUL

About 106,692 Iraqis have fled their homes since the launch of the operations on October 17 this year, said IOM, adding that they were in urgent need of aid especially in such cold weather. Meanwhile, recent statistics released by the Iraqi Ministry of Displacement and Migration showed that the number of displaced Iraqis in Mosul exceeded 120, 000.

In the meantime, UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in a statement welcomed the Kuwaiti contribution that allowed the UN body to continue delivering aid to a wider range of Iraqis. Kuwait has donated \$30 million for different UN organizations, aiming to aid people in need. Since the beginning of the operations, Kuwait has been delivering food for liberated towns, while also building two hospitals for emergency cases in refugee camps in the area. — KUNA

DISABLED CITIZENS' FAMILIES STAGE DEMONSTRATION

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: Speaking at a demonstration held by the families of disabled citizens on Tuesday, MPs Mubarak Al-Hajraf, Thamer Al-Suwaitt, Osama Al-Shaheen, Askar Al-Enezi, Marzouq Al-Khalifa and Nasser Al-Doussary said disabled citizens are not receiving due care and that their transactions are being delayed. Board member of the Kuwait Society for the Welfare of the Disabled Ali Al-Thuwaini said demands of citizens with disabilities are falling on deaf ears.

Limited partnership

The single-window department at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry has

started trials to establish limited partnership companies and include them in its system in a few days, said informed sources. They noted that the one-window services aim at including the service of establishing such companies before the end of the year to be the fourth kind included along with the single-person, WLL (limited liability) and joint venture companies. The sources noted that the department also aims at regulating the work of non-profit companies in collaboration with the anti-money laundering and terrorism funding department that is directly handled by the minister himself, as well as the charity department at the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor, which signed a memo of understanding.

Job Opportunities

A large and well reputed FMCG company selling leading international brands is looking for young and dynamic candidates for its expanding business

Field Sales Manager (1 No.)

Graduate with 8-10 years relevant work experience.

Merchandiser Supervisors (2 Nos.)

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Merchandisers (15 Nos.)

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work environment

COUNTERFEIT GOODS' SMUGGLING FOILED

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: Customs inspectors at Shuwaikh Port managed to foil a smuggling attempt of fake goods, including watches, pens, lighters and electric shock guns carrying logos of well-known brands. The shipment is worth thousands of dinars. The importers were arrested and referred to relevant

Contests rejected

The constitutional court yesterday rejected three contests regarding domestic labor, the fatwa and legislation department and lineage hearings. The court also adjourned hearing a contest arguing the constitutionality of the DNA law till Feb 8 so that the Assembly could be notified.



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TRADERS WARNED **AGAINST ONLINE MISINFORMATION**

KUWAIT: Kuwaiti experts warn traders investing in Boursa Kuwait against seeking information about the bourse listed companies from social media resources to take investment decision. CEO of Al-Riyada Finance and **Investment Company** Mohannad Al-Sane urged investors to be cautions of inaccurate analyses on the internet and seek guidance from credited and credible experts. He explains further that some of transactions' reports posted on the networks are preliminary and others are merely rumors.

Mohammad Al-Tarrah, Chairman of Traders Association, called on the traders to follow up on releases by the **Capital Market Authority** (CMA) because it is wellinformed on the companies' status. Moreover, the bourse website posts every day information about them, thus the investors can use these data to take sound decisions.

As to yesterday's session, trades were distinguished with predominance by small companies. Stocks of 54 companies posted gains while 31 others incurred losses. The key index, Kuwait-15, which reflects operations in blue-chips, drew up to 11.9 million shares, valued at KD 5.5 million, done in 467 spot dealsthus the benchmark settled upon closing at 884.2 points.

Boursa Kuwait price index closed in a bullish manner, to some extent, gaining 4.7 points and settling at the level of 5,672.4, thus posting spot value at KD 13.4 million through 160.4 million stocks, done in 3,653 cash dealings. — KUNA



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Report

SECURITY TIGHTENED AROUND EMBASSIES

KUWAIT: Security measures around embassies, particularly the Russian mission, are very strict, a security source said adding that this is the situation all year long. The source did not confirm or deny reports claiming that the Russian Embassy placed extra surveillance cameras at its perimeter, saying that "this is a matter of [the embassy's] concern." He said instructions are to have forces ready to deal decisively with any attempted terrorist attacks against the country.

'Abnormal condition'

A citizen was sent to the Drug Control General Department on the orders of Farwaniya Security Director Brigadier Saleh Matar, after he was arrested with three envelopes of 'chemical' (methamphetamine), six envelopes of a substance suspected to be heroin, KD 350 in cash, a weapon and a sensitive scale. Two traffic tickets were also issued to the suspect for failure to produce a driving license. The arrest was made after police pulled the driver over when they noticed that his car was badly damaged, then discovered that he was in an abnormal condition.

Unlicensed firearm

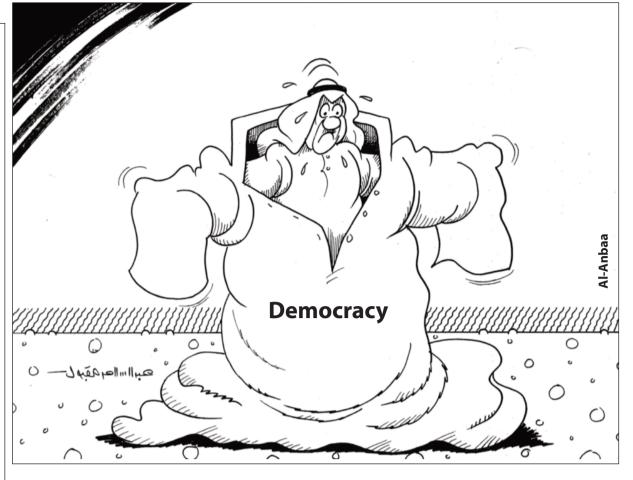
In a similar case, Farwaniya police arrested a female citizen for possessing an unlicensed firearm and drugs. She was sent to the Drugs Control Department. The woman also did not have a driving license. She remains in custody pending further action.

In trouble

A bedoon (stateless) man got his Kuwaiti friend in trouble when he made him a partner in dealing with drugs, as both were arrested with shabu (methamphetamine), hashish joints, drug paraphernalia and a sword. The bedoon is wanted on a drugs case, while the citizen's record was clean.

Deportation

Farwaniya police recently arrested eight women reported absconding by their employers. The eight include two Sri Lankan, two Filipina and four Ethiopian nationals. They were sent to the relevant authorities and are being held pending deportation.



الجريدة.

Al-Jarida

TRAFFIC LIGHTS

By Mudaffar Abdullah

hild begging goes against the reputation of our country, and this practice cannot be justified under any circumstances. The state's social aid and charity organizations lend helping hands to needy families, and if discrimination is involved in giving the aid, then this issue must be exposed and fixed because being silent about such a disgraceful thing is a big mistake that will create a problem on the social and security levels. Kuwait is a 'Humanitarian Center', yet we can see children begging at traffic lights and in residential areas; sometimes selling cheap and light goods till midnight.

This is a question to all ministers of social affairs and interior, present and past, as well as children and human rights societies. Who are these children? Who provides them with these goods? How is this normal in our country? We probably buy their goods out of pity. Even police patrols pass by them

as if this is normal. It looks like officials are pleased with this situation by giving the excuse of 'let them earn a living.' We live in a rich country with generous people and a government squanders funds in grants and aid to east and west.

How can we be fine with seven-year-olds begging and subjecting themselves to danger, deviation or being kidnapped? Caring for children cannot be achieved only by signing international treaties and agreements without providing them with real protection and care. If the reason backing this is that they are non-Kuwaitis (bedoons or belonging to other Arab nationalities), this can create a serious problem in the near future. Labeling Kuwait a 'Humanitarian Center' is not only an honor, but a great burden as well. It will only remain provokingly nominal as long as we remain silent about such problems.

—Translated by Kuwait Times

الواي

Al-Rai

MY PATIENTS TAUGHT ME

By Dr Khalid Al-Saleh

hey taught me the sweetness of patience.
When the body shakes from severe pain and the patient's voice gets louder with the words "Praise be to Allah" instead of moaning, I find the sweetness of patience in this patient.

They taught me the bounty of depending on Allah. When the patient is confident that recovery is in the hands of Allah, accepts the disease and listens to doctors' advice, his soul gets filled with the bounty of satisfaction. Then I see happiness in its best form on the face of this patient - a happiness which if healthy people learn about, they would fight this patient for it.

My patients taught me the true value of life. When you see someone who fought, struggled and became angry, while the storms of life around him subsided, and the disease became his reality

They taught me the true meaning of love. When loved ones surround the patient, they share with him the path of his illness, which may take long.

that he sleeps and wakes up with, you learn from him one thing - that what preoccupies us in life is not worth what we were thinking, and that the last lesson is the true lesson in life.

They taught me the true meaning of love. When loved ones surround the patient, they share with him the path of his illness, which may take long. You realize the meaning of true love that continues beyond time, and remains immortal even after time stops. It is a love that has nothing to do with life's interests, the status of man or the amount of money he has. It is love by those who are around him when he believes and spreads the values he is respected for.

Illness has many great benefits, and maybe the most simple of which is the lessons we learn from our patients. So let us make "thanks" the title of our illnesses, as it is the magic word that gives life - with all its variables - a good taste.

—Translated by Kuwait Times



KIB SPONSORS FIRST ANNUAL CONFERENCE FOR HEALTH, NUTRITION AND SPECIAL NEEDS

KUWAIT: Under the umbrella of its leading social responsibility program and its ongoing efforts to support the special needs community, Kuwait International Bank (KIB) sponsored the First Annual Exhibition for Health, Nutrition and Special Needs, which was held under the title "Your life is in your health, your health is in your diet".

Held under the patronage of the Minister of Health, Dr Jamal Al-Harbi, the event aimed to raise awareness about the importance of diet and nutrition for people with special needs, in order to ensure their healthy development. The exhibition also sought to shed light on the critical role nutrition plays in combating obesity, particularly amongst the younger generations. Over the course of two days, the event featured a number of lectures on nutrition and healthy diets, in addition to several sporting activities, free medical tests, and live healthy cooking demonstrations.

Speaking about KIB's participation in the

exhibition, Nawaf Najia, Manager of the Corporate Communications Unit at the bank, said: "At KIB, we have always been committed to supporting the special needs community in Kuwait in every way possible. Under the umbrella of our social responsibility program, we are heavily focused on sponsoring and participating in initiatives that seek to raise awareness and educate the public about special needs. Our aim is to help shed light on the talents, achievements and ambitions of people with disabilities, underscoring the major role they are able to play in national development."

KIB's sponsorship of this exhibition comes as part of the bank's ongoing program of initiatives dedicated to supporting the special needs community. It is also in line with the bank's commitment to promoting tolerance, acceptance and positive interactions when it comes to people with disabilities.



BURGAN BANK SUCCESSFULLY CONCLUDES ITS SPONSORSHIP OF DEN GALLERY EXPO

KUWAIT: Burgan Bank, one of the leading commercial banks in Kuwait is proud to announce its successful sponsorship of the Opening of 'Den Gallery' Expo held at the Crystal Tower, starting December 14. The month long contemporary arts exhibition will encounter the participation of 33 Kuwaiti and GCC artists under one roof.

The opening of the exhibition met great attendance from those interested in art and culture, specifically in the areas of painting, drawing, sculpting and graphics, and was open to the public throughout the exhibition periods.

The 'Den Gallery' expo is a non-profit project, established by a group of well-known and aspiring Kuwaiti artists displaying their unique and cultural art with contemporary approaches. The aim of these passionate artists is to

present new ideas and heights to modern Kuwaiti art, to introduce and elevate the concept of art and culture within all segments of the community, in the area of painting, drawing, sculpturing and graphics.

Burgan Bank always looks forward to participating in such projects that preserve and promote the Kuwaiti culture and this stems from its strong belief in giving back to local community while encouraging them to become active members in the society. It is worthy to note that the exhibition opens its doors from December 14, 2016 up to January 14, 2017, in order to give a chance to all those interested to attend and enjoy contemporary art in all its shapes and forms.

Den Gallery presents some of the most mes-

merizing and applaud able art pieces from around Kuwait, and the bank is proud to be part of this initiative for a second consecutive year and looks forward to more fruitful sponsorships in the coming years.

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







KUWAIT: Captain Abdullah Al-Hajiri from the press division at the Interior Ministry's Security Information Department delivered a lecture on traffic awareness at Kuwait Oil Tankers Company (KOTC), and that during a safety day held recently there. Captain Hajiri spoke about traffic safety, regulations and how adhering to laws helps prevent accidents, adding that using the phone while driving was the main cause of accidents that took place this year.

Deadly truck attack sparks security debate in Germany

Page 10



THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2016

31 KILLED IN MEXICO FIREWORKS BLAST

TULTEPEC, Mexico: A massive explosion gutted Mexico's biggest fireworks market on Tuesday, killing at least 31 people and injuring 72, the authorities said.

The conflagration in the Mexico City suburb of Tultepec set off a quick-fire series of multicolored blasts that sent a vast cloud of smoke billowing over the capital. The market had been packed with customers buying pyrotechnics for traditional end-of-year festivities.

Christmas and New Year parties in many Latin American countries often wrap up with clattering firework blasts. "You just heard the blast. And everything started to be on fire. People came running out on fire," Walter Garduno said. "People were alight-children," he added before trailing off. From a few kilometers (miles) away, the multiple explosions that started at 2:50 pm (2050 GMT) almost looked festive, alight in blue, red and white.

They were anything but. Of the 31 confirmed dead, "26 (died) at the scene and five in hospitals," local media reported Mexico's chief prosecutor Milenio Alejandro Gomez as saying. Forensic experts are working on genetic analyses of the bodies because "almost all of them are impossible" to identify, Mexico state's governor Eruviel Avila told the Televisa television network.

At least 72 were wounded, the authorities said. The injured were transported to emergency rooms, and 21 have since been released. Fire crews struggled for three hours before bringing the blaze under control.

Entire market blown up

The head of the civil protection service, Luis Felipe Puente, said crews had to wait for all the fireworks to finish exploding before they could extinguish the flames. "The entire market is gone," he said. It had 300 stands. Several of the injured were in "delicate condition," he added, saying searches were under way for more casualties in the scorched area that looked like a scene from a post-apocalyptic film, with little left standing in the smoldering ruins.

Homes and vehicles nearby were also severely damaged. In some areas, emergency workers were gently probing for survivors under heaps of charred and twisted roofing material. People desperately searching for family and friends shouted and gestured to rescuers about where they hoped the missing might be found.

Most of those picked up by rescuers suffered severe burns, many over their entire bodies. The military, which is in charge of issuing fireworks sales permits, was deployed to help emergency crews transport casualties to hospitals by ambulance and helicopter.

Ambulances, fire trucks, police vehicles and army trucks all crowded the sprawling blast area. Mexico's President Enrique Pena Nieto tweeted his condolences to the families of those killed and his wishes for the injured to recover. The Attorney General's Office has opened an investigation into the cause of the conflagration, which was prompted by "six pyrotechnic explosions," it said in a statement.

Some speculated the mishandling of gunpowder or other fireworks components may have set them off. That was the cause of an explosion in September 2005 at another fireworks market set up ahead of the Independence Day holiday. That market was destroyed.

The following year, another explosion destroyed more than 200 sellers' stands. Both incidents left dozens of injured, but no fatalities. Alejandra Pretel, a resident in Tultepec, told AFP that she didn't realize at first that the explosions were coming from the large fireworks market. "We thought it was a nearby fireworks workshop," she said.

Minutes later, it became evident the market was being destroyed. "My neighbors said they felt everything shake," she said, "but I didn't realize because I was running away." — AFP

EVACUATIONS IN ALEPPO RESUME AFTER HOLD-UP

BEIRUT: Buses carrying Syrian civilians and fighters began leaving the last rebel-held enclave of Aleppo yesterday after being stalled for a day, aid officials and progovernment media reports said. Obstacles hindering evacuations from east Aleppo and from two villages besieged by rebels outside the city had been overcome and the operation would be completed within hours, according to a news service run by the Lebanese group

Hezbollah, an ally of the Syrian government.

The eventual departure of the thousands left in the insurgent zone will hand full control of the city to President Bashar Al-Assad, the biggest prize of Syria's nearly six-year-old civil war. "Buses are now moving again from east Aleppo. We hope that this continues so that people can be safely evacuated," a UN official in Syria told Reuters, as snow began to fall on Aleppo. People had been waiting in freezing temperatures since the evacuation hit problems on Tuesday, with dozens of buses stuck in Aleppo and the evacuation of the two Shiite villages, Al-Foua and Kefraya, also stalled. Rebels and government forces blamed each other for the hold-up.

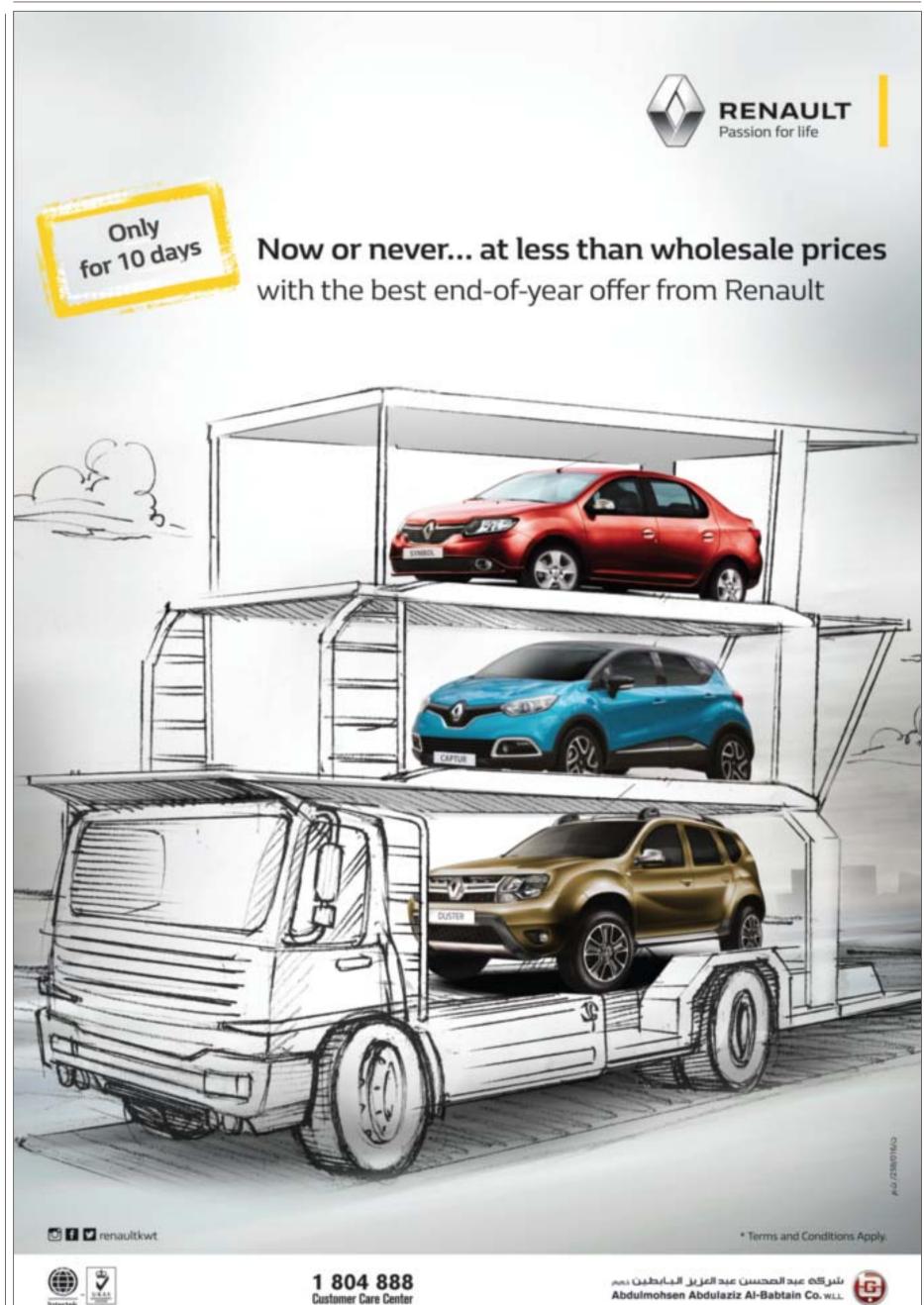
Evacuation Plan

With obstructions to the evacuation plan apparently overcome, the Hezbollah news service said 20 buses carrying fighters and their families had moved from east Aleppo yesterday towards rebel-held countryside. Syrian TV said four buses and two ambulances arrived in government-controlled parts of Aleppo from Al-Foua and Kefraya. Government forces had insisted the two villages must be included in the deal to bring people out of east Aleppo.

So far, about 25,000 people have been evacuated from Aleppo, according to the International Committee of the Red Cross. A UN official said 750 people had so far been evacuated from Al-Foua and Kefraya. Aleppo's rebel zone is a wasteland of flattened buildings, concrete rubble and bullet-pocked walls, where tens of thousands lived until recent days under intense bombardment even after medical and rescue services had collapsed. Rebel-held parts of the once-flourishing economic center with its renowned ancient sites have been pulverized in a war which has killed more than 300,000, created the world's worst refugee crisis and allowed for the rise of Islamic State. But in the western part of the city, held throughout the war by the government, there were big street parties on Tuesday night, along with the lighting of a Christmas tree, as residents celebrated the end of fighting. — Reuters



MEXICO CITY: A massive explosion guts Mexico's biggest fireworks market on Tuesday. — AFP



CLINTON LAWYER BLASTS FBI AFTER EMAIL SEARCH WARRANT RELEASE

NEW YORK: The FBI acted inappropriately when it found on a laptop in an unrelated probe that conannounced the revival of its investigation into Hillary Clinton's private email setup days before the Nov 8 presidential election, Clinton's lawyer said, citing search warrant documents made public on Tuesday.

The pointed criticism from Clinton attorney David Kendall followed the release in federal court in Manhattan of documents related to an October search warrant targeting emails involving the Democratic presidential nominee.

The warrant was issued two days after Federal Bureau of Investigation Director James Comey informed Congress in a letter on Oct. 28 of newly discovered emails that appeared "pertinent" to his agency's probe. Comey's letter drew new attention to Clinton's use of the server while she was secretary of state from 2009 to 2013 and roiled the campaign 11 days before the election, which Republican Donald Trump won.

The Blame game

Clinton has blamed Comey and his letter for her defeat. In an affidavit unsealed on Tuesday, an FBI agent said there was "probable cause" to believe emails involving Clinton were among "thousands"

tained US State Department correspondence.

But the documents gave no indication the FBI had any evidence at the time of Comey's letter that any of the emails on found on a laptop involved classified communications with Clinton. Kendall said the documents showed the "extraordinary impropriety" of Comey's letter, which "produced devastating but predictable damage politically and which was both legally unauthorized and factually unnecessary."

The FBI declined to comment. The laptop belonged to former Democratic US Representative Anthony Weiner, the estranged husband of Clinton aide Huma Abedin who was the subject of an investigation after a report about cellphone and online messages he sent a 15-year-old girl.

The search warrant materials' release was sought by Randol Schoenberg, a Los Angeles-based lawyer, who contended that transparency was crucial given the potential influence the probe had on the election's outcome.

In a statement, Schoenberg said he saw "nothing to suggest that there would be anything other than routine correspondence between Secretary Clinton and her longtime aide Huma Abedin."—Reuters



WHITE PLAINS: In this Oct. 28, 2016 file photo, Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton speaks with senior aide Huma Abedin aboard her campaign plane at Westchester County



ANKARA: Wreaths are left on the road leading to the Russian embassy in Ankara on December 21, 2016, two days after Russian ambassador to Turkey was gunned down by a Turkish policeman. — AFP

TURKEY CLAIMS GULEN LINK TO ENVOY KILLING

Kremlin cautions

looking into claims the alleged mastermind of the failed July coup was involved in the assassination of Moscow's ambassador, but the Kremlin warned against jumping to conclusions.

Monday's murder of Andrei Karlov stunned Russia and prompted warnings of retribution from the Kremlin. But both sides responded by vowing to step up cooperation, particularly on the Syria conflict. Off-duty Turkish policeman Mevlut Mert Altintas, 22, pumped nine bullets into Karlov at an art gallery in Ankara before he himself was killed by police in a shootout.

The pro-government press has repeatedly said that US-based Islamic preacher Fethullah Gulen, who Ankara blames for the attempted putsch, was behind the assassination plot. And Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu told US counterpart John Kerry in a phone call on Tuesday that Ankara believed Gulen was involved. "Turkey and Russia know that behind the attack... there is FETO," his ministry quoted Cavusoglu as saying, using Turkey's acronym for Gulen's organization. Gulen, who has lived in self-imposed exile in the United States since 1999, has strongly condemned the assassination.

'Protected Erdogan eight times'

Media reports said that books on Gulen's organization were found at Altintas' home, while thorough checks are being made of his acquaintances at school and the police academy he attended. Thirteen people, including close family members, have been detained over

ISTANBUL: Turkish authorities were yesterday the killing and are being investigated for possible links to Gulen.

In a striking detail, the Hurriyet daily said Altintas, who served with the Ankara anti-riot police, had provided security for President Recep Tayyip Erdogan eight times since the July 15 attempt to overthrow the Turkish strongman.

Hurriyet writer Abdulkadir Selvi, known for his contacts in the ruling elite, said that on the day of coup bid Altintas had called in sick. But it was not clear what he did that night. Turkey and Russia are jointly investigating the murder after an agreement between Erdogan and Russian President Vladimir Putin.

A team of 18 Russian investigators arrived in Ankara on Tuesday and spent the day at the crime scene after also witnessing the autopsy.

'Don't rush to conclusions'

The Kremlin indicated it was not the time for hurried pronouncements on responsibility. "In this case it is hardly worth hurrying to any conclusions until the investigation determines-as our president said-who was behind the murder of our ambassador," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters.

Commentators said that Putin would likely be unimpressed by any knee-jerk nailing of the crime on Gulen, who has become a byword for evil in Turkey after the coup bid. "It can be assumed that the Russians will not be satisfied with explanations that 'Karlov's killer was a Gulenist'... They will instead ask for solid evidence," wrote Murat Yetkin, editor-in-chief of Hurriyet Daily News.

Since the coup, Turkey has piled pressure on the United States to extradite Gulen, a one-time Erdogan ally. "We need to let them — (the investigators) let the facts and the evidence take them where it is before we jump to conclusions," said State Department spokesman John Kirby.

Dramatic footage of Monday's assassination showed Karlov stumble and crash to the ground as Altintas brandished his automatic pistol at terrified onlookers who cowered behind cocktail tables. The gunman shouted "Allahu Akbar" ("God is greatest") and "Don't forget Aleppo", vowing that those responsible for events in Syria would be held accountable.

Putin to attend funeral

Turkey and Russia stand on opposite sides of the Syria conflict, with Ankara backing rebels trying to topple Moscow ally President Bashar al-Assad. But the rhetoric has warmed considerably since a reconciliation deal was signed earlier this year and Moscow and Ankara are now working closely together to evacuate citizens from the battered city of Aleppo.

Karlov's body was repatriated to Moscow on Tuesday after an emotional ceremony on the tarmac of Ankara's Esenboga airport attended by top Turkish officials. In a highly unusual scene at an airport in mainly Muslim Turkey, a Russian Orthodox priest said prayers and swung incense over the coffin.

Karlov will be laid to rest on Thursday, Peskov said, adding that Putin had decided to postpone his major annual press conference scheduled for the same day to Friday in order to attend. —AFP

IN NYC'S RUSSIAN ENCLAVES, A BIG 'NYET' TO HACKING TALK

NEW YORK: Clutching a cobbler's tool, Roman Gadayev defiantly lashed out against accusations that Russia meddled in the US election to sway the vote to Donald Trump. "Simply impossible," said the Kazakhstan native who runs a shoe repair shop near the Brighton Beach boardwalk. "This is something that only uneducated people can buy into."

Most Russian-speaking expatriates interviewed by The Associated Press this past week in Brooklyn's heavily ex-Soviet enclaves shrugged off a CIA assessment that Russia hacked the Democratic Party and Hillary Clinton's campaign boss to help Trump, portraying it as nothing more than political sour grapes. "Russia has nothing to do with this," Ludmila Bondar, a retired credit analyst who moved to America from Skvyra, Ukraine, 26 years ago, said in Russian. "People are the ones who have elected Trump."

Brighton Beach and adjacent Sheepshead Bay, which have become home to tens of thousands of Russianspeaking immigrants, are coincidentally where Trump's father based a big part of his apartment-complex empire. These enclaves along the Atlantic Ocean not far from the rides of Coney Island are also among the few corners of Trump country in overwhelmingly Democratic New York City. While the city overall went nearly 79 percent for Clinton in the presidential election, most precincts in the two neighborhoods voted "za Trampa," or for Trump, some as high as 80 percent.

Drawn to promises

First-generation migrants told the AP they were generally drawn to the Republican candidate's promises to reduce taxes and create more jobs. And many felt that US-Russian relations were likely to improve during a Trump presidency.

Touting Trump's electoral triumph as "a huge victory for regular people," Odessa, Ukraine, transplant Yuriy Taras scoffed at the hacking allegations and that Russian President Vladimir Putin was personally

behind it. "I believe Russia couldn't exert any influence on the elections in America," Taras said in Russian, strolling the boardwalk with his wife, who was covered from head to toe in fur. "Maybe Russia wanted to, but in my opinion, Putin maintains the position that he doesn't need war. He just needs others to stop bothering him."

Taras said he considers Trump's nomination of Exxon Mobil CEO Rex Tillerson, "a person who knows both Putin and Russia," as secretary of state a sign that the relations between Washington and Moscow will be on the mend. "If Trump does what he promised to, and Putin says all the time that he wants peace with America, then I think that enmity between Russia and the United States will stop," Taras added.

CIA Director John Brennan has said the intelligence community is in agreement that Russia tried to interfere in the US presidential election, though there's no evidence Moscow succeeded in helping Trump win. Democratic President Barack Obama has ordered a full review of any Russian involvement.

Yefim Kacher, a hair salon owner from Odessa who said he voted for Trump because of his promise to slash taxes, was among the few who said there appears to be sufficient evidence that Russia tried to sway the US election outcome.

Although Kacher is critical of Putin's "very aggressive" foreign policy, he hopes that the US-Russian ties will get better because "one shouldn't argue with America. It's a big nuclear power and a compromise should exist." "Relations will improve thanks to common sense because no one wants to escalate the confrontation with Russia." he said in Russian.

Roman Groysman, a 34-year-old marketing consultant whose family emigrated to the US from Ukraine, says he sees hacking merely as a modern tool deployed by foreign countries against each other. "It's to be expected. We did the same to other countries. Why wouldn't they try to do it to us?" he said. "It's all fair in love and war." — AP



BROOKLYN: In this Dec 16, 2016 photo, women choose stockings for sale in a Brighton Beach clothing store. —AP

IDLIB: A general view shows the main street and the al-Hamda mosque on November 26, 2016. —AP

IN IDLIB, DISPLACED SYRIANS BEMOAN 'OPEN-AIR PRISON'

IDLIB: Tens of thousands of displaced Syrians say they have become trapped in an "open-air prison" in the northwestern province of Idlib which they fear will be the army's next target. Rebels and civilians who have sought refuge in the opposition-held province, most recently from second city Aleppo, say they are suffering from skyrocketing prices and overpopulation.

At least 25,000 people, including rebel fighters, have left east Aleppo since Thursday under an evacuation deal that will see the city come under full government control. Many of them have headed to neighboring Idlib province to stay with relatives or in displacement centers. "We did not want to leave our land, but they used every weapon available to force us out," says Abu Mohammad, a father of four from east Aleppo. "Now they've prepared a prison for us in order to besiege us and bombard us," he adds, speaking to AFP in a camp hosting around 100 displaced families.

Idlib city has been held since March 2015 by a coalition of rebels led by the Islamist group Ahrar al-Sham and the former Al-Oaeda affili-

ate Fateh al-Sham Front. Since then, tens of thousands of people from across the country have flooded the province. The UN office for humanitarian affairs, OCHA, estimates that 700,000 internally displaced people have found shelter in Idlib since Syria's war erupted nearly six years ago.

'Tough' life in Idlib

Many of those displaced to Idlib are fleeing government bombardment or evacuating besieged areas under local deals with the regime. These "reconciliation" agreements typically see rebels and civilians bussed out of a town in exchange for an end to shelling or siege by government troops.

In addition to Aleppo, six other towns near Damascus have been evacuated in the last several months, including Daraa and Moadamiyet al-Sham. The influx to Idlib has had an overwhelming effect on everyday life, with the cost of rents and basic food skyrocketing and short-

ages becoming a common reality. Abu Yazan al-Ramah, a fighter who arrived in April from the besieged rebel town of Zabadani near the Lebanese border, says living in Idlib was "tough". "It's expensive. There are some things you can't find or at times they are unaffordable," says the 30-year-old who has joined up with a local rebel group in order to survive.

Continuing to work with rebel groups is often the only way that displaced men can secure shelter or food. According to Abu Zeid, a rebel who was wounded near Damascus, armed groups often provide newly displaced fighters in Idlib with free housing, clothes, food "and sometimes money'

Even local business owners in Idlib are struggling to respond to the soaring needs. "The population increased and so has demand," says grocery shop owner Jalal al-Ahmad. Ahmad says he buys his merchandise mainly from neighbouring Turkey but admits that when he is stuck, he gets supplies from regime-held areas.

"It is much more expensive to buy from regime-held areas," says Ahmad, lamenting the rising cost of basic products such as rice, sugar, tea, cooking oil and eggs. —AFP





FRIDAY 23rd DECEMBER 2016 FROM 2 TO 9PM

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GAMBIA PRESIDENT REJECTS CALLS TO STEP DOWN

BANJUL: Defeated Gambian President step down. "Unless the court decides the is to reorganize the election so that every Yahya Jammeh has again vowed not to leave office at the end of his mandate in January, saying a court first must rule on his challenge to the outcome of a hotly disputed election.

Jammeh, who has been in power for 22 years, has rejected opposition candidate Adama Barrow's shock victory in the December 1 vote. His stance has stoked international concerns about the future of the small west African country, with the UN joining African leaders in calling for him to case, there will be no inauguration (of Barrow) on the 19 January," said Jammeh, who had initially conceded defeat but then lodged a complaint with the country's Supreme Court to overturn the result.

"I will not cheat but I will not be cheated," he said in a lengthy television address late Tuesday. "What we are asking for is not for the IEC (Independent Election Commission) to declare me the winner, I cannot do that," he said. "Justice must be done and the only way justice can be done

Gambian votes. That's the only way we can resolve the matter peacefully and fairly." 'Will not be blackmailed'

Jammeh, 51, also took aim at the West African regional ECOWAS bloc which has called on him to accept the results and refrain from any action that could compromise the peaceful transfer of power. "My rights cannot be violated and intimidated to a point where I succumb to blackmail," he said. West African leaders meeting at the weekend said they would attend Barrow's inauguration and "take all necessary actions to enforce the results", without spelling out what those measures might be. Jammeh, who took power in a 1994 bloodless coup, initially warmly congratulated Barrow after results were declared. But a week later he condemned "unacceptable errors" by election authorities and called for a new vote. "I will not step down, because this is disrespectful of our constitution which says a transition period of 60 days. Even if he had won legally, I have 60 days of transition," he said Tuesday.

The nation's government-in-waiting said on Monday that Jammeh had no constitutional mandate to stay in office beyond January.

"Any president who loses constitutional legitimacy becomes a rebel," said Halifa Sallah, a spokesman for the opposition coalition that spurred Barrow to victory. The impoverished country has been stable under Jammeh's rule although rights groups and media watchdogs accuse him of cultivating a climate of fear and crushing dissent against his regime. — AFP

DR CONGO TENSE AHEAD OF KEY TALKS ON KABILA'S FUTURE

KINSHASA: Tension ran high in DR Congo yesterday, with police out in force in the capital and activity slowed following deadly protests against President Joseph Kabila's refusal to step down as his mandate ends.

Life very slowly resumed in Kinshasa, a megacity of 10 million, with few buses and taxis on the streets at morning rush-hour, trading slack at the market, and troops and police posted at major crossroads. A day after at least 11 people died in street protests, eyes were on talks due to resume Wednesday that were launched by the Catholic Church in hopes of finding a peaceful way out of the political crisis.

Kabila's second and final term in office ran out Tuesday with no election on the near horizon and no sign of plans to leave power any time soon. So far the mainstream opposition has called for "peaceful resistance" from Democratic Republic of Congo's 70 million people in hopes of clinching a deal at the negotiating table.

But gunfire rang out across the vast and troubled nation as protests erupted Tuesday. Officials said nine people had died in Kinshasa and two in the country's second-largest city, Lubumbashi.

Rights group Human Rights Watch said at least 26 protesters had been killed countrywide. A day after the UN's large DR Congo mission, MONUSCO, voiced alarm over the detention of 113 opposition leaders and civil society activists in just four days, there were fresh arrests in eastern Goma. In what Kabila's opponents dubbed "a provocation", a new government was announced overnight Monday to Tuesday, headed by Samy Badibanga. The freshly appointed cabinet is part of an October deal struck between the ruling party and tiny fringe opposition groups enabling Kabila to remain in office pending elections

'Peaceful resistance'

However, the main opposition bloc headed by 84-year-old Etienne Tshisekedi rejects the plan. It wants elections next year-along with a pledge that Kabila will not stand. Kabila, 45, who has ruled since 2001, is constitutionally barred from seeking a third term but under a controversial recent constitutional court order, he may stay on until a successor is chosen. In a YouTube video, Tshisekedi launched "a solemn appeal to the Congolese people to no longer recognise the authority of Mr. Joseph Kabila, to the international community to no longer deal with Joseph Kabila in the name of the Democratic Republic of Congo".

He urged people "to peacefully resist the coup d'etat". The message was not available in DR Congo where authorities have since Sunday imposed strict controls on social media networks.

Tshisekedi said he hoped to continue the talks launched by the Catholic Church last week. In Rome, Pope Francis appealed to the people of DR Congo to be "artisans of peace" at his weekly audience. "May those who are in positions of political responsibility listen to the voice of their conscience, learn to see the cruel sufferings of their fellow citizens and have at heart the common good."

DR Congo has never witnessed a democratic transfer of power following polls since independence from Belgium in 1960. The president has been in office since his father Laurent Kabila's assassination in 2001. He was elected in 2006, and again in 2011. Some two decades ago, the country collapsed into the deadliest conflict in modern African history. Its two wars in the late 1990s and early 2000s dragged in at least six African armies and left more than three million dead. — AFP



KINSHASA: A man stands by a street stall as another one walks past him yesterday. — AFP

LEADERSHIP RIVALRY THREATENS ambitions of Italy's 5-Star Movement

ROME: Italy's anti-establishment 5-Star Movement, potentially just months away from winning power, is wrestling with a problem it thought it would never have to deal with: choosing a leader. And it is proving difficult. A maverick among Europe's band of new political parties, 5-Star has no formal hierarchy, believing instead in a horizontal structure where its supporters participate directly in decision-making

through online ballots. The movement founded seven years ago, which bases its appeal on fighting corruption and cronyism, is running neck-andneck with former Prime Minister Matteo Renzi's Democratic Party (PD) in opinion polls. It was the big winner in a Dec. 4 referendum in which Italians rejected Renzi's constitutional reforms, forcing him from office and leading to calls from most political parties for elections in the first half of 2017, a year ahead of schedule. But forming a government would mean nominating a prime minister, and rivalries are building among likely contenders that could hamper the movement's election hopes or destabilise a future 5-Star government.

Party sources say a battle for support is already in progress between telegenic 30year-old Luigi Di Maio, until recently the favorite, and Roberto Fico, 42, a former communications expert who has taken a swipe at his rival by urging the party to resist the cult of political celebrity.

A third contender has also recently emerged who may yet eclipse them both: Alessandro Di Battista, a 38-year-old deputy from Rome who shows far more passion than his rivals in decrying the corruption endemic in the mainstream parties. 5-Star is leading in some opinion polls, despite squabbles and scandals that have plagued the party's mayor of Rome, Virginia Raggi. But a leadership battle is a new and risky challenge to its fragile unity. "This is a movement with no real structure and as the stakes get higher so will personal ambitions and infighting," said Francesco Galietti at political risk consultancy Policy Sonar.

Before the next election 5-Star's 135,000 members will choose their prime ministerial candidate in an online vote. The date of the vote, the regulations and the candidates have not yet been fixed. So far only Di Maio has confirmed he will run. Italy's mainstream parties are trying to rewrite the electoral rules to keep 5-Star from power but they have no guarantee of success against a party that could emerge with the biggest share of votes.

Limelight

Di Maio was groomed as 5-Star's prime ministerial candidate by the movement's founders: Comedian Beppe Grillo and internet guru Gianroberto Casaleggio, who died this year. Grillo, 68, 5-Star's spiritual head and de facto leader, has ruled out running for office, and in any case he would be barred under the movement's internal rules due to a conviction for manslaughter over a 1981 road accident. Yet he could remain a major influence over a 5-Star government.

Soft-spoken, moderate and immaculately turned out in suit and tie, Di Maio was at first seen as the perfect foil to Grillo's outbursts and theatrical rants. But he did little to hide his ambition. As his public profile has risen, so has the disapproval of fellow 5-Star parliamentarians who accuse him of hogging the limelight.

When he gave an interview to Vanity Fair in May, full of personal details that included his sex life with his girlfriend, he drew a rare public rebuke from his fellow deputy Fico. Some of Di Maio's colleagues also accuse him of withholding information and siding too closely with Rome mayor Raggi, who is disliked by a faction of the party's lawmakers.

Di Battista, often unshaven and casually dressed, is the new idol of 5-Star's supporters. His popularity shot up after he spent the summer touring the whole of Italy on a scooter to campaign against Renzi's constitutional reforms. — Reuters



BERLIN: An Iraqi refugee lays a flower at a makeshift memorial near the Kaiser-Wilhelm-Gedaechtniskirche (Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church)

DEADLY TRUCK ATTACK SPARKS SECURITY DEBATE IN GERMANY

RUSH TO SECURE EVERYTHING

BERLIN: Should Germany's popular Christmas markets be ringed with concrete, patrolled by armed soldiers and screened with surveillance cameras? After a truck ploughed through a crowd of holiday revelers in central Berlin, the country-having so far been spared large-scale attacks-is debating the balance between security and an open society. "This attack could have peen prevented if the square had been protected by concrete barriers," said Joachim Krause, head of the Institute for Security Policy at Kiel University, about the attack that killed 12 people at a Berlin Christmas market Monday.

As in Israel, Germany needs "to systematically secure such places," Krause argued in business daily Handelsblatt. "But in Germany this has been neglected, even though the IS (Islamic State group) is calling for just this kind of attack on socalled soft targets". Some cities did quickly react to Monday's carnage-the Christmas markets of Hamburg, Stuttgart and Dresden installed concrete bollards following the Berlin attack.

On the other hand, federal police chief Holger Muench cautioned that, no matter what measures are taken, total security doesn't exist and that "there will always be a risk". In a similar vein, Berlin mayor Michael Mueller argued that "if we secure everything, if we carry out checks at all the entrances to all public spaces, then that will be at odds with our culture of openness".

Army patrols?

Nonetheless the debate is, once more, heating up. The CSU, the Bavarian wing of Chancellor Angela Merkel's conservative party, re-launched a campaign it initiated months ago, after less severe attacks claimed by the IS in Germany-to authorize army troops for domestic security duties. The Bundeswehr should be able to use its training and equipment to support police and contribute to public safety, argued CSU lawmaker Florian Hahn, in comments to media group RND. While the sight of armed soldiers on the streets has become common in European countries that have suffered jihadist attacks, such as France and Belgium, it remains taboo in Germany, which in the post-Nazi era set strict constitutional limits on its armed forces.

While men and women in uniform are allowed to, for example, fill sandbags during flood disasters, most Germans would object to the sight of armed troops guarding airports and railway stations. The government recently moved to allow a first joint police-army exercise. But the country is a long way from authorizing army patrols on the streets, with little will among policy-makers to push the point.

And, unlike in France, which has suffered several far deadlier jihadist attacks, no-one in Germany is currently proposing a state of emergency. A member of Merkel's party, Klaus Bouillon, the interior minister of Saarland state, sparked controversy by speaking of a "state of war" after the Berlin attack-only to quickly backtrack from what many criticized as a verbal esca-

First 'real' attack

"The Germans have always given the impression that they believe these attacks only happen to others," wrote Barbara Kunz of the Committee for the Study of Franco-German Relations in an online column for Le Monde.

The country "has certainly experienced attacks in the past" but still "the risk seemed unreal", she arqued

Therefore the Berlin truck attack-for which the IS claimed responsibility-meant "for many Germans that the country has experienced its first 'real' Islamist attack".

Police union deputy chief Ernst Walter meanwhile called for more video surveillance and urged an end to "demonizing" the technology, in a country that after the Nazi and communist dictatorships-remains suspicious of all kinds of surveillance. "If politicians keep hiding behind privacy protection and the notion of individual liberty, which complicates our police work, then we will continue to have problems investigating such attacks in future," Walter said on public broadcaster ARD. — AFP

GERMANY HUNTS TUNISIAN SUSPECT AFTER IS CLAIMS TRUCK ATTACK

BERLIN: German police launched a manhunt yesterday for a Tunisian suspected of driving the truck that ploughed through a Berlin Christmas market in a deadly assault claimed by the Islamic State jihadist group.

Media reports said asylum office papers believed to belong to the man were found in the cab of the 40-tonne lorry used in the attack that killed 12 people. The man is in his early 20s, known by three different names, and was born in the southern city of Tataouine, the reports said. He applied for asylum in Germany in April and received a temporary residence permit, according to the daily Sueddeutsche Zeitung.

A previous suspect-a 23-year-old Pakistani asylum seeker-was released late Tuesday for lack of evidence, prompting fears of a killer on the loose and further rattling nerves in a shocked country.

Twelve people were killed when the Polish-registered articulated truck, laden with steel beams, slammed into the crowded holiday market late Monday, smashing wooden stalls and crushing victims. The scenes revived nightmarish memories of the July 14 truck assault in the French Riviera city of Nice, where 86 people were killed by a Tunisian Islamist. Twenty-four people remained in hospital, 14 of whom were seriously injured, Interior Minister Thomas de Maiziere said. De Maiziere said several lines of inquiry were being pursued, but "we should let the security services do their job". "No one will rest until the perpetrator or perpetrators have been caught," he told ARD public television.

The IS-linked Amaq news agency said "a soldier of the Islamic State" carried out the Berlin carnage "in response to appeals to target citizens of coalition countries". There was no evidence to back the claim, nor was the perpetrator identified. Germany is part of a US-led coalition fighting IS in Iraq and Syria. Tunisia is one of the biggest suppliers of jihadist fighters, with some 5,500 of its nationals believed to be involved in combat in Syria, Iraq and Libya. The attack comes at a delicate time for Chancellor Angela Merkel who is running for a fourth term in 2017 but has faced strong criticism over her decision last year to open the country's borders to refugees.

'New suspect very soon'

In a blow to investigators, federal prosecutors announced Tuesday they had to release the only suspect in custody after finding no forensic evidence to link him to Germany's deadliest attack in recent years. The Pakistani man was detained late Monday after he was reportedly seen jumping out of the truck and fleeing the scene. But officials had

expressed growing doubts over whether they had the right suspect, and he denied the charges under repeated questioning.

Following the suspect's release, Berlin's police chief Klaus Kandt told ARD television "one or more" perpetrators were believed to be on the run and possibly armed. Police said they were chasing up more than 500 tips from the public and examining DNA traces found in the cab of the truck.

"I am fairly confident that we will have a new suspect tomorrow or very soon," the head of the BDK police union, Andre Schulz, told public broadcaster ZDF late Tuesday. Police were reportedly focusing their search for the Tunisian suspect in the western state of North Rhine-Westphalia. — AFP



BERLIN: Italian Foreign Affairs Minister Angelino Alfano (R) and German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier speak to journalists near the Kaiser-Wilhelm-Gedaechtniskirche (Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church), close to the site where a truck crashed into a Christmas market two days before. — AFP



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SOUTH KOREAN COURT TO MULL IMPEACHMENT, RULING PARTY SPLIT

whether to confirm the impeach-

SEOUL: South Korea's Constitutional ment of President Park Geun-Hye, Court will today start hearings into with her ruling conservative party deeply split on the issue before a



SEOUL: Choi Soon-Sil (C), who has been dubbed Korea's "female Rasputin" for the influence she wielded over the now-impeached president Park Geun-Hye, arrives at a courtroom for her trial at the Seoul Central District Court on December 19, 2016. —AFP

likely fresh election.

The court has up to 180 days to decide whether to uphold or reject parliament's impeachment of the country's first female president on charges ranging from bribery to abuse of power.

Park has been suspended from her duties since the impeachment vote on December 9, with the prime minister taking over. If the judges back impeachment after hearing from both sides, she will be formally ousted and a presidential election held within 60 days. But any split in the Saenuri Party would drastically reduce its chances in such a poll.

More than 30 Saenuri lawmakers who have been at odds with Park have vowed to leave, arguing that the party's current leadership refuses to embrace reforms despite the corruption scandal and impeachment crisis. "We've reached a conclusion that conservatives' reform through the Saenuri Party is impossible", prominent lawmaker Yoo Seung-Min told journalists.

A split would also complicate any potential presidential run by outgoing UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon, who had been widely expected to compete on the Saenuri ticket.

Breaking away

Thirty-five lawmakers have agreed to break away from the party on December 27, the dissident group said, adding they will try to persuade more legislators to join them. Their departure will leave the party with some 90 lawmakers in the 300-seat parliament, relegating it to second place behind the left-leaning Democratic Party.

The group crossed party lines to join opposition parties in passing the motion to impeach Park.

Park is accused of colluding with her confidante Choi Soon-Sil to coerce large companies like Samsung into handing over tens of millions of dollars to two dubious foundations which Choi allegedly controlled and plundered.

Park is also accused of ordering aides to leak state documents to Choi, who has no official title or security clearance, and allowing her to meddle in state affairs including the appointment of top officials.

Investigators on Wednesday raided the state-run National Pension Service in a widening probe into the scandal. A special prosecutor has been investigating whether Samsung bribed Choi to win state approval for a controversial merger

of two of its units last year.

Investigators also said they had sought an arrest warrant for Choi's daughter Jeong Yu-Ra, who is now in Europe. Samsung, on top of a huge sum it gave to Choi's foundations, allegedly transferred millions more dollars to a Choi paper company in Germany under the pretext of supporting Jeong's equestrian training.

The merger of Samsung units Cheil Industries and Samsung C&T last year was seen as a crucial step to ensure a smooth father-to-son power transfer to Lee Jae-Yong, scion of Samsung's founding family.

It was criticized by many, who said it wilfully undervalued Samsung C&T shares. But the National Pension Servicea major Samsung shareholder-voted in favour of the deal, which eventually went through. The NPS oversees 543 trillion won (\$461 billion) in funds, making it the world's third largest public pension fund.

Its offices were raided last month by different prosecutors, who also searched Samsung Group offices. The special prosecutor has taken over the case against Choi from state prosecutors. She has been formally charged with abuse of power and extortion. —AFP

CHINA'S SMOGGIEST CITY CLOSES SCHOOLS AMID PUBLIC ANGER

SIXTH DAY UNDER AN OPPRESSIVE HAZE

SHIJIAZHUANG, China: China's smoggiest city closed schools yesterday as much of the country suffered its sixth day under an oppressive haze, sparking public anger about the slow response to the threat to children's health. Since Friday a choking miasma has covered a large swathe of northeastern China, leaving more than 460 million gasping for breath.

Shijiazhuang, the capital of Hebei province, was one of more than 20 kindergartens, following similar moves in nearby Beijing and Tianjin.

The announcement said middle and high schools could close on a voluntary basis. The statement on the education department's official social media account provoked anger. "Are middle school students' bodies' air purifiers?" one incredulous commentator asked, adding: "Are you going to wait for us all to become sick before you step up to fix this?"

A picture from Linzhou City in

'I have to work'

The streets of Shijiazhuang, population 10.7 million, reeked of coal smoke Wednesday as pedestrians and cyclists flitted through a thick grey haze that reduced buildings to gauzy silhouettes. Only a handful wore the white disposable masks that have become increasingly common in Beijing since the government issued its first-ever red alert last December. "I don't like this pollution but I have to work," street sweeper Dong Xiai, 44,

atmosphere-have been literally off the charts in the city, repeatedly maxing out at 999.

Levels of the smaller PM 2.5 particles, tiny enough to be absorbed into the bloodstream and thought to be a major contributor to respiratory and cardiovascular disease, reached as high as 733, more than 29 times the World Health Organization's daily recommended maximum of 25.

The industrial city is known for its pharmaceutical and textiles industries. But the likely explanation for the choking haze are steel mills and coal mines in the surrounding province of Hebei.

Last month the environment ministry said pollution had worsened in October over the same period last year, despite a generally positive trend in air quality. And the problem may continue to worsen, according to a paper issued over the weekend by Greenpeace, which said that data and forecasts suggest that "December will continue the trend of stagnating or worsening air quality".

An article in the China Daily linked the increasing haze to rising

Government attempts to curb pollution by closing steel mills and imposing emission restrictions have driven up steel prices, the article quoted an expert on the industry as saying.

Ironically, that has incentivized the remaining steelmakers to produce more. Shijiazhuang's smog and its government's reticence to act have tested the patience of not just the public but even state media.

On Tuesday Xinhua published an article scolding officials in the city for waiting to cancel schools even though smog was "off the charts". "If (officials) turn a deaf ear or act indifferent, and the people, especially minors, are exposed to potential health risks, this is undoubtedly a dereliction of duty," it said. But one father at least said he was glad of the smog because it gave him the chance to take his 10-year-old son to work. Afterwards, he said, "we went to the mall to buy some toys". —AFP



MEHSANA, India: India's opposition Congress party vice-president Rahul Gandhi, center in white, meets supporters during a rally yesterday. —AP

RAHUL GANDHI ACCUSES INDIA'S PM MODI OF BEING PAID BRIBES

NEW DELHI: Leading opposition figure Rahul Gandhi demanded an investigation into allegations that two Indian conglomerates paid millions of rupees as bribes to Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2013-14 when he was governing a western state.

Gandhi, the Congress Party vice president and scion of India's Nehru-Gandhi family said the allegations were found in diary notes and computer records of the Sahara Group and the Birla Group and were in possession of income tax authorities. "Why these accusations are not being probed?" Gandhi asked Wednesday at a party meeting in Guiarat state. Modi was the state's top elected official before he became prime minister in May 2014.

Gandhi said in his speech that tax authorities had looked into the allegations and favored a full investigation. But the government has not confirmed that and Sahara and Birla have not commented on the allegations. "We want an independent inquiry. We want you (Modi) to come forward and tell the country yourself," Gandhi demanded.

G. V. L. Narsimha Rao, a spokesman for Modi's Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party, dismissed Gandhi's accusations as baseless and asked him to file a criminal case against Modi.

Earlier this month, Gandhi accused Modi and BJP officials of not allowing him to speak in parliament during the session that ended last week. Gandhi had claimed he had evidence of "personal corruption of Prime Minister Modi," but did not reveal

what it was. Sambit Patra, another BJP spokesman, accused Gandhi of "talking irrelevant things to stay relevant" and said his comments must be discounted. He told reporters that the allegations had previously been found to be unsubstantiated.

Gandhi has been highly critical of Modi's ban on Nov. 8 of high-value currency notes, which was intended to force tax evaders to give up their cash stockpiles but also created hardship for ordinary Indians. The sudden withdrawal of 86 percent of India's currency left cash in short supply, with retail sales stumbling and wholesale markets in turmoil. Hundreds of millions of people in India lack bank accounts and use cash to pay for everything from groceries to hospital stays to land purchases. —AP

SHIJIAZHUANG, China: A young girl waits by the road with a relative on a heavily polluted day yesterday. —AFP

cities which went on red alert Friday evening, triggering an emergency plan to reduce pollution by shutting polluting factories and taking cars off the road, among other measures.

Nowhere has been hit as hard as Shijiazhuang, which has seen a huge rise in pollution. But the city's education department waited until Tuesday evening to announce it was closing elementary schools and neighboring Henan province, showing more than 400 students sitting an exam on a football pitch after their school was forced to close, was widely circulated on social media and further fuelled discontent.

The city education and sports bureau has suspended the school principal for organising the outdoor exams, the state news agency Xinhua reported.

told AFP, adding his workmates do not wear masks because the city does not provide them.

Shijiazhuang has seen 10 bouts of serious air pollution so far this winter, according to the China Daily newspaper, putting it top of the environment ministry's list of cities with the worst air quality.

Over the last 48 hours, levels of PM 10 — a measure of particulates in the

Indonesian police kill 3 militant SUSPECTS IN GUNFIGHT, FIND BOMBS

JAKARTA: Indonesian anti-terrorism police killed three suspects in a gunfight on the outskirts of the capital, Jakarta, yesterday and foiled a suicide bomb plot, a police spokesman said.

The raid is the latest in a series over recent weeks that police say have disrupted bomb plots, raising concern that homegrown militants in the world's largest Muslim-majority nation are getting bolder in their attempts to launch attacks.

Police said this week that at least 14 people were being interrogated over suicide bomb plots targeting the presidential palace in Jakarta and an another undisclosed location. Both involved female suicide bombers - a new tactic for Indonesian militants.

After Wednesday's raid, police said the suspects, who authorities believe are supporters of the Islamic State militant group, had planned to stab officers at a traffic post, and then detonate a "large, homemade" bomb as crowds gathered.

The attack was planned for the end of the year. "The intention was for a suicide bomb," national police spokesman Rikwanto, who like many Indonesians uses only one name, told a news conference. Police said a total of five bombs were found at the house in South Tangerang.

Television footage

Television footage showed a bomb squad officer wearing a blast-resistant suit entering the house as residents watched from behind a police line. "During the raid, we tried to be careful but they threw something from inside the house and it was a bomb but it did not explode. Then they fired from inside," Rikwanto earlier told Metro TV. He said one suspect was captured. Separately, police arrested three more people in three near simultaneous raids in Sumatra and Batam islands, on suspicion of working with known militants and helping ethnic Uighur Muslims from China enter Indonesia to join militant networks.

President Joko Widodo commended security forces for preventing attacks and called on the public to be vigilant against the spread of radicalism. "We hope the public can also help fortify this country against terrorism and radicalism," Widodo said in a statement.

Indonesia has suffered several major militant attacks over the years, the worst of which was the 2002 bombing on the holiday island of Bali that killed 202 people, many of them foreigners.

That attack led to Western help and funding for an elite counter-terrorism unit, which has been effective in stamping out militant cells. Authorities, however, now worry about a resurgence in radicalism, inspired in part by Islamic State.

A gun and bomb assault in the heart of Jakarta in January killed four people and was the first attack in Southeast Asia claimed by Islamic State. Police have arrested dozens of suspected militants in recent months, including a cell in Indonesia's Batam island that planned a

rocket attack on neighboring Singapore. Many suspects from the most recent arrests were found with military-grade explosives and police say they had been communicating with and receiving money from Bahrun Naim, an Indonesian militant

known to be fighting with Islamic State in Syria. —Reuters

JAPAN BACKS OFF PREGNANCY CLAUSE FOR SYRIA REFUGEES

TOKYO: A Japanese program aimed at accepting a small number of refugees from war-torn Syria promised yesterday to remove language from documents which implied that pregnant women are not welcome to apply.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe announced in May that immigration-shy Japan, with a population of about 127 million, would accept up to 150 Syrian students over five years from 2017.

That number compares with vastly higher figures in other countries. Norway, with a population of about 5.1 million, has pledged to accept some 9,000 Syrians.

Abe separately pledged at a refugee summit hosted by US President Barack Obama in September that Japan was also prepared to "warmly welcome" family members of the students.

But the Japanese unit of Amnesty International has raised concerns that the program for Syrians virtually excluded pregnant women. As advertised, the programentitled "Japanese Initiative for the future of Syrian Refugees"-has several requirements for applicants.

Originally, it included the line: "Pregnant applicants are not recommended to apply," according to Amnesty and the government's Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), which manages the program. But after Amnesty and other groups expressed concern, it was changed to read: "Before the application, pregnant applicants are advised to consider carefully potential risk of health and life issues of mother and fetus."

JICA spokesman Satoshi Murakami, howev-



TOKYO: Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (R) listens to US Ambassador to Japan Caroline Kennedy (L) during a joint announcement of the return of US military land on the island of Okinawa, at Abe's official residence yesterday. —AFP

er, said yesterday that the organization would remove the clause as it was creating "misunderstanding". He had earlier in the day told AFP the program's main focus was "not to rescue the underprivileged but to educate personnel" for Syria's reconstruction. "When a pregnant woman comes to Japan and gives birth, she will have to rest for some time," he said, though stressing that the program was

not meant to exclude expectant women. Amnesty International had objected to

that stance. "The requirement is problematic because it narrows the window for female applicants," said Kaoru Yamaguchi, who added that it discourages refugees from applying. In March British charity Oxfam assessed Japan should take in some 50,000 Syrians based on the size of its economy. Last year it accepted 27 refugees, including three Syrians, after some 7,500 people from 69 countries sought such status in Japan, according to the justice ministry. —AFP





People enjoy ice skating on the black ice of the Melchsee Lake in Melchsee-Frutt, Switzerland yesterday. — AP

SYRIAN GIRL BLOGGER MEETS **ERDOGAN AFTER EVACUATION**

ANKARA: Seven-year-old Bana Al-Abed, whose Twitter account gave a tragic description of the bombing of Aleppo in Syria, yesterday met Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan at his palace in Ankara after her evacuation from the city. Erdogan hugged the girl emotionally and also held Bana and her brother as they sat on his lap flanked by the president's wife Emine. "Very happy

to meet with Mr Erdogan," Bana wrote on a tweet above a picture of her nestling up to the cheek of the smiling

The young Syrian girl was one of thousands of people evacuated from once rebel-held areas of Aleppo in the last days under a deal brokered by Turkey and Russia. She was evacuated on Monday and Turkish officials promised then she would come to Turkey with her family. But it was not clear when she had crossed over. 'Thank you for the help in saving the children of Aleppo from the war. I love you very much," Bana told Erdogan according to the presidency.

'Stand by Syria'

For her 330,000 online followers, Bana is a symbol of the tragedy unfolding in Syria, although Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad's regime has slammed her and her mother's nearly daily tweets as propaganda. Her mother Fatemah, who runs the account @AlabedBana, was also in attendance on Tuesday, the Turkish presidency said. "I was pleased to host @AlabedBana and her family at the Presidential Complex today," Erdogan said in his own tweet. "Turkey will always stand with the people of Syria," he added.

Turkey is hosting some 2.7 million refugees from the Syria conflict but has made clear it now prefers to look after those recently displaced, who are not injured, on the Syrian side of the border. However it makes exceptions for special cases and the wounded. It was not immediately clear if Bana would be staying in Turkey. Bana's account has posted pictures of the destruction in Aleppo including her rubble-littered street, while people have tweeted messages of support and concern, notably fearing for her life when tweets became less frequent.

At least 15,000 children are among the more than 300,000 people who have been killed in Syria's near sixyear war. In her last tweet with her mother Fatemah before the evacuation, Bana made an appeal to Erdogan and Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu to put a fragile ceasefire back on track after frequent delays. "We have brought the hope and symbol of the children of Aleppo, Bana, and her family to our country," tweeted Cavusoglu. "What could be more beautiful than the smile of a child?" — AFP



Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan (center) and his wife Emine (second right) pose with seven-year-old Bana Al-Abed (third left), who tweeted from Aleppo, and her family at the Presidential Complex. — AP

MPS CALL TO END SPORTS CRISIS

Continued from Page 1

the sports suspension are political in nature and are between influential people and even bigger than the government. He said the Assembly must find a roadmap that should be implemented within two months to end the suspension.

MP Hamdan Al-Azmi named top officials as the main people fighting in the sports field. He also accused the government of not wanting a quick solution, because the required legislation can be completed within a week. He also said the struggle is bigger than the government. Several MPs warned that if the government does not seriously try to resolve the crisis, they will grill the information and youth minister.

MP Abdulkarim Al-Kandari said "the crisis is political but it is even bigger than politics". He said the entire issue can be resolved by issuing a professional sports law that can be prepared within a few weeks. MP Riyadh Al-Adasani said the crisis started in 2010, adding it is political in nature. MP Saleh Ashour accused the government of not being serious enough to resolve the crisis and charged that the main aim of the legislation passed in June is to send someone he named to jail. MP Rakan Al-Nasef said the suspension was caused by a complaint sent from Kuwait to international sports bodies, adding that "we should not give these bodies a blank cheque".

But Sheikh Salman insisted that the reason behind dissolving Kuwait's Olympic committee and some other federations was because of administrative and financial violations, and that the cases have been referred to court. A number of MPs called on the minister to step down for failing to handle the crisis.





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Focus

OILMAN BROUGHT TRUMP AND BUSH **WORLDS TOGETHER**

■hroughout the presidential campaign, the Bush family and many of its Republican allies turned their backs on Donald Trump. Now, they're finding common cause with Trump over his pick to lead the State Department: Exxon Mobil CEO Rex Tillerson, who has long orbited their same political, philanthropic and business worlds.

Former President George W Bush, who has largely avoided politics since leaving office in 2009, heaped praise on Tillerson in a recent phone call to Sen Bob Corker, the Tennessee lawmaker who will oversee the secretary of state confirmation hearings. Jeb Bush, Tillerson's preferred candidate in the 2016 race, called the Exxon executive a "good man and accomplished leader".

Dick Cheney, Condoleezza Rice and Robert Gates -Bush's vice president, secretary of state and secretary of defense - have all offered glowing endorsements. Gates, who runs a consulting firm with Rice that represents Exxon, first put Tillerson on Trump's radar when the president-elect was dissatisfied with his more conventional options. Despite the high-level backing, Tillerson faces obstacles in his path to Foggy Bottom. He has no government experience, having spent his whole career at Exxon. Senators in both parties have raised questions about his ties to Russian President Vladimir Putin, a relationship that's particularly eye-catching given uncertainty about Trump's own connections to Russia.

Corker said that while the support from the highest levels of the Republican national security establishment won't wipe away senators' questions about Tillerson, it could ease anxieties. "Most people will look at that and understand that he's not outside the mainstream," said Corker, adding that George W Bush was "effusive" in his praise for Tillerson when they spoke last week.

Rejection

While Trump was never fully embraced by more traditional Republicans, his rejection by the Bush family and its national security apparatus was particularly glaring. The family produced the last two Republican presidents and had hoped for a third in 2016. The two Bush presidencies also defined the GOP's foreign policy philosophy as one that saw overseas military intervention as a means to pre-empt attacks on the US and promote

Trump has vowed to take the Republican Party in a new direction, both in style and substance. He showed no reverence for the Bush family during the campaign, blasting George W Bush over the Iraq war and deriding his administration's focus on nation building abroad. He was particularly hard on former Florida Gov Jeb Bush, who ran against Trump in the GOP primaries.

Trump transition officials say the Bush family has not coordinated its support for Tillerson with the presidentelect, though Gates and Rice did directly offer their support to Trump's team. Like the Bush family, Tillerson has strong ties to Texas and its vast oil industry. Presidents George H W Bush and George W Bush ran oil companies before going into politics. Tillerson, a native of Wichita Falls, Texas, joined Exxon out of college as a production engineer before moving through the oil giant's executive ranks on his way to becoming CEO.

Bonds

The bonds between Texas oilmen can run as deep as their wells. They share the same politics, bankroll the same politicians, attend the same charity balls, and, often, talk business with the same twang. It's a club of wealth, but also a culture. "If you're a prominent family in Texas, you probably are friends with the oil business," said Peter Feaver, who worked on the National Security Council in the Bush administration and did not support Trump during the campaign. "And if you're in the oil business, you're

probably friends with prominent families in Texas." Tillerson's relationship with the Bush family dates back at least to President George W Bush's years as Texas governor, according to people who know both men. The ties have moved beyond the political realm and into philanthropy, with some of Exxon's efforts overlapping with Bush's foundation, including on women's empowerment issues. Tillerson's philanthropic work on behalf of Exxon has also overlapped with Jeb Bush, who promoted STEM education - science, technology, engineering and math as governor of Florida. When Jeb Bush joined the crowded field of Republicans running for president in 2016, he quickly became Tillerson's choice. The executive donated

to both Bush's campaign and his super PAC. Campaign finance records show Tillerson has been a regular donor to other establishment Republicans who cringed at the prospect of Trump becoming the party's nominee. He gave money to Mitt Romney, the 2012 GOP presidential campaign who Trump also considered for secretary of State. He also donated to House Speaker Paul Ryan and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, who were lukewarm Trump supporters at best during the presidential race. — AP

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2016 ROCKED BY CORRUPTION SCANDALS

rom the Panama Papers to the impeachments of the presidents of Brazil and South Korea, 2016 was a year marked by corruption scandals, and by rising public outrage over graft. The question is, will that translate into a lasting demand for cleaner politics? "A new phenomenon" is being seen, said Jose Ugaz, a renowned Peruvian lawyer and the chairman of Transparency International, a Berlinbased anti-corruption watchdog, who expressed cautious optimism.

"What we are facing today is very different to what we were facing 27 years ago," when Transparency International was founded, he told AFP. "Around the world we are seeing this kind of corruption that affects the people - and we are seeing a mobilization of the people against it," he said. "I think it has been a difficult year - but at the same time it gives hope for the future." The Panama Papers leak in April - an unprecedented data dump - triggered much of the outrage early in 2016. Offshore companies used by many of the world's famous, wealthy or powerful, or kin or aides close to them, were exposed. Among them were the leaders, or relatives of the leaders, of Saudi Arabia, China, Malaysia, Syria, Pakistan, Argentina and Ukraine. Also implicated was a close friend of President Vladimir Putin, as well as current or former government officials in Europe, Africa, Asia and the Middle East more than 140 politicians and public officials in all.

The revelations forced Iceland's prime minister to resign and embarrassed Britain's then-prime minister David Cameron. China, although in the midst of an anti-corruption drive that has netted more than a million officials, suppressed the Panama Papers information relating to Xi's family in domestic media and online forums. That bolstered suspicions among observers that relatives of the Communist Party elite remained untouchable in the crackdown on graft. "There is a double standard," said Willy Lam, professor of politics at the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

'Power of transparency'

"The publication of the Panama Papers reminds us of the rapid expansion and power of transparency," the head of the World Bank, Jim Yong Kim, told a London anti-corruption summit in May. He urged more transparency, stressing that "corruption is, quite simply, stealing from the poor." According to a recent estimate, between \$1.5 trillion and \$2 trillion is paid annually in bribes around the world. Research also suggests that, if a country's leaders are believed to be corrupt, ordinary citizens trend toward that path too.

Some heads of state have certainly paid a price for perceived corruption in office. In Brazil, president Dilma Rousseff was impeached in August, just days after the Rio Olympics, following big street protests fueled by the country's deep recession. Much of the outrage stemmed from a huge

bribery-and-kickbacks scandal involving the state oil company Petrobras. Rousseff was not impeached on the Petrobras allegations but rather on unrelated charges of cooking the government books. But the Petrobras affair is wreaking havoc for her unpopular successor, Michel Temer. He has lost several ministers after they came under suspicion in the scandal and questions are emerging about whether he will be able to see through his term.

Mass protests

Impeachment also hit South Korea's President Park Geunhye this month. She faces a parliamentary inquiry into accusations of colluding with a longtime friend, Choi Soon-Sil, to strongarm donations from large companies worth tens of millions of dollars for a couple of dubious foundations that Choi controlled and allegedly plundered. The scandal ignited weekly mass demonstrations, some of which drew crowds of more than a million people.

Other leaders, though, are batting away graft allegations that piling up against them. One such official is Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak, whom the US alleges embezzled with his family and associates billions of dollars from a sovereign wealth fund. Najib has shut down domestic investigations into the scandal, claiming a plot by enemies. But tens of thousands of protestors have held demonstrations demanding his resignation.

South Africa's Jacob Zuma, nicknamed the "Teflon president" for his survival of multiple scandals, is also seeking to see his mandate through to 2019 with the backing of his ANC party, despite a court ruling he should face 783 counts of corruption. An official report has also implicated him in graft allegations involving a wealthy Indian family. — AFP

STALINIST CRIMES DIVIDE RUSSIA

political prisoner. "It was an everyday case, so common cal opponent of the Bolsheviks - his grandson guesses his Moscow flat. "My grandfather David Traub was caught up under the wheel of history." It has been eight decades since the start of the Great Terror that saw countless innocent victims across the Soviet Union executed or sent to the Gulag camps - and 25 years since the USSR itself finally ceased to exist.

But a fight over the historical truth - and memory - of the crimes of the Soviet regime still drags on in Russia as the current authorities under President Vladimir Putin stand accused of trying to minimize the dark chapters of the past in a bid to bolster their own grip on power. Earlier this month leading human rights group Memorial - which has been battling for decades to shine a light on Soviet abuses - released a database with the names and some biographical details of around 40,000 people who served in the Stalin-era NKVD secret police from 1935-39.

Kolesnikov was able to find out more about the NKVD agent he had already tracked down in state archives as responsible for the 1938 arrest of his architect grandfather. Some agents, it turned out, ended up being consumed by the very purges they had helped to conduct, arrested and executed along with their victims. Others went on to become decorated heroes in World

ndrei Kolesnikov laid out the letters his grandfa- War II. "These people all had different fates," Kolesnikov, ther sent home from the Stalinist labor camp who works for the Carnegie Moscow Centre, said. where he eventually died after eight years as a Kolesnikov's grandfather was accused of being a politifor that period," political analyst Kolesnikov told AFP in either to fulfill an arrest quota or due to a private vendetta. He died in the sick ward of his labor camp, leaving his wife and children.

'Diametrically opposed views'

"Unity" is the current buzzword among Russia's elite uttered repeatedly by Putin as he tries to forge a sense of national identity that instils loyalty to the Kremlin and smothers dissent. The strongman leader - and many of those who surround him - served in the NKVD's successor organization, the KGB, and headed its post-Soviet incarnation the FSB. Central to their push is shaping a vision of the past that emphasizes the USSR's victory in World War II and Stalin's role in achieving it while downplaying the Soviet crimes and repression.

When Memorial released its list of NKVD agents it provoked a level of interest - both positive and negative that few at the organization had expected. In the first few days after the list was launched the website crashed as hundreds of thousands of people flooded on to search it. "It turned out that for an awful lot of people it was terribly interesting - for the descendants of victims and, however strange it might sound, for the descendants of those who worked in the NKVD," the group's board chairman Arseny Roginsky told AFP. — AFP

US LOSES TO RUSSIA DISINFORMATION DRIVE

he US government spent more than a decade preparing responses to malicious hacking by a foreign power but had no clear strategy when Russia launched a disinformation campaign over the internet during the US election campaign, current and former White House cyber security advisers said. Far more effort has gone into plotting offensive hacking and preparing defenses against the less probable but more dramatic damage from electronic assaults on the power grid, financial system or direct manipulation of voting machines.

Over the last several years, US intelligence agencies tracked Russia's use of coordinated hacking and disinformation in Ukraine and elsewhere, the advisers and intelligence experts said, but there was little sustained, high-level government conversation about the risk of the propaganda coming to the United States. During the presidential election it did - to an extent that may have altered the outcome, the security sources said. But US officials felt limited in investigating Russian-supported propaganda efforts because of free speech guarantees in the Constitution.

A former White House official cautioned that any US government attempt to counter the flow of foreign statebacked disinformation through deterrence would face major political, legal and moral obstacles. "You would have to have massive surveillance and curtailed freedom and that is a cost we have not been willing to accept," said the former official, who spoke on condition of anonymity. "They (Russia) can control distribution of information in ways we don't." Clinton Watts, a security consultant, former FBI agent and a fellow at the nonprofit Foreign Policy Research Institute, said the US government no longer has an organization, such as the US Information Agency, that provided counter-narratives during the Cold War. He said that most major Russian disinformation campaigns in the United States and Europe have started at Russian-government funded media outlets, such as RT television or Sputnik News, before being amplified on Twitter by others.

Watts said it was urgent for the US government to build the capability to track what is happening online and dispute false stories. "Those two things need to be done immediately," Watts said. "You have to have a public statement or it leads to conspiracy theories." A defense spending pill passed this month calls for the State Department to establish a "Global Engagement Center" to take on some of that work, but similar efforts to counter less sophisticated Islamic State narratives have fallen short. The US government formally accused Russia of a campaign of cyber attacks against US political organizations in October, a month before the Nov 8 election.

US 'Stuck'

James Lewis, a cyber security expert at the Center for Strategic & International Studies who has worked for the departments of State and Commerce and the US military, said Washington needed to move beyond antiquated notions of projecting influence if it hoped to catch up with Russia. "They have RT and all we know how to do is send a carrier battle group," Lewis said. "We're going to be stuck until we find a way deal with that."

Watts, who said he has tracked tens of thousands of pro-Russia Twitter handles since 2014, believes many of the most effective stories stoke fear of war or other calamities or promote a narrative of corrupt Western politicians, media and other elites. He and others said Sputnik shows the intensity of the Russian effort. Launched two years ago as a successor to the official Russian wire service and radio network, Sputnik does not merely parrot the Kremlin political line, according to experts. It has gone out of its way to hire outsiders with social media expertise, including left and right-leaning Americans who are critical of US policies.

Sputnik News did not respond to a request for comment. During the election campaign, one of the most prominent fulltime Sputnik writers and commentators, Cassandra Fairbanks, shifted from an ardent anti-police protestor and supporter of socialist US Senator Bernie Sanders to a vocal backer of Republican Donald Trump. Fairbanks said in an interview with Reuters that Sputnik had not told her to advocate for Trump, now presidentelect. She said she was swayed by Trump's opposition to overseas wars and international trade agreements. "I did my best to push for him," Fairbanks said, "but that was of

my free will." A woman in her thirties with more than 80,000 Twitter followers, Fairbanks was an activist with the hacking movement known as Anonymous before she joined Sputnik. The day before the election, Fairbanks said on a YouTube channel that it was "pretty likely" that the authors of emails hacked from the account of Democratic candidate Hillary Clinton's campaign manager John Podesta were using

code words for pedophilia when they spoke about pizza. The assertion fed the falsehood that Clinton supporters were operating a child sex ring out of a Washington-based pizza parlor. The channel, with 1.8 million subscribers, was run by Alex Jones, a radio host who has said the 9/11 attacks were an "inside job". Joe Fionda, a veteran of the Occupy protests who worked briefly for Sputnik in 2015, said the organization's articles and social media efforts overall were aimed at praising Russian President Vladimir Putin's allies such as Syria and dwelling on negative news

in the United States, including police misconduct. Some US officials and political analysts have said Putin could believe businessman Trump would be friendlier to Russia than Clinton, especially when it came to economic sanctions. Fionda said spreading hacked emails was a priority at Sputnik. He said his job included trying to create viral memes on a Facebook page called Mutinous Media, which did not list a Sputnik connection. Former workers of the Democratic National Committee, one of the groups infiltrated by Russian-backed hackers, said the US government should consider providing funding for the technological defense of major political parties. — Reuters



VARDY BAN 'UNFAIR' SAYS LEICESTER CHIEF

England striker Jamie Vardy's three-match ban as 'unfair'. Vardy received the suspension from the Football Association (FA) for his sending off against Stoke City at the weekend. The FA on Tuesday rejected the ailing Premier League champion's claim of wrongful dismissal which hinged upon Vardy being off balance as he was harried by Glen Johnson when he challenged Stoke forward Mame Diouf just before the halfhour mark. Referee Craig Pawson did not hesitate in

showing him a red card for the two-footed challenge. Srivaddhanaprabha wrote on Instagram: "I am so sorry for the unfair judgement of referee to Vardy and more sorry that our appeal was rejected. This kind of judgement distort the charming of English Premier. "I spend a lot of time and effort to make my beloved LCFC a success, but this incident made me feel dispirit from football. — AFP

RECORD A\$50M PRIZE PURSE FOR 2017 AUSTRALIAN OPEN

MELBOURNE: The Australian Open has increased its total prize purse by 14 percent to a record A\$50 million (\$36.19 million), with A\$3.7 million up for grabs for the winners of the singles tournaments, organisers said yesterday. The prize money for the season's opening grand slam has more than tripled since 2001, and risen A\$10 million since 2014. Tournament director Craig Tiley said in a statement that organisers were focused on increasing compensation for players in the early rounds and qualifying, with first round losers set for an A\$50,000 windfall, up 30 percent from last year.

Similarly, second round prize money has risen 29 percent to A\$80,000, with third and fourth round losers to earn A\$130,000 and \$220,000 respectively. Total prize money for the quarter-finals, semi-finals, runners up and winner is up 9 percent. The Australian Open starts on Jan 16 in Melbourne. — Reuters

US STRIKER GREEN QUITS BAYERN FOR STUTTGART

BERLIN: USA international striker Julian Green will leave Bayern Munich for second division VfB Stuttgart in January's transfer window, the German league leaders announced yesterday. With Poland hot-shot Robert Lewandowski as Bayern's first-choice striker, the 21-year-old Green has struggled for opportunities and has signed a deal with Stuttgart until June 2019. Green spent nearly seven years in Bayern's youth academy and reserve team. He played for the USA at the 2014 World Cup in Brazil and, aged 19, became the youngest player to score at the finals by netting with his first touch of the ball in the 2-1 last 16 defeat to Belgium. Green is relishing joining fallen giants Stuttgart, who are third in Germany's second tier and chasing promotion at the first time of asking following their relegation from the Bundesliga in May. "I came to Bayern in the Under-15 team and dreamed of becoming a professional, which I achieved," he said. "In the last three years, I gained a lot of experience, for which I am grateful. "Now I have new goals with Stuttgart and am looking forward to the challenge-above all to support Stuttgart in the second half of the season."—AFP



NO 25 TOYOTA 86 MC VIVAC BAGS GT300 CLASS

TOCHIGI PREFECTURE: The Toyota camp had reasons to rejoice at the 2016 AUTOBACS SUPER GT series, as a thrilling encounter in the final round (Round 8) resulted in a victorious No. 25 TOYOTA 86 MC VivaC passing the checkered flag, with No. 31 TOYOTA PRIUS apr GT competing brilliantly for a second spot finish. The much-awaited contest was held on a dry course and under bright, clear skies at the Motegi Twin Ring in Tochigi Prefecture, Japan.

With this momentous win and overall second win of the season, the No. 25 TOYOTA 86 MC VivaC- expertly driven by Takeshi Tsuchiya and Takamitsu Matsui throughout the seriesalso bagged the GT300 class Drivers and Team Championship titles.

The early stages of the all-important race belonged to No. 31 TOYOTA PRIUS apr GT-driven by Koki Saga and Yuichi Nakayama that glided comfortably in the leading position through the first turn and beyond. Early threat to its spot came from competitor car No. 65 that made futile attempts to exploit any gaps. Well behind in the competition, the eventual winner of the race had a lukewarm start to the race.

No. 25 TOYOTA 86 MC VivaC lost ground in the opening laps and its driver Takeshi Tsuchiya seemed visibly reluctant to increase pace. This caution hinted towards a possible tactical maneuver that would contribute to a strong comeback, and ultimately a victory for the team

Lap 15 into the race marked a pit stop for most cars, but foregoing the regulatory halt was of much tactical interest to the No. 25 TOYOTA 86 MC VivaC that was now lagging behind in the tenth spot. It headed towards the pit lane but took only half the time com-



pared to competitors by skipping the tirechange and bringing Takamitsu Matsui on the driver's seat. He immediately started making an effect on the proceedings by overtaking competing car No. 65 before it could warm up adequately with the fresh tires. His ability to handle the heated contest with calm perseverance was particularly impressive in the last leg of the race, as partner Takeshi Tsuchiya commented in the post-race press conference: "It was great to see how cool Takamitsu Matsui was as he caught up with the leader. I hope we can continue to bring up young drivers like him." No. 31 TOYOTA PRIUS apr GT, still going strong in the leader's position, mirrored the 'no-tire change' tactic and only switched from Koki Saga to Yuichi Nakayama in a bid to finish strong. Having reserved its full-throttle for the final stages of the race, No. 25 TOYOTA 86 MC VivaC came back from behind to clock an incredible speed with the leaders of the pack. What then ensued was a close contest for the ultimate prize. Takamitsu Matsui held on to the pace while his competitor Yuichi Nakayama tried in vain to hold off the charge. Finally, in lap 34 of the nail-biting contest, No. 25 TOYOTA 86 MC VivaC passed No. 31 TOY-



OTA PRIUS apr GT on a 'V' corner, and retained the marginal lead till it sped passed the checkered flag. The jubilant winner was trailed by the second best racer by a fraction of a second, completing the race with a gap of 0.929 seconds.

Takayuki Yoshitsugu, Chief Representative, Middle East and North Africa Representative Office, Toyota Motor Corporation, said: "We are overjoyed with this championship win by the No. 25 TOYOTA 86 MC VivaC team and the podium finish by the No. 31 TOYOTA PRIUS apr GT team. We congratulate the Toyota team for their excellent and inspiring performance

throughout the championship. Finishing on a high will lend the drivers and the support staff a world of confidence and momentum for the next championship."

Yoshitsugu added: "Participating and excelling in such racing initiatives lays the foundations in our journey towards building impressive, 'ever-better' cars that bring satisfaction and a smile on our customers' faces. We thank our racers and customers who bestow their confidence in us, and strengthen our research and development efforts with their insights and feedback to push the limits of engineering"

TOULOUSE NOT TAKING GRENOBLE LIGHTLY

PARIS: Toulouse are wary of a backlash from a rested Grenoble as they look to maintain their free-scoring European form when returning to domestic Top 14

Back-to-back thumping victories (36-6 and 54-15) over hapless Italians Zebre in the European Champions Cup, in which they ran in 13 tries, has lifted the struggling giants' spirits ahead of the return to domestic duty.

Currently sitting seventh and outside the end-of-season play-off places, Toulouse know a victory against Grenoble is crucial.

"We've got a positive dynamic. The players are starting to play well together and we hope to continue in that vein," said Toulouse's forwards coach William Servat. But he knows Grenoble, who have by far the worst defence in the league, will be fired up having rested most of their first team in recent European Challenge Cup action, including last week's humiliating 71-3 defeat to Ospreys, just seven days after losing at home to the Welsh region 59-7.

"They chose to manage their squad. They want to survive in the Top 14 and we're expecting a physical battle," added Servat. "They're short of confidence but when they find their game, they can be formidable."

The record four-time European and 19-time French champions have fallen on leaner times since their heyday of the

1990s and 2000s.

They last won the European title in

2010 and have not lifted the Top 14 crown since 2012. Last year they were battling just to finish in the top six and reach the play-offs.

The big game of the week sees second-placed Montpellier host mega-rich Toulon tomorrow night in an encounter rendered all the more important by each side's European struggles.

Toulon's shock 22-21 reverse against Scarlets on Sunday means their knock-out stage hopes are hanging by a thread and the three-time champions will almost certainly have to win away to title-holders Saracens next month to stand any chance of progressing.

Montpellier likewise lost for a second time in four matches away to Castres 29-23 and face an uphill battle to get through a group in which three-time champions Leinster are flying.

Montpellier will have South African No.8 Pierre Spies back but France international week Benjamin Fall is out with a leg injury. Toulon sit fourth in a congested top half in which only five points separate Montpellier and eighth-placed Racing 92, the reigning champions.

Racing's recent league improvementthey have lost only one of their last six-is in stark contrast to their poor European form. Three straight Pool 1 defeats means last season's finalists are already out of the Champions Cup. Club president Jacky Lorenzetti called on his players to show humility to get their form back. "We need to rediscover our mental strength," he said.— AFP

NORTHAMPTON SPARED OVER NORTH HEAD INJURY

LONDON: Northampton should not have allowed George North to continue playing after he sustained a head injury but they will not be punished, a concussion review panel announced yesterday. The Wales wing, 24, was injured during an English Premiership game against Leicester on December 3, but although he appeared to have been knocked out, Saints' medical staff allowed him to play on.

A Concussion Management Review Group (CMRG) was set up to investigate the incident, the first such review since new concussion rules came into force at the beginning of the season.

It found that while there had been "sufficient evidence" to take North out of the game, the club did not "intentionally ignore the player's best interests". "Northampton Saints medical team has accepted that North may have lost consciousness and therefore should not have returned to play," the CMRG said in a press release. "The CMRG considered the welfare of North was always at the centre of Northampton's actions, and does not consider that the medical team (or the club) failed to complete the HIA (Head Injury Assessment) protocol nor intentionally ignored the player's best interests.

"In addition and although not a determining factor, the CMRG is aware that the player appears to have had no residual effects in the short term. "For the above reasons the CMRG will not be imposing any sanction against the club or any of its individuals as a result of this incident." Northampton accepted the panel's findings. "Northampton accepts the conclusion that George should not have been allowed to return to the field of play," the club said in a statement.

"But we are pleased that the CMRG has reflected our concerns about the current technologies and processes available to medical

teams when assessing concussion.

"The club believes that this is now an opportunity for the whole rugby community to reflect

on the CMRG's recommendations to ensure the

highest levels of player safety and well-being."
Rather than instigate disciplinary proceedings against Northampton, the CMRG, set up in partnership by the Rugby Football Union and Premiership Rugby, made nine recommendations. They include a call for the full 13 minutes

unless there is clear reason to shorten it.

The CMRG also wants team doctors to review video footage for permanent removal criteria before and after the assessment process.

North, who has a history of head injuries, has since returned to training and Saints director of rugby Jim Mallinder said earlier this week that he will play against Sale tomorrow.—AFP



LONDON: This file photo of Wales' George North, right, as he is tackled by England's George Ford during the Six Nations international rugby match between England and Wales at Twickenham stadium in London. English rugby authorities yesterday said it will not sanction Northampton following a review into an incident that saw the club's medical team clear Wales winger George North to continue playing, despite replays suggesting he lost consciousness after a head injury. — AP



BROWNS' THOMAS PICKED FOR 10TH STRAIGHT PRO BOWL

CLEVELAND: Joe Thomas has finally given the Cleveland Browns something to celebrate during a ghastly season. One of the game's elite left offensive tackles, Thomas was selected to his 10th consecutive Pro Bowl last night, becoming just the fifth player in NFL history to be selected 10 straight times to open a career. Thomas, who has not missed a single snap since he was drafted in 2007, also holds the team record for most Pro Bowls, a mark he previously shared with Hall of Famers Jim Brown and Lou Groza.

"It's always an honor to be recognized

by the fans, coaches and your peers," Thomas said.

"It is a feeling that never gets old. When I think about Jim Brown and Lou Groza, I think about not just two of the greatest Browns, but two of the greatest players to ever suit up in the NFL. It's humbling to be mentioned in the same sentence as them. Those guys helped the Browns capture championships and that is one of my goals.

"Individual recognition is always nice, but I would trade it all for team success and that is what we work toward every

have had little to cheer about this season. Thomas, though, is a light in the darkness.

"All right!" coach Hue Jackson said on the prospect of Thomas being honored. "Something to get excited about."

Thomas joined Hall of Famers Merlin Olsen (14), Mel Renfro (10), Barry Sanders (10) and Lawrence Taylor (10) as the only players to make the Pro Bowl in each of their first 10 seasons.

A three-time Walter Payton Man of the Year honoree, Thomas has been on

day." At 0-14, the Browns and their fans the field for all 9,791 offensive snaps since the Browns made him the No. 3 overall pick in 2007. He's started 158 games, doing so despite injuries that may have sidelined other players.

Beyond his success on the field, Jackson credits Thomas as one of the players who have kept the Browns together during the worst season in the team's 66-year history.

"There's situations where you'd have a guy maybe that could be going to his 10th Pro Bowl that says, 'I'm doing my part. You guys figure it out," quarterback

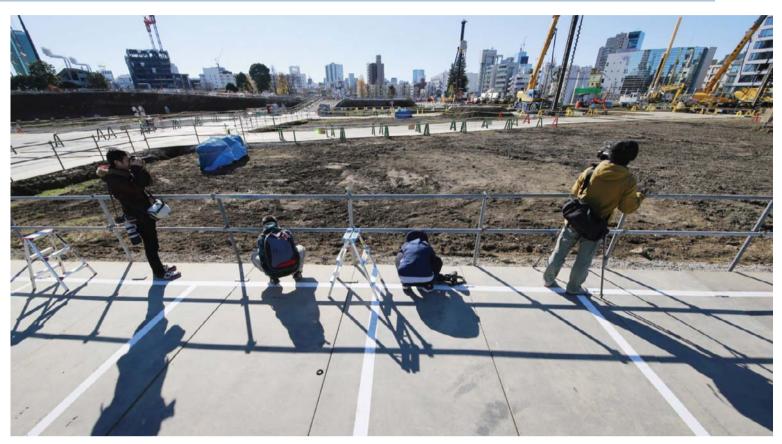
Josh McCown said.

"And Joe is not that way. He leads the groups. He's involved in every meeting. He's engaged, steps up and speaks and shares what's on his heart if he needs to.

"That's what makes him special and I certainly believe it's why we're all still locked in, because you look no further than Joe to know if that guy's going to his 10th straight Pro Bowl and regardless of the record, he's still putting it on the line and preparing, then I ought to do that. "He's a heckuva inspiration to a lot of guys."—AP



TOKYO: President of Tokyo 2020 Olympics organising committee Yoshiro Mori speaks to the media after a Four-Party Working Group meeting to present the first official cost estimate for the 2020 Tokyo Games in Tokyo yesterday. The 2020 Olympics in Tokyo will likely cost as much as \$17 billion, the organising committee said yesterday, an estimate reflecting intense efforts to cut costs that had threatened to spiral out of control. — AFP



TOKYO: In this Dec. 11, 2016 file photo, photographers take a photo of the site of new national stadium after a groundbreaking ceremony in

FARAH'S AWARD FLOP MYSTIFIES FELLOW OLYMPIC HEROES

LONDON: Olympic gold medalists Alistair Brownlee and Nick Skelton expressed their surprise British athletics legend Mo Farah was again snubbed by the public for the prestigious BBC Sports Personality of the Year award.

Brownlee, who retained his Olympic title in Rio and also gained widespread respect for helping his ailing younger brother Jonny across the line in a triathlon in Mexico this year, finished runner-up to Andy Murray in the poll with Skelton, who won showjumping gold at the venerable age of 58, in third.

For Murray-who garnered almost 250,000 votes over double the total of Brownlee-it was a historic third BBC award. Farah-despite emulating Finnish icon Lasse Viren (1972/76) as the only athlete to do the Olympic distance double twice (5000/10000 metres) — finished way behind in terms of the popular vote in fourth. Skelton-whose sport gets barely any mainstream coverage apart from the Olympics-received just over

109,000 votes with the much higher profile Farah getting only 54,476.

Both Brownlee and Skelton said they would have voted for him with the former saying Farah's personal story was remarkable being brought to Britain from war-torn Somalia as a young child.

"I'm not sure why that is that he hasn't made the top three," said Brownlee. "Maybe some people don't see him as British. It's really sad because for me he is the perfect British story.

"It's what we should be about: a person who comes to Britain as a young man, as a refugee, and an ex-school teacher identifies something that he's brilliant at and he represents Britain as the best in the world.

"I think that's a fantastic British story. I would have voted for Mo." Farah's best finish is third in the 2011 poll. He has filled fourth spot on two other occasionsincluding 2012 when he lit up the track in London to secure his first Olympic double-and sixth in 2015.—AFP

Tokyo 2020 slashes budget to \$17 bn

TOKYO: Tokyo Olympics organisers unveiled a smaller budget of up to \$17 billion yesterday after coming under pressure to cut ballooning costs. The figure, down from last month's pledge to cap spending at \$17.78 billion, follows warnings that the bill for the 2020 Games could soar as high as \$30 billion.

Organising committee chief executive Toshiro Muto said the entire Games budget would be between 1.6 trillion and 1.8 trillion yen, which he put at \$15-16.8 billion.

Under the latest exchange rate, the same yen figure is worth \$13.6-15.3 billion. This year's Rio Games cost \$12 billion, while London 2012 came in £8.77 billion or \$13.7 billion under the exchange rate at the time.

Yesterday's figure, the most complete budget yet for Tokyo 2020, comes after officials scrambled to slash the costs of building some venues. It was revealed at talks between the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and the Tokyo and national governments, who are meeting regularly to try to cut costs. "This does give the overall picture," IOC vicepresident John Coates said by videolink from

"We are pleased with the progress you are continuing to make," he said, adding: "We think that we can work with you to find... more savings." Tokyo governor Yuriko Koike, who was elected this year vowing to bring down costs, said some 40 billion yen would be saved after a review of the canoeing, volleyball and swimming venues. "The three-party meeting by the committee, the central government and the Tokyo government, will get to work on specifics early next year," Koike told reporters, with "cost-sharing" on the agenda. "I want to strictly check who will pay for what as swiftly as possible." In the battle to cut costs, she had proposed moving the canoeing venue 400 kilometres (250 miles) north of Tokyo

to Miyagi prefecture, one of the areas hardest hit by Japan's 2011 tsunami disaster.

But the idea faced resistance from the organising committee, which argued that changing sites was impractical and could end up costing more. Koike dropped the plan last month and announced that canoeing would stay in Tokyo but with the venue built at a sharply reduced cost. She also said then that Tokyo would build a new aquatic centre with 15,000 seats, smaller and cheaper than the original plan for a 20,000-seat facility.

And last week Koike said the volleyball venue would stay in the capital but be built at a lower cost.In a meeting last month, Muto said the organising committee's working budget was capped at less than two trillion yen (\$17.78 billion) and officials were committed to pushing it lower. But Coates refused to accept the figure and said overall costs would have to come down significantly. —AFP





30 YEARS ON: NISSAN'S ICONIC 1987 PARIS-DAKAR RALLY CAR RIDES AGAIN

DUBAI: After exactly 30 years away from the public eye, Nissan has brought one of its most iconic motorsport machines back to life. The stunning 1987 Nissan Patrol Fanta Limon Paris-Dakar rally car has been fully restored to its former glory, and made an emotional return to its spiritual home in the sand dunes of the Saharan desert.

The car's legendary status is second to none, writing its very own chapter in Dakar mythology. It took victory in the diesel category, and was the first diesel car to ever finish in the race's overall top 10, taking ninth spot.

Today, all the top cars are diesels. The Fanta Limon car has been given a new lease of life thanks to a dedicated team of engineers at Nissan's European Technical Centre (NTCE) in Barcelona, Spain. For more than two years they restored the car after work and at weekends, turning it from a rusting wreck in a Spanish museum to a highly capable off-road racer.

Pedro Diaz Illan is Manager of the Electrical and Electronics Engineering team at NTCE, and the only member of the original 1987 team still working there. "That was a proud moment. Our brains, hearts and souls have gone into this project and it has not been easy. But to see the car in the desert again was just fantastic." The story of the car's success in the 1987 Paris-Dakar rally starts the year before,

when Nissan Motorsport devised a plan to take part in high-profile off-road endurance rallies. The base vehicle was to be the Patrol -Nissan's popular 4x4 vehicle - with the team at NTCE in Spain leading the project.

The sponsorship with Fanta Limon came through links between Nissan Spain and drinks brand Coca-Cola, which was looking to exploit the global publicity generated by the Paris-Dakar race. Success came quickly, with victories in the diesel class in three events during 1986 (see results table, below).

But the main target was the Paris-Dakar. It began on 1 January 1987, with 312 vehicles lining up at the start of the gruelling 13,000 km race through Europe, Algeria, Niger, Mali, Mauritania and Senegal. The Nissan Fanta Limon team entered two vehicles; car 211 with Miquel Prieto and Ramon Termens as driver and co-driver respectively, and car 212,

crewed by brothers Jorge and Hansi Babler. Things did not run smoothly. The team's support truck broke down on the second stage, leaving the pair without spares for the rest of the race. Car 212 was eventually forced to withdraw after rolling down a dune, but 211 battled on to the end. It was the first diesel to

finish, in ninth place overall. Mission accomplished, the cars were retired from racing. The whereabouts of 212 is unknown, but 211 was offered to the Salvador Claret, a private car collection and automotive museum south of Girona, Spain. There it remained for almost three decades.

The idea for recovering the car came in February 2014, when NTCE technicians spotted images of it on an internet forum. Realising the 30th anniversary was less than three years away, they contacted the museum to ask for it back.

Juan Villegas, an NTCE technician and part of the restoration team, explained: "The engine was in terrible condition. It was impossible to start and many parts were heavily corroded. The front axle was quite damaged, but the worst thing was the electrics, which had been badly attacked by rats."

The wreck was transported to NTCE Barcelona in May 2014 and the eight-strong restoration team began work, using their own time at evenings and weekends. They searched all over Europe for parts, asking Nissan dealers to search their warehouses for old stock. Some components were bought

used and also restored. Juan added: "We wanted the car to be accurate in every way, and were lucky to get the very old drawings and service manuals from NTCE. We followed all the fine adjustments to

get the exact Paris-Dakar race set-up." In November 2016 the Patrol was complete and made a return to its spiritual home - the

sand dunes of the Sahara. It was an amazing moment for the team.

STATE VOIDS CHEEKEN

Juan commented: "The spirit of innovation that was at the heart of Nissan's entry into the 1987 Paris-Dakar has been all around us as we have completed this project. We felt inspired by the memory of that team, which decided to

participate in the most challenging race in the world and achieved such success."

The restoration's cost has been covered by Nissan as part of its 'Performance Innovation' fund. It's a pot of money set aside each year for projects which bring the company's brand

promise - Innovation That Excites - to life.

NBA TO OPEN ACADEMY IN AFRICA IN 2017

THIES: The NBA will open an academy in Africa next year, its latest move to unearth talent from outside the United States and extend the league's reach into new territories.

The African academy will be based in Thies, Senegal, and follows similar NBA projects opened this year in China, which has three academies, and Australia. Another academy in India is set to start operating in April. The NBA aims to open the Senegal academy, its sixth, in May. The international academies, elite training centers for boys and girls at under-16 and under-18 level, are "the biggest Africa over the last year-and-a-half, hold-

investment the NBA has ever made in basketball development globally," said Brooks Meek, NBA vice president of international basketball operations. "We are moving full force ahead and are really excited by the progress we've made," Meek told The Associated Press. A record 26 international players were selected in the 2016 NBA draft. Along with the new players, the NBA's push into Asia and Africa, specifically, provides significant new audiences and marketing opportunities for the league.

The NBA has made two big plays in

ing an exhibition game in South Africa in August 2015, the first on the continent, and signing a new trans-African broadcast deal in April.

NBA Commissioner Adam Silver was in Johannesburg for the exhibition game and said it was part of the league's plan to have a pre-season and then regularseason game in Africa. At the time, Silver said the NBA was on a "fast track" to build a brand in soccer-crazy Africa.

The new academy in Senegal will focus on elite talent development, said Amadou Gallo Fall, NBA vice president and managing director for Africa. For the

last 15 years the NBA has laid the foundation, using its international Basketball without Borders camps to develop the game at a grass-roots level in Africa and elsewhere.

Those Basketball without Borders camps have already provided nine NBA players from Africa, including Luc Mbah a Moute of the Los Angeles Clippers, who is from Cameroon. For its new academy, the NBA will work with and use existing facilities set up by Sports for Education and Economic Development, an international NGO, which has also had success after producing the Minnesota

Timberwolves forward Gorgui Dieng. The NBA will provide NBA-trained coaches and other support staff for the academy.

"We've had a growing number of players coming from the continent and this is really without a concerted effort or focus on elite talent development," Fall said. "Now we're deciding to focus on that. Not only is the number of players coming into the league from Africa going to increase, but they're going to come better prepared."

The NBA will begin scouting for the African academy's first class of 12 young players this week, Fall said. —AP

KVITOVA OUT INDEFINITELY AFTER BURGLAR ATTACK

PRAGUE: Two-time Wimbledon champion Petra Kvitova will need at least three months of rest after surgery to her left hand cut by a knife-wielding burglar on Tuesday, her spokesman said. Kvitova suffered an injury on all five fingers and two nerves in her left hand, her racket hand, after fighting with the burglar at her home in the eastern Czech town of Prostejov.

Doctors "stitched the injured finger tendons" during the surgery that took three hours and 45 minutes, Kvitova's spokesman Karel Tejkal told AFP. "The hand will now be bandaged for two days, then put in a splint for 6-8 weeks.



Petra Kvitova

"She can't burden the tendons for at least three months. "The injury is serious, but the surgeon says Petra is young and healthy and there is no reason why she can't resume tennis." Earlier on Tuesday, Tejkal said the burglary was a random crime as "nobody was going to attack or rob her as Petra Kvitova". The 26-year-old attacked in my apartment by an individual drop following doctors' orders. — AFP

with a knife," said Kvitova, adding she tried to defend herself. "I trust the doctors and I believe it will all end well. Don't worry about me." Local police spokesman Frantisek Korinek said the attack had occurred before 0730 GMT on Tuesday near the Prostejov town centre and that the burglar was still at large.

LACKLUSTRE YEAR

Meanwhile, support poured in from fellow tennis stars. "So upset hearing the news about @Petra_Kvitova. Hands down one of the nicest people I've ever met. All my thoughts with her," tweeted world number eight Madison Keys.

"Just finding out about @Petra_Kvitova and the awful stabbing and injury to her hand - pulling for you Petra," added Czechborn former great Martina Navratilova.

And Oracene Price, the mother of Serena and Venus Williams, tweeted:

"@Petra_Kvitova I'm very sorry to hear what happen to you. I'm praying for your speedy recovery. Blessing to you and your family." The burglary adds a sombre ending to a rather lacklustre year for Kvitova, who slid from sixth in the world in January to 16th in August. She sacked two coaches before winning the Wuhan Open in China in October after a 13-month title drought.

She added a victory at Zhuhai, China in November and was on the Czech Republic team that won the Fed Cup later that month, beating France for their fifth title in six years. On December 1, Kvitova hired a new coach, Czech Jiri Vanek, who had led her Fed Cup teammate Karolina Pliskova to this year's US Open final. Bronze medallist from the Rio Olympics and Wimbledon champion in 2011 and 2014, Kvitova is also recovering from a stress fracture to her foot. Just hours before the attack, she said the injury had forced her out of the mixed doubles Hopman Cup starting on January 1, where she was due to play alongside her former boyfriend Adam Pavlasek.

She said she hoped to start next year at Sydney on January 8 to warm up for the shaken but "fortunate" to be alive. "I was Australian Open-a plan that she will have to

Byrd event turned down a half-dozen

exemptions to PGA Tour events last year.

He finished 48th on the money list (the top

25 get PGA cards) and he didn't earn one of

the 25 additional spots from the four-tour-

progress. Besides, being around a bunch of

kids in their early 20s has helped. "You've

got to play good to beat these guys," he

said. "But what I've learned from being out

here so long is that I've got what it takes.

Guys who have won five times on the PGA

enough. And I still think it's good enough."

to Rhode Island this week to watch Brown

host Maine in college basketball. His

younger brother, Steven, is a senior who is

averaging 15.4 points a game for the Bears.

pion is doing everything he can to prepare,

because this apparently involves more than

sitting in the stands to cheer on little broth-

er. Spieth suggested that there might be a

little contest Thursday morning before the

thing," Spieth said. "We might be playing

horse, and it might be videoed. At the

moment, I'm starting my grind in the gym,

shooting a thousand shots a day so I don't

might see this video, Spieth said: "Even if I

knew, I certainly would not be announcing

that. I think it's through ESPN. I'm not sure."

However it turns out, perhaps Steven

might consider coming out to Augusta

POWER MEMORIES

by him off the tee. One of the shorter hit-

ters in golf, he still has managed to win 17

times, including the US Open. But there

was something about the 2009 Cadillac

Championship at Doral that he still remem-

(McIlroy) the first two days, and I was hit-

ting it real short," Furyk said. "I'm already

short anyway, but I had a driver that I was

hitting straight but real short. We're playing

Doral. You know, Adam and Rory are hitting

it 30 (yards) by me all day and I'm like, 'I

need to get a new driver." — AP

"I was paired with Adam Scott and Rory

Jim Furyk is used to players smashing it

National early for a putting contest.

Asked if he knew where the public

"I'm not sure. He kind of set up some-

The former Masters and US Open cham-

I've got something in there that's good

OH, BROTHER: Jordan Spieth is headed

Tour, it's a short list.

Brown game.

embarrass myself."

bers clearly.

Even so, he was upbeat about his

nament series at the end of the year.



LAMPUNG: This photo taken on November 7, 2016 shows young weightlifters training at the 'elephant club', a private academy in Pringsewu, a regency of Lampung in Southern Sumatra. Many of Indonesia's sporting legends were bred in small-town clubs, whipped into shape by oldschool coaches and relentless training. But as Indonesia strives to increase its gold-medal haul at the 2018 Asian Games and Tokyo 2020, there's a push to modernise such sports. — AFP

OLD, NEW CLASH AS INDONESIAN WEIGHTLIFTERS GO FOR GOLD

PRINGSEWU: Inside a spartan weightlifting gym in Indonesia, teenagers chalk their hands, grit their teeth and thrust faded metal barbells above their heads, hopeful of Olympic glory.

Many of Indonesia's sporting legends were bred in small-town clubs, whipped into shape by old-school coaches and relentless training.

But as Indonesia strives to increase its goldmedal haul at the 2018 Asian Games and Tokyo 2020, there's a push to modernise such sports. The import of foreign expertise and an

unprecedented focus on nutrition and rehabilitation was credited with Indonesia's weightlifters bagging two silver medals at the Rio Games. The podium finishes gave weightlifting a

much-needed publicity boost. "Indonesia has a lot of talent in weightlifting," national team manager Alamsyah Wijaya told AFP. "It's time for us to promote that to the world."

But the sport still struggles to attract the funding and fan base enjoyed by badminton-Indonesia's main medal earner, and a source of national pride. In weightlifting, hopes for gold in major championships are pinned on a crop of promising youngsters emerging from threadbare academies across the country.

The federation is trying to lure these budding stars to the capital Jakarta, where tailored exercise programs ensure they have their best shot at building strength, avoiding injury and winning medals.

It can be a challenge getting some young lifters to leave their beloved hometown clubs for the big smoke, Wijaya said, and even harder to convince their coaches to let them go.

LEGENDARY SCHOOL

Things are still done the old-fashioned way at weightlifting clubs across Lampung, a forested province in Sumatra famed for developing top-

Of the 10 Olympic weightlifting medals won by Indonesia, a staggering seven were claimed by athletes who either hailed from, or trained in, Lampung. Many trained at the 'elephant club' in Pringsewu-arguably the most famous no-frills weightlifting clinic in the entire country.

For nearly 50 years Imron Rosadi-an octogenarian former world champion with an eagle eye for talent-has slowly expanded the modest gym at the back of his family home into a weightlifting club with a fearsome reputation.

Much of the equipment is decades old: bench presses and metal weights chipped of all paint, and wooden lifting platforms splintered from thousands of dropped barbells.

Today roughly 30 boys and girls eat, sleep and train together at the academy year round, for free, surrounded by trophies and pictures of the champions that preceded them.

"We provide everything here," Rosadi told AFP. "This academy is run like a family."

Most of the recruits are from poor neighbourhoods who see weightlifting as a path to unimaginable wealth. The rationale is understandable: Indonesia hands huge bonuses and lifetime pensions to athletes who win Olympic medals. Three-time Olympic medallist and Lampung native Eko Yuli Irawan only chose weightlifting as a child because his local football club charged a fee.

"Number one is money, because people here are poor," said Rosadi's son Edy, a coach at the club, of his student's motivations. "They want a better life, and to help their parents and family."

Wijaya-who also trained in his youth at



LAMPUNG: This photo taken on November 7, 2016 shows young weightlifters training at the 'elephant club', a private academy in Pringsewu, a regency of Lampung in Southern Sumatra. — AFP



LAMPUNG: Young weightlifters training at the 'elephant club', a private academy in Pringsewu, a regency of Lampung in Southern Sumatra. — AFP

Rosadi's clinic-is concerned these hopes and dreams could amount to zero if provincial clubs don't evolve with the times.

FRESH APPROACH

Pumping iron around the clock, with little rest, was once di rigueur in the weightlifting fraternity. But these regimens pioneered in Sovietstyle sports clubs left athletes crippled and coaches looking for alternatives, he said.

"They didn't use sport science, only power science," Wijaya said.

"Weightlifting is changing, and we're trying too but face many constraints." Most local clubs are set in their ways and don't care for rest days or nutrition, he said, resulting in high injury rates. At a recent national youth championship south of Jakarta, selectors pulled aside athletes displaying poor technique, fearing a potential career-ending injury. Wijaya has been sending Indonesia's team doctor to Lampung for periodic visits, but is careful not to tread on toes and offend "the legend" Rosadi.

In Jakarta, the federation has been working with a government committee whose sole objective is moulding promising athletes for gold. They want to win 20 gold at a the next Asian Games-a far cry from the four snagged at the last meet. Wijaya has his eyes on three lifters from Lampung who show potential, including 15-year-old Nur Vinatasari, who won silver in the World Youth Championships in Penang in October. The bright-eyed, broad-shouldered teenager is from Pringsewu-where a statue elephant lifting a barbell guards the city gates-and dreams of competing at the Olympics.

"I want to be the pride of Indonesia, and become world champion," she said. — AFP

BYRD BRINGS POSITIVE ATTITUDE TO MINOR LEAGUES OF GOLF

LOS ANGELES: With five victories, Jonathan Byrd had such a productive PGA Tour career that spending any time on the developmental Web.com Tour never crossed his mind. His only stop in the minor leagues was in 2001, so long ago that it then was known as the Buy.com Tour.

A year after his playoff victory in the 2011 Tournament of Champions at Kapalua, however, Byrd had wrist surgery. He missed three months to start 2013, and his game and confidence slowly eroded to the point that he was trying to make cuts, make money and keep his job.

"You stop trying to bring your best and you're trying just to stay out here, and that's no way to play," Byrd said last month at the RSM Classic. "The tighter you hang on, the farther you get away from what you're doing."

With nothing but past champion status that would offer him limited starts, his best option to regain a full PGA Tour card was to spend a year on the Web.com Tour. That can be a tough pill for someone who had never come close to losing his PGA Tour card before the injury.

Byrd, who turns 39 in January, brought with him an attitude that is worth emulating for anyone who winds up in that spot.

"It was humbling," Byrd said. "To go back to the Web was difficult. There's so many reminders every week that you're not where you want to be. But I tried to embrace it. ... I didn't want to be the grumpy old tour player talking about how great it is on tour and how bad it is out here and how good I used to be. I made friends out there. I enjoyed it. I focused on enjoying the competition."



Jonathan Byrd



IS ENGLAND CAPTAIN'S GOOSE COOKED BEFORE CHRISTMAS?

CHENNAI: England captain Alastair ets in a single session as they slumped to Cook heads home for Christmas with calls for his resignation ringing in his ears after what turned into an embarrassing subcontinental tour.

Cook flagged his possible departure before the five-Test tour of India and it was a question that became more pointed after England's capitulation on the final day in Chennai.

England lost six wickets for just 15 runs in a final-session collapse to lose the series 4-0, after they also finished the preceding tour of Bangladesh by folding in the final Test.

Cook's England threw away 10 wick-

their first Test defeat to the hosts in Dhaka. Cook admitted it had been a "frustrating" year as he was left ticking off the low points of his captaincy fol-

"I think Australia 5-0 (2013-2014) was as low as I could go and Sri Lanka as well at Headingley (2014). We could list a few if you really want," he said.

lowing the defeat in Chennai.

"I can't fault the effort in the dressingroom. We've stayed together as a team. Naturally when things go badly, things can break up.

"But the guys have been brilliant in committing to the cause. We just haven't

been good enough to put India under pressure for long periods."

Many now expect Cook to relinquish the captaincy in favour of fellow batsman Joe Root, with England heading into a five-month Test break and an Ashes series in Australia looming at the end of next year.

'TESTED TO OUR LIMITS'

"End the speculation. He is telling us that the captaincy has tired him out mentally and he has had enough," said former England batsman Geoffrey Boycott. "If that is the case then he should go, which would give Root seven

Test matches in England to get used to the job before taking the team to Australia." Cook led England to a 2-1 series win in South Africa early this year against a team then ranked number one in the world, but things went downhill from there. England were held to a 2-2 draw against Pakistan at home in August and then lost in Dhaka to split the series 1-1 with Bangladesh.

But India proved the nadir as England twice lost by an innings after posting more than 400 in their first innings. "It's been a frustrating year and to lose that many times with the players we've got is disappointing," said Cook.

"Played some good cricket at times and played some pretty average cricket. We haven't been very good when we've been behind in games," said Cook. England slipped from second to fifth in the latest world rankings led by India, but Cook believes it's not all "doom and gloom". "I think everyone can see we are suited to playing in seaming conditions. There's no point hiding behind that fact. These conditions have tested us to our limits," said Cook.

England will soon have more opportunities to practise in Indian conditions, when they return for a limited-overs series in January. — AFP



Virat Kohli

BATTING STRENGTH IN DEPTH A GOOD PROBLEM FOR INDIA

MUMBAI: The emergence of youngsters Lokesh Rahul and Karun Nair will increase the pressure on India's established batsmen to be more consistent as the world's top-ranked test side look to dominate next year. Under captain Virat Kohli, India have been unbeaten in the last 18 tests, registering series wins in Sri Lanka and West Indies, and thumping South Africa, New Zealand and England at home. Halfway through a bumper home series

of 13 tests, with a lone match against Bangladesh and a four-game series against Australia remaining, Kohli's grand dream of creating one of cricket's all-time best teams is taking shape.

The 24-year-old Rahul cemented his position as India's first-choice opener alongside Murali Vijay with a 199 in Chennai, his fourth test hundred in 12

Doubts were raised after scores of nought, 10 and 24 but the knock at the MA Chidambaram Stadium answered all his critics and ensured left-hander Shikhar Dhawan will be India's reserve opener when the hosts pick the squad for the next test. It will also be a pleasant headache for the team management when regular middle-order batsmen Ajinkya Rahane and Rohit Sharma return from injury for the matches against Bangladesh and Australia in February and March.

SYDNEY: Cricket officials yesterday banned

a black bat used by West Indian Andre

Russell in Australia's T20 Big Bash League

with a black blade and pink handle during

Tuesday night's opening BBL match against

the Sydney Sixers after Cricket Australia ini-

The Sydney Thunder star used the bat

But after feedback from match officials

that it was leaving black marks on the

match ball, they reversed their permission.

"As a result, we have decided to withdraw

our approval for Andre to use the bat that

was used last night as the colour solution

used by the manufacturer was discolouring

because its colour marks the ball.

tially gave the all-clear.

Nair, 25, did not have a great start to his test career, scoring four and 13 in Mohali and Mumbai before compiling a stunning unbeaten 303 in Chennai.

"It's difficult to find guys like that, which have such character when they are batting and understand their game so well at such a young age," Kohli told reporters after his side completed a 4-0 drubbing of England

"It's important to back guys like Karun. We've always believed. He was always our number one choice as a middle-order back-up." Rohit scored three half-centuries, two unbeaten, against New Zealand in the three tests before his thigh injury while Rahane, India's vice-captain, broke his finger after scoring 63 in five innings against England. Kohli has warned opponents that this is only the beginning for his young side. "To be part of such a good year and such a good season, especially with the team in transition, is something we can be really proud of," Kohli said.

"But this is just the foundation that's been laid for us to carry on for many years. It's just the beginning.

"It's nothing (compared to what) we want to achieve. It's not even a tiny bit of that. We understand where we want to go, and hopefully the guys can keep putting this kind of effort and take the team where it belongs." — Reuters

the ball," said BBL chief Anthony Everard.

He added that a player could use a

coloured bat as long as it "doesn't result in

the discolouration of the match ball". It was

subject to Cricket Australia "being satisfied

that the bat won't compromise the integri-

ty of the game, which we believe discolour-

a coloured bat as long as it is same colour

deny any approvals and the umpires can

also request a player change the bat if they

believe it is affecting the integrity of the

as their team's primary kit colour, or black.

Under BBL regulations, a player can use

Cricket Australia has the discretion to

ing the match ball does".

match. —AFP

JAGR TIES FOR SECOND IN CAREER POINTS AS PANTHERS BEAT SABRES

SUNRISE: Jaromir Jagr had three assists to pull into a tie for second place on the NHL's career points list, Aleksander Barkov and Vincent Trocheck scored in the shootout, and the Florida Panthers beat the Buffalo Sabres 4-3 on Tuesday night. Jagr pulled even with Mark Messier with 1,887 points, trailing only Wayne Gretzky (2,857). Roberto Luongo stopped 33 shots, including both attempts in the shootout, to pull into a tie with Terry Sawchuk for fifth all-time in the NHL with 447 wins. Nick Bjugstad had his first goal of the season, Keith Yandle also scored and Barkov had a goal and two assists for the Panthers. Rasmus Ristolainen and San Reinhart each had a goal and an assist for the Sabres. Evander Kane also scored and Robin Lehner made 36 saves.

BLUE JACKETS 3, KINGS 2, SO

Cam Atkinson had two goals and scored in the shootout, helping Columbus get its franchiserecord 10th straight victory. Curtis McElhinney made 44 saves and Sam Gagner scored the decider in the shootout, keeping the Blue Jackets unbeaten since Nov 26. Columbus earned a point for the 12th straight game, improved to 21-5-4 and hosts the Stanley Cup champion Pittsburgh Penguins tonight with a chance to jump into first place in the brutally competitive Metropolitan Division. Jeff Carter scored twice for Los Angeles, including a tying goal 10:16 into the third period, and also got a goal in the shootout. Peter Budaj stopped 25 shots but allowed goals on 2 of 3 shootout attempts.

WILD 2, AVALANCHE 0

Devan Dubnyk made 18 saves for his NHL-leading fifth shutout this season and Minnesota won its eighth straight. Charlie Coyle scored his team-leading 11th goal and Mikko Koivu added his eighth for the Wild, who have outscored their past five opponents 19-5. Minnesota has allowed a leaguelow 58 goals in 31 games. Colorado's Semyon Varlamov returned after missing four games with a groin injury and stopped 31 of 33 shots. The Avalanche have lost four consecutive games and 11 of 13 while being outscored 49-26. Dubnyk entered leading the league in goals-against age (1.62) and save percentage (.947) and tied with Boston's Tuukka Rask for the lead in shutouts.

ISLANDERS 4, BRUINS 2

Thomas Greiss stopped 48 shots, Anders Lee scored twice and had an assist, and the New York Islanders snapped a five-game winless streak. Thomas Hickey and Nikolay Kulemin also scored for the Islanders in their first win since beating St. Louis on Dec. 8. New York was outscored 24-12 while going 0-4-1 in the five games since. Greiss took a shutout into the third period and was able to hold off the Bruins after they pulled to 3-2 on goals by Anton Blidh and Dominic Moore. Greiss made 23 saves in the third period and got a little cushion when Lee scored a power-play goal with 6:58 left to put the Islanders back up two. The Bruins lost for the fourth time in their last five at home.

PENGUINS 7, RANGERS 2

Sidney Crosby scored his NHL-leading 22nd goal, Evgeni Malkin had a goal and two assists and Pittsburgh moved into a tie with the Rangers atop the crowded Metropolitan Division. Bryan Rust, Phil Kessel, Justin Schultz, Patric Hornqvist and Nick Bonino also scored for the Penguins, who improved to 8-0-2 in December, Matt Murray made 26 saves and is unbeaten in regulation in his last 13 home starts as the Penguins cruised despite missing injured defensemen Kris Letang and Trevor Daley. Michael Grabner collected his team-high 14th goal for New York and Matt Puempel added his second, but New York struggled to keep pace with Pittsburgh. Antti Raanta stopped 40 of 47 shots and allowed four third-period goals after the Rangers had pulled

CANADIENS 5, DUCKS 1

Jeff Petry had a goal and two assists and Montreal beat Anaheim. Paul Byron had a goal and a helper while Tomas Plekanec, Max Pacioretty and Chris Terry also scored for the Canadiens. Ironman Andrew Cogliano scored for the Ducks, who looked sluggish coming off a 3-2 win Monday night in Toronto. Anaheim ends a six-game trip Thursday night in Ottawa. Cogliano played his 738th consecutive game to pass Jay Bouwmeester for the fifth longest streak in NHL history. It's the longest since Steve Larmer played his 884th in a row in 1993. Cogliano has the second-longest stretch from the start of a career behind Doug Jarvis's 964 games. Montreal outshot the Anaheim 34-13.

BLUES 3, STARS 2, OT

David Perron put in a wraparound goal at 1:55 of overtime, lifting St. Louis past Dallas. On a delayed penalty, Perron picked up a loose puck to the left of the net, skated behind it and scored from the right side before Dallas goalie Antti Niemi could recover. St. Louis' Patrik Berglund had tied the game 2-2 with 31 seconds left in the second period. Jaden Schwartz scored in the first period for the Blues and Jake Allen had 36 saves. Jason Spezza scored for a 2-1 lead less than a minute before Berglund tied the game, and assisted on Patrick Eaves' power-play goal in the



SUNRISE: Buffalo Sabres center Jack Eichel (15) defends against Florida Panthers right wing Jaromir Jagr (68) during the first period of an NHL hockey game, Tuesday, in Sunrise, Fla. —AP

first period. Niemi finished with 19 saves.

SENATORS 4, BLACKHAWKS 3

Derick Brassard and Tom Pyatt scored 10 seconds apart during Ottawa's three-goal second period, and the Senators won their third straight. Bobby Ryan added a goal and an assist as Ottawa stopped a seven-game road losing streak against Chicago, earning its first win at the United Center since March 28, 2001. Dion Phaneuf scored a power-play goal, and Kyle Turris had two assists. Artemi Panarin, Tyler Motte and Richard Panik scored for the Blackhawks, who had won five in a row and six of seven. Scott Darling made 26 saves while dropping to 6-3-1 in 10 starts since Corey Crawford had an emergency appendectomy on Dec. 3. Chicago played without center Artem Anisimov for the second straight game due to an upper body injury, and forward Marian Hossa left in the first period. The Blackhawks did not provide a reason for Hossa's departure.

LIGHTNING 4, RED WINGS 1

Andrei Vasilevskiy made 22 saves in relief of Ben Bishop as Tampa Bay beat Detroit in a game where both starting goalies left due to injuries. Bishop was hurt 12 minutes into the first period, going down after kicking out his right leg to make a pad save on Nick Jensen's shot. The Lightning said Bishop, who skated gingerly to the bench, has a lower-body injury. Detroit's Jimmy Howard departed with 12:41 remaining in the second. He was unable to put weight on his right leg following a goalmouth scramble involving Jensen and Tampa Bay's Erik Condra. Jensen, making his NHL debut, assisted on Anthony Mantha's goal with 10.5 seconds left in the third. Brian Boyle, Jonathan Drouin, Brayden Point and Vladislav Namestnikov scored for the Lightning, who are 3-7-2 over their last 12 games. Tampa Bay is 3-0 against Detroit this season.

PREDATORS 5, DEVILS 1 James Neal scored twice in the first period,

Juuse Saros stopped 27 shots and Nashville beat New Jersey. Ryan Johansen and Mattias Ekholm each had a goal and an assist, Filip Forsberg also scored and Viktor Arvidsson had three assists for the Predators. Sergey Kalinin spoiled Saros' bid for his first NHL shutout with 4:49 remaining, and Cory Schneider finished with 32 saves for the Devils, who have lost seven straight. Arvidsson found Neal across the ice on a 2-on-1 and Neal beat Scheider glove-side 5:43 into the game. Neal scored again at 7:15 as he fired a shot from the right circle to beat Schneider on the far post.

SHARKS 4, FLAMES 1

Joonas Donskoi scored twice to lead San Jose to its fifth win in six games. Patrick Marleau and Paul Martin also scored for the Sharks, who are 7-2 at home since dropping two in a row in early November. Sam Bennett scored for the Flames, who lost for just the third time in 10 games. Martin Jones stopped 20 of 21 shots for his fourth victory in five starts. Chad Johnson recorded 30 saves in 34 chances. The Sharks muscled up to score four times within an 11-minute span in the second period, which included Donskoi's first career multi-goal contest.

CANUCKS 4, JETS 1

Jannik Hansen scored twice and Bo Horvat got his 10th goal of the season, helping Vancouver beat Winnipeg. Horvat scored an empty-netter after Sven Baertschi got a goal in the third period for Vancouver, and Jacob Markstrom had 31 saves. Henrik Sedin added two assists. Blake Wheeler scored and Connor Hellebuyck stopped 20 shots for the Jets. In a scheduling quirk, Winnipeg will remain in Vancouver and play the Canucks again on Thursday night. Hansen put Vancouver up 2-1 3:19 into the third period with his fifth of the season. The veteran wing took a pass from Daniel Sedin at the blue line and delayed for a moment before ripping a shot past Hellebuyck with Henrik Sedin screening in front. —AP

NHL result/standings

San Jose 4, Calgary 1; Vancouver 4, Winnipeg 1; Ottawa 4, Chicago 3; St. Louis 3, Dallas 2 (OT); Minnesota 2, Colorado 0; Montreal 5, Anaheim 1; Tampa Bay 4, Detroit 1; Florida 4, Buffalo 3 (SO); NY Islanders 4, Boston 2; Nashville 5, New ngeles 2 (SO).

Jersey 1; Pittsb	urgh 7	, NY Ra	angers 2	2; Colu	mbus	3, Los /	٩r
Western Conference Central Division							
	W	L	OTL	GF	GA	PTS	
Chicago	22	9	4	101	84	48	
Minnesota	19	8	4	91	60	42	
St. Louis	18	11	5	96	98	41	
Nashville	15	12	5	94	90	35	
Dallas	13	14	7	86	104	33	
Winnipeg	15	17	3	91	104	33	
Colorado	11	19	1	65	99	23	
		Pacific	Divisio	n			
San Jose	20	12	1	84	73	41	
Anaheim	17	12	5	95	97	39	
Edmonton	17	12	5	100	92	39	
Calgary	17	16	2	90	102	36	
Los Angeles	16	13	3	81	81	35	
Vancouver	14	16	3	84	101	31	
Arizona	11	16	5	72	101	27	
	Ea	stern	Confere	ence			
	F	Atlanti	c Divisi	on			

4 101 70 46

Ottawa	19	11	3	86	88	41	
Boston	17	14	3	80	83	37	
Tampa Bay	16	14	3	95	92	35	
Florida	15	13	5	81	90	35	
Buffalo	12	11	8	69	83	32	
Detroit	14	15	4	79	93	32	
Toronto	12	12	7	87	94	31	
	Me	tropolit	an Div	ision			
Pittsburgh	21	7	5	116	92	47	
NY Rangers	23	11	1	115	82	47	
Columbus	21	5	4	101	63	46	
Philadelphia	19	11	4	107	102	42	
Washington	19	8	3	81	66	41	
Carolina	13	11	7	82	87	33	
New Jersey	12	13	7	75	98	31	
NY Islanders	12	14	6	85	101	30	
Note: Overtim	ne loss	ses (OTL)	are w	orth c	ne po	int in t	1

standings and are not included in the loss column (L)



BIG BASH BANS ANDRE

RUSSELL'S BLACK BAT

Andre Russell

HELICOPTER RIDE FOR COFFEE - THE RISE OF RB LEIPZIG

BERLIN: RB Leipzig's billionaire owner Dietrich Mateschitz will hope to continue being his team's lucky charm when they tackle champions Bayern Munich, with top spot the winners' prize.

The 72-year-old Austrian, the cofounder of energy drinks giant Red Bull, is not a man to let obstacles get in his way. In 2012, when he was attempting to recruit Ralf Rangnick, Leipzig's current director of sport, during a telephone conversation, Mateschitz suddenly asked. "Do you have a helicopter landing pad?" Rangnick, in recounting the tale, replied that it was not something he had given consideration to when planning his garden. Nevertheless,

Mateschitz landed his private helicopter a few hours later at a sports field adjacent to Rangnick's house to continue the discussion. Over the course of the next few hours-and countless cups of coffee-Rangnick explained what he would do if he was in charge of RB Leipzig, who were down in Germany's fourth division at the time. As he was later to do, Rangnick outlined how he would get rid of any players the wrong side of 30 and sign eager, young talent to nurture.

By the time the coffee went cold, he had the job and Mateschitz flew home. Four promotions in the seven years since they were founded in 2009 saw RB Leipzig join Germany's top flight this

record 13-match unbeaten run. The team has never lost when Mateschitz was in the stadium. He made a rare appearance for Saturday's impressive 2-0 win at home to Hertha Berlin and will also be at the Allianz Arena on Wednesday, where his team will hope to make it five wins from five with Mateschitz in attendance. "We like seeing him in the stadium-he's a good omen for us," said Leipzig goalkeeper Peter Gulacsi. With 15 league matches played, they are neck-and-neck on 36 points with Bayern.

In 2014, when RB had just won promotion to the second division, Mateschitz predicted they would soon

season and got off to a flying start with a be in the top flight-now, the Champions League is beckoning. "Doubts do not belong to my character traits," he said, with Leipzig proving that on the pitch. Estimates to his wealth are somewhere around \$9-12 billion (8.7-11.5 billion euros). He was born in the Austrian town of Sankt Marein im Muerztal and later worked for a coffee-producing company, where he came across "Krating Daeng" (Thai for 'Red Bull') on a trip to Asia.

Together with the Thai family Yoovidhya, who first produced the drink, Mateschitz successfully brought Red Bull to Europe. In 2015, their profit was 501 million euros, which is shared between the Yoovidhya family (51 percent) and the 72-year-old Mateschitz (49 percent).

Red Bull no longer just sell cans of the energy drink and are a major brand in the sports world, sponsoring 600 athletes across a variety of disciplines.

Their portfolio includes a Formula One team, successful professional football clubs in the United States, Austria and Germany, as well as ice hockey teams in Salzburg and Munich.

But Mateschitz clearly has plans for RB Leipzig, and that includes Champions League football. "If we didn't want that at some point, then we'd be better off hanging up our boots," he said. Little is known about his private life and he rarely speaks to the media.—AFP

GLADBACH FIRE COACH SCHUBERT

BERLIN: Andre Schubert yesterday became the seventh Bundesliga coach fired since September when Borussia Moenchengladbach dismissed him in the wake of their 2-1 defeat to fellow strugglers VfL Wolfsburg.

The home defeat was the final straw for Gladbach's director of sport Max Eberl, who had said the team needed to win their last three games before Christmas for Schubert's future to be safe.

But after losing to Augsburg and earning a scrappy win over Mainz, Gladbach's defeat to Wolfsburg on Tuesday was their eighth defeat in 16 league games to leave them 14th. They have won just once in their last ten games in all competitions. "We have come to the conclusion that it is better for both parties to end their co-operation now," said Eberl. Schubert's replacement-ex-Wolfsburg coach Dieter Hecking has been linked to the role-now has the four-week winter break to inject confidence in a team which took 16 points from their first 16 league games. "We're looking for a coach who will take us on the right path with young players," added Eberl.

The main task of the new manager will be to pick up points "so we can reach a comfortable level in a relatively short time".

It is a sad end to Schubert's 15 months in charge which saw him take Gladbach from the bottom of the league table, when he replaced Lucien Favre in September 2015, to fourth last season and the Champions League.

The 45-year-old Schubert only signed a contract extension in September, which would have run until 2019, but things went downhill fast this season.

The sales of midfielder Granit Xhaka to Arsenal and defender Havard Nordveit to West Ham, plus the loss of centre-backs Martin Stranl (retired) and Roel Brouwers, to Dutch side Roda Kerkrade, meant Schubert lost a wealth of experience.

Battling displays in their Champions League group against Barcelona, Manchester City and Celtic saw Gladbach finish third to qualify for the Europa

League's knock-out stages.

But Schubert paid the price for poor Bundesliga form, starting with a 4-0 drubbing by Schalke in early October which saw them pick up just six league points in the next ten games.

Schubert joins Dirk Schuster (Augsburg), Norbert Meier (Darmstadt), Markus Kauczinski (Ingolstadt), Dieter Hecking (Wolfsburg), Bruno Labbadia (Hamburg) and Viktor Skrypnyk (Werder Bremen) who have been sacked this season. —AFP



(Local Timings)

ITALIAN CALCIO LEAGUE SERIE A

beIN SPORTS 5 HD	_
Fiorentina v Napoli 22:4)
beIN SPORTS 4 HD	
Palermo v Pescara 22:4	5
beIN SPORTS	
Roma v Chievo Verona 22:4	5
beIN SPORTS 8 HD	
Sampdoria v Udinese 22:4	5
beIN SPORTS 6 HD	
Torino v Genoa 22:4	5
beIN SPORTS	

SPAIN COPA DEL REY

Barcelona v Hercules	0:00
beIN SPORTS 3 HD	
Vigo v Murcia	22:00
beIN SPORTS	
Deportivo v Gimnastica	22:00
beIN SPORTS	
Bilbao v Santander	23:00
beIN SPORTS	
Espanyol v Alcorcon	23:00
beIN SPORTS	



DOHA: Juventus players attend a training session in Doha yesterday, two days before the Italian Super Cup final football match between Juventus and AC Milan in the Qatari capital. — AFP

KESSIE COMES TO ATALANTA RESCUE AGAINST EMPOLI

MILAN: Ivorian youngster Franck Kessie hit a second-half leveller and set up a dramatic last-gasp winner as Atalanta ended a threegame winless run in a 2-1 win over Empoli on Tuesday.

Atalanta, who last month were being tipped for a place in next season's Europa League, left it late to overcome their Tuscan visitors.

Empoli fired a warning when Levan Mchedlidze got on the end of a free-kick six minutes after the restart to flick the ball past Marco Sportiello at the goalkeeper's

It gave the visitors hope of claiming their first pair of consecutive league wins since December 2015, but Kessie, a towering striker who is already courting interest from a number of top clubs, was a gamechanger. After celebrating his 20th birthday on Monday, he replaced Jasmin Kurtic at half-time and on 74 minutes picked up a loose ball on the edge of the area to beat Lukasz Skorupski with a vicious low drive inside the keeper's near post.

Atalanta fought till the bitter end and after Kessie battled to keep possession wide on the left, he whipped in a cross that came off two bodies before Marco D'Alessandro poked the loose ball into the net for a last-minute winner.

Atalanta finish 2016 among some prestigious company, with only AC Milan, Lazio, Napoli, Roma and champions Juventus above them.

Empoli remain fourth from bottom, five points above the relegation places. Juventus are due to face AC Milan for the Italian Super Cup in Doha on Friday, meaning their respective fixtures have been postponed until February.

Inter Milan host Lazio on Wednesday when a win for the visitors, fourth at eight points behind Juve, could move as high as second with a win.

City rivals Roma, who are without defender Kostas Manolas and midfield pair Radja Nainggolan and Daniele De Rossi after the trio suffered injuries in a 1-0 defeat to Juventus on Sunday, entertain Chievo with a one lead over the two teams

Third-placed Napoli travel to Fiorentina today on the back of a thrilling 5-3 win over Torino that saw Belgian Dries Mertens hit four goals. — AFP



DORTMUND: Dortmund's Christian Pulisic jumps for the ball in front of Augsburg goalkeeper Marwin Hitz during the German Bundesliga soccer match between Borussia Dortmund and FC Augsburg in Dortmund, Germany, Tuesday. — AP

DORTMUND ENDS 2016 TO WHISTLES FROM FANS AFTER ANOTHER DRAW

BERLIN: Borussia Dortmund ended 2016 with afterward when it appeared Paul Verhaegh Wolfsburg is only ahead on goal difference. whistles from its own fans after being held to a brought him down. on Tuesday. Not even the news of midfielder Julian Weigl's contract extension to 2021 could hide the disappointment of Dortmund's third successive league draw.

It wasn't for lack of effort - the home side had 23 attempts on goal but only Ousmane Dembele's equalizer after the interval to show for it. "I think the game today reflects the whole opening half of the season," Dortmund coach Thomas Tuchel said of a side that beat Bayern Munich and topped a Champions League group containing Real Madrid.

Tuchel had said he was worried by his side's propensity to concede first - since the 1-0 win over Bayern, Dortmund had been left with an uphill task across six competitive games. And it happened again on Tuesday when Ji Dong-won scored against his former club in the 33rd minute. Marc Bartra lost the ball and Martin Hinteregger surged forward despite the attention of five Dortmund players, slipping a pass to Jan Moravek, who noticed Ji free on the left. Goalkeeper Roman Weidenfeller blocked his first effort but the rebound fell kindly for the South Korean to grab his third league goal of the season. Dortmund was dominating possession but struggling to create chances against Augsburg's compact 5-4-1 formation.

Tuchel brought Bartra off for Sven Bender at the break and Dembele equalized two minutes later, sweeping the ball in with his left foot after Shinji Kagawa played him through.

Kagawa might have had a penalty shortly

1-1 draw in the Bundesliga by gritty Augsburg Dortmund pushed hard but couldn't find another breakthrough. The side is fourth in the standings and might be overtaken by Hoffenheim and Hertha Berlin on Wednesday, when league leader Bayern Munich hosts promoted Leipzig for a top-of-the-table clash.

All of Tuesday's games were preceded with a minute's silence for victims of the truck attack at a Christmas market that left 12 people dead and many injured in Berlin the evening before. The players also wore black armbands.

BORUSSIA MOENCHENGLADBACH 1, WOLFSBURG 2

Wolfsburg's short revival under Valerien Ismael continued with its second successive victory after four winless games.

However, it might not be enough to save his coaching job amid reports the club approached David Wagner, the current Huddersfield Town coach, for the position. Wagner opted to stay with the second-tier English side.

'Gladbach counterpart Andre Schubert also faces an uncertain Christmas with just one win now from 11 games. His side got off to a bad start when Daniel Caligiuri opened the scoring on a counterattack in the third minute.

Thorgan Hazard equalized early in the second half but 'Gladbach's defense was caught napping again when Julian Draxler sent Mario Gomez through for the winner five minutes later.

Whistles greeted the final whistle from disgruntled home fans. 'Gladbach is just three points above the relegation zone, while

Bobby Wood came on a substitute and secured a welcome victory for Hamburg with a brilliant late strike against injury-hit Schalke.

Nicolai Mueller made the breakthrough on the hour mark, before Johan Djourou missed the chance to seal it when Ralf Faehrmann saved his weak penalty 15 minutes later.

American forward Wood, who had three league goals already, further endeared himself to the home fans when Mueller sent him through on the right. Still faced by Germany defender Benedikt Hoewedes, he turned inside and unleashed an unstoppable shot inside the far post. Donis Avdijaj claimed Schalke's lastminute consolation with a fine volley for the youngster's first Bundesliga goal.

Hamburg climbed into the relegation playoff place ahead of Wednesday's games.

EINTRACHT FRANKFURT 3, MAINZ 0

Frankfurt completed a fine first half to the season with a victory made easier by Jhon Cordoba's sending off for a stamp on David Abraham in a tussle 10 minutes into the second half. Frankfurt captain Abraham had set up Branimir Hrgota for the opener in the 18th minute, and Hrgota set up Aymen Barkok with 15 minutes remaining. Barkok returned the favor for Hrgota to seal it 10 minutes later as Frankfurt climbed to third before the rest of the 16th round. "Of course I'm satisfied, with the result and the way the season has gone," Frankfurt coach Niko Kovac said. — AP



COLONIA: Paraguay's Sportivo Limpeno footballers celebrate after defeating Venezuela's Estudiantes de Guarico in their final match in the Libertadores Women's Cup in Colonia, Uruguay on Tuesday. — AFP

Tokyo 2020 slashes budget to \$17 bn



Old, new clash as Indonesian weightlifters go for gold



THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2016

JAGR TIES FOR SECOND IN CAREER POINTS AS PANTHERS BEAT SABRES



PHILADELPHIA: New Orleans Pelicans' Anthony Davis, top, goes up for a shot against Philadelphia 76ers' Robert Covington, from left, Ersan Ilyasova and Nerlens Noel during the second half of an NBA basketball game, Tuesday, in Philadelphia. New Orleans won 108-93. — AP

AMES LIFTS CAVS PAST BUCKS IN OT

3-pointer with 24 seconds left in overtime as the Cleveland Cavaliers held on for a 114-108 victory over Milwaukee on Tuesday night to avenge a late November loss. Milwaukee took a 108-107 lead on a tip-in by Giannis Antetokounmpo with 1:12 left. Cleveland's Kyrie Irving missed a 3-pointer from the left corner on the next possession but Jabari Parker's lay-in attempt at the other end curled out. James was fouled on the rebound by Antetokounmpo, his sixth. James then hit the deep 3-pointer to put Cleveland up 110-108. Parker was fouled on a layup attempt on the ensuing possession but missed both free throws. Irving hit a pair of free throws with 15.7 seconds left to make it 112-108. James had 34 points and Irving 28 for Cleveland, which had lost at Milwaukee 118-101 on Nov. 29. Parker had 30 points and Antetokounmpo added 25. The two teams meet again Wednesday night in Cleveland.

PELICANS 108, 76ERS 93

Anthony Davis had 31 points and 16 rebounds to lead New Orleans over Philadelphia in a matchup of struggling teams. Davis scored 11 in New Orleans' dominant second quarter and Terrence Jones finished with 17 points and 10 boards for the Pelicans (10-20), who avenged a Dec. 8 home loss to the 76ers while winning for only the third time in 11 games. Ersan Ilyasova had 14 points to pace Philadelphia (7-21).

RAPTORS 116, NETS 104

Kyle Lowry had 23 points while Norman Powell scored a season-high 21 as Toronto defeated Brooklyn. Lowry, who shot 8 of 12 from the field and 3 of 5 on 3-pointers, added eight assists and four rebounds before sitting out the final 6 minutes as the Raptors (20-8) won their second straight. Six different Raptors scored in double figures. Toronto never trailed and led by as many as 23. Rondae Hollis-Jefferson had 19 points, six rebounds and three assists for the Nets (7-20), who lost their third straight and fifth in six games. It was the 10th straight road loss for the Nets. They are 1-13 away from home this season.

KINGS 126, TRAILBLAZERS 121

DeMarcus Cousins returned from a brief ejection and finished with a season-high 55 points, capping a wild day for the hot-tempered big man as Sacramento beat Portland. Hours after he was fined by the Kings for his profanity-laced tirade against a newspaper columnist last week, Cousins pulled down 13

MILWAUKEE: LeBron James made a go-ahead rebounds and made two huge 3-pointers and onds left in the fourth to set up a tiebreaking scored 17 points in the fourth quarter. It appeared Cousins' night was over before the game had ended. In the final minute, he put the Kings back in front when he drove the lane for a layup and was fouled by Mason Plumlee. Cousins initially was given a second technical foul and ejected for spitting his mouth piece in the direction of Portland's bench after making the shot. He ran into the locker room, but the officials huddled and changed the call. Cousins returned to the court and made the free throw for a three-point play, giving the Kings a 122-119 lead with 35 seconds left.

WARRIORS 104, JAZZ 74

Stephen Curry scored 25 points with four 3pointers while Kevin Durant had 22 points as Golden State whipped Utah after a slow start. Klay Thompson added 17 points and Draymond Green had 15 points, 11 rebounds and five steals as Golden State handed the Jazz their worst defeat of the season. Joe Johnson scored 14 points for Utah in its seventh straight defeat to the Warriors.

CLIPPERS 119, NUGGETS 102

J.J. Redick scored 27 points, including 7-for-9 shooting on 3-pointers while Chris Paul had 16 points, 15 assists and eight rebounds as Los Angeles beat Denver. DeAndre Jordan had 13 points and 13 rebounds and Luc Mbah a Moute added 14 points for the Clippers, who won for the fifth time in six games. Will Barton led the Nuggets with 22 points off the bench, with Danilo Gallinari adding 17 points.

SPURS 102, ROCKETS 100

Patty Mills hit a 3-pointer with 12.9 seconds left to lift San Antonio over Houston. Eric Gordon missed a 3-point attempt after that before Manu Ginobili missed two free throws to give Houston one last chance, but James Harden's 3-point attempt bounced off the rim at the buzzer. The victory is San Antonio's fifth straight and improves the Spurs to 15-1 on the road. It also snaps Houston's NBA-long 10game winning streak. Kawhi Leonard led the Spurs with 21 points while LaMarcus Aldridge added 17 points with 10 rebounds. Harden finished with 31 points, 10 rebounds and seven

HORNETS 117, LAKERS 113

Kemba Walker had 28 points and 10 assists while Marco Belinelli scored 11 fourth-guarter points as Charlotte rallied from 19 down to beat Los Angeles. Walker had 15 points in the third quarter and a key rebound with 27.9 secjumper by Nicolas Batum with 13 seconds remaining. Batum had 23 points on 8-of-12 shooting and added 10 assists. Belinelli finished with 13 points. Jordan Clarkson paced the Lakers with 25 points with 7-of-9 3-point shooting and Nick Young added 24 points while hitting 5 of 10 from 3-point range. Los Angeles made 16 of 33 3-point attempts (48.5 percent) but the Hornets still secured their second straight victory.

CELTICS 112, GRIZZLIES 109, OT

Isaiah Thomas scored a career-high 44 points, including 36 after halftime, to lead Boston past Memphis in overtime. After the Grizzlies took a 106-105 lead on a rebound basket by Tony Allen with 1:10 left in the extra period, the Celtics scored the next five points. Al Horford had 17 points and 14 rebounds for the Celtics, who overcame a 17-point deficit in the second half to win their third straight. Avery Bradley added 16 points. Thomas also matched his career best for 3-pointers, going 7 of 10 from outside the arc. Marc Gasol and Troy Daniels led Memphis with 24 points apiece. Mike Conley had 19 points and eight assists for the Grizzlies, who lost their third in a row - all at home.

MAGIC 136, HEAT 130, 2 OT

Nik Vucevic had 26 points and 12 rebounds while Evan Fournier scored 26 and hit the 3pointer that put Orlando up for good as the Magic topped Miami in double overtime. Elfrid Payton scored 22 points and Serge Ibaka added 20 for the Magic, who beat Miami for only the third time in the last 19 meetings. Tyler Johnson had a career-high 32 points, the most any Heat reserve has ever scored in a game. Hassan Whiteside had 32 points and 15 rebounds for Miami, which wasted a five-point lead in the final minute of regulation and a four-point lead in the last 40 seconds of the first overtime.

KNICKS 118, PACERS 111

Carmelo Anthony matched a season high with 35 points as New York used a big secondhalf turnaround to beat Indiana. The Knicks fell behind by 15 in the third quarter then suddenly seized control to snap a three game losing streak. Anthony scored 26 in the second half. Derrick Rose had 24 points and Kristaps Porzingis added 21 for the Knicks, who returned home after a poor finish to their fivegame trip out West. They improved to 10-4 at home. Thaddeus Young and Myles Turner each scored 21 points for the Pacers, who had won seven straight in the series. — AP

NBA results/standings

LA Clippers 119, Denver 102; Golden State 104, Utah 74; Sacramento 126, Portland 121; Cleveland 114, Milwaukee 108 (OT); Boston 112, Memphis 109 (OT); San Antonio 102, Houston 100; Toronto 116, Brooklyn 104; NY Knicks 118, Indiana 111; Orlando 136, Miami 130 (OT); New Orleans 108, Philadelphia 93; Charlotte 117, LA Lakers 113.

	astern Co Atlantic D					tern Co thwest				
	W	L	PCT	GB	Utah	18	11	.621	-	
Toronto	20	8	.714	-	Oklahoma City	16	12	.571	1.5	
Boston	16	12	.571	4	Portland	13	17	.433	5.5	
NY Knicks	15	13	.536	5	Denver	12	17	.414	6	
Brooklyn	7	20	.259	12.5	Minnesota	8	19	.296	9	
Philadelphia	7	21	.250	13	P	acific D	ivisior	1		
	Central D				Golden State	25	4	.862	-	
Cleveland	20	6	.769	-	LA Clippers	21	8	.724	4	
Chicago	14	13	.519	6.5	Sacramento	11	17		13.5	
Indiana	15	15	.500	7	LA Lakers	11	20	.355	15	
Milwaukee	13	13	.500	7						
Detroit	14	16	.467	8	Phoenix	8	20		16.5	
Se	outheast	Divisi	on		Sou	thwest	Divisi	on		
Charlotte	16	13	.552	_	San Antonio	23	5	.821	-	
Atlanta	14	14	.500	1.5	Houston	21	8	.724	2.5	
Washington	12	15	.444	3	Memphis	18	12	.600	6	
Orlando	13	17	.433	3.5	New Orleans	10	20	.333	14	
Miami	9	20	.310	7	Dallas	7	21	.250	16	

FROM HUMBLE BEGINNINGS AS HOOPS CELEBRATES 125TH BIRTHDAY

MASSACHUSETTS: A game drawn up to occupy some bored boys as winter approached at a Massachusetts gymnasium celebrated its 125th anniversary yesterday and basketball's status as the world's second most popular sport.

Basketball began on Dec 21, 1891 at the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) gym in Springfield with rules made up by Canadian physical education instructor James Naismith.

Last year more than one billion people watched National Basketball Association programming, said NBA Deputy Commissioner Mark Tatum, who helps preside over the world's preeminent 'hoops' league.

Springfield's Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame marked the anniversary with celebrations including a Birthday of Basketball college doubleheader featuring Auburn, Boston College, Fairfield and Oklahoma at

Mohegan Sun Arena in Connecticut. Naismith recalled the sport's primitive beginnings in a New York radio interview in 1939. "I called the boys to the gym, divided them up into teams of nine and gave them a little soccer ball," he said. "I showed them two peach baskets I'd

nailed up at each end of the gym (about 10 feet above the floor), and I told them the idea was to throw the ball into the opposing team's peach basket. "I blew the whistle, and the first game

of basketball began." Running with the

ball was not allowed, only passing or directing it with the hand toward a team mate or the basket. Dribbling and other developments came over time. The new game quickly caught on after Naismith's 13 initial rules were

spread by the YMCA's newsletter. By 1894 basketball was being played in France, China, India and more than a dozen other countries.

It became a favorite in schools, college campuses and playgrounds, and at the Olympics and in professional leagues across the globe.

The NBA includes international players from 41 countries and territories - a contingent making up more than 25 percent of the league. — Reuters

SKODA SUPERB: NEW CLAIM IN THE MID-CLASS SEGMENT

Bulgarian, Hungarian foie gras makers feed markets

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Uber looks to dominate Brazil

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AIZAWL: An Indian Mizo pedestrian walks past a Christian nativity crib in Aizawl, capital of northeastern Mizoram state, on December 21, 2016. Christians, throughout the world, will be celebrating Christmas Day on December 25. — AFP

OUSTED CHAIRMAN LAUNCHES LEGAL ACTION AGAINST THE FIRM

MUMBAI: The acrimonious battle for control of India's storied Tata Group is set to get even dirtier as its ousted chairman launches legal action against the firm, marking the latest twist in a months-long saga sullying the 150-year-old conglomerate. Cyrus Mistry-the first non-family member to helm the \$103 billion steel-to-salt group-was sacked in October after falling out with company patriarch Ratan Tata.

He has refused to go quietly, making a series of allegations of mismanagement at the helm of the 150-year-old company, before filing a case in court yesterday. And that is where the matter becomes interesting: the Mistry family have been invested in Tata Sons for 50 years and Cyrus's father is the largest non-institutional shareholder with an 18.5 percent stake. "My fight will actually continue, and not only continue, it will strength-

en," he told Bloomberg after filing the suit. Tata Sons says it will contest the petition, which alleges its actions damaged minority shareholders' interests. The feud between Mistry and Tata, the 78-year-old former chairman who has taken interim charge, has already wiped nearly \$9 billion from the collective stock market val-

ue of the group's eight main companies. Experts say it is now damaging one of India's most respected brands, whose image is built on the Tata family's reputation for probity in a country plagued by corporate corruption. "None of the Tata companies are great performers," said one Mumbai executive who has worked with the group, describing the problems raised by Mistry as a "wake up call" for investors. "(Now), the market won't give them as much leeway for being the Tata group as they had in the past," he told AFP, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Ratan, who is credited with building the conglomerate into a global behemoth, says his successor was betraying its legacy. Under him, the organisation went on a global purchasing spree, acquiring major names from Tetley Tea to Jaguar Land Rover and the Anglo-Dutch steel firm Corus in 2007 — a major source of pride for a company founded under British colonial rule.

But parts of the business have been struggling, and the 50-year-old Mistry had tried to reduce its \$30 billion debts by selling underperforming assets.

That is said to have irked Ratan. But Kavil Ramachandran, professor at the Indian School of Business, believes he should have given Mistry freer rein. "When a person is retiring, he has to move out completely," he said. "It's like a relay race. The person handing over the baton has to know when and how to do it."



MUMBAI: This file photograph taken on April 24, 2012, shows Tata Sons chairman, Ratan Tata (L) and deputy chairman of Tata Sons, Cyrus Mistry as they pose during a function to launch the new Croma e-retail store. — AFP

Drawn-out fight Both Mistry and Tata are from wealthy Parsi families-followers of Zoroastrianism, one of the world's oldest religions. But executives who know

both men say the similarity ends there. "There's a stark difference in style and judgement and values between the two men," said the Mumbai executive, who worked with both at the company.

Mistry has pulled no punches since his sacking, alleging in a letter to the board that almost every aspect of the business was hampered by debt and poor management. The European steel business, he said, faced potential write-downs of more than \$10 billion, only some of which had so far been taken into account. Mistry had planned to sell off Tata Steel's loss-making British operations, but that decision has since been reversed.

He also questioned the wisdom of continuing with the Nano, a cheap, no-frills car that was a pet project of Ratan but failed to sell. "Emotional reasons alone have kept us away from this crucial decision," Mistry wrote in the letter, which the company says contained "unsubstantiated claims and malicious allegations". Mistry was set to be removed from the boards of companies including Tata Steel and Tata Motors at extraordinary general meetings this week. But he pre-empted that Monday by resigning, although he remains on the board of Tata Sons, which is not publicly listed.

Mahesh Singhi, head of investment banking firm Singhi Advisors, said the saga had "dented the image of India's largest conglomerate in ways that we have not witnessed in corporate history in the country in the recent past". "This is definitely negative for the Tata Group," he said. "Investors will be required to brace for a long-drawn fight." — AFP

IN THE TOWN OF JESUS' BIRTH, CRAFTSMEN TAKE ON CHINA

BETHLEHEM: Christmas is approaching and pilgrims and tourists have begun to arrive, crowding the souvenir shops that line the narrow streets and alleys of Bethlehem, the biblical town revered as Jesus' (PBUH) birthplace. But when visitors choose to take a piece of the Holy Land back home with them, they better check the labels. Many souvenirs - including the West Bank town's trademark rosary beads are imported from abroad, mainly China.

A small number of souvenir shops are now trying to fight the trend, stocking their shelves almost exclusively with locally made products. Shopkeepers say that while their wares may be more expensive, the quality is much better and they give an important boost to the struggling economy.

Local economy

"I've got nothing that is made overseas except for one thing, that's the magnets. It's something that sells for cheap and people want them," said Bassem Giacaman, owner of the Blessings Gift Shop and The Olive Wood Factory. "Everything else is made locally so I can keep the local economy working." Some 120,000 people are expected to visit the Holy Land this holiday season, half of them

Christian, according to Israel's Tourism Ministry. Many will visit Bethlehem, where globaliza-

tion has left its imprint like everywhere else. Foreign-made crafts, especially Chinese ones, have come to represent a big part of the market here, including Christmas souvenirs. While there are no official statistics, local officials and businessmen estimate that nearly half of the products, perhaps more, are imported. Giacaman keeps just a few imported products in his store, most of them hidden in a small box beneath a counter. He takes them out to show customers and compare them to Palestinian-made ones. "This is a plastic Jesus baby made in China and this is a ceramic one made in Bethlehem, and these are the olive wood rosaries that I make and the Chinese ones," he said, proudly showing what he said was the superior craftsmanship of the locally made goods.

Bethlehem is in the West Bank, occupied territory the Palestinians hope will be part of their future state. Tourism remains strong, but the rest of the economy has long languished, in part because of Israeli restrictions. Tourists must pass through a checkpoint in Israel's separation barrier to reach the town. The "Visit Palestine Center," located in a 200-year-old house along a stone stairway just a few hundred meters (yards) from The Church of the Nativity, promotes a "Made in Palestine" label. "There's a big influx of imported products and a lot of traditional crafts are declining gradually," said Samy Khoury, the center's founder and general manager.

The Visit Palestine Center, which started as an online store and travel guide five years ago, works with nearly 100 workshops and homebased artisans throughout the Palestinian territories and in Palestinian refugee camps in Jordan. It features Palestinian traditional crafts, including Christmas-related ones like olive wood rosaries and mother of pearl ornaments. The center targets independent travelers and takes a fair trade approach to its business.



BETHLEHEM: In this Monday, Dec 12, 2016 photo, a shopkeeper walks through a souvenir shop in the West Bank city. — AP

Palestinian-made products

Trying to sell only Palestinian-made products comes with challenges. "Maintaining consistency and quality, the right lead time, figuring how much production capacity the producers can give," are some of them, explained Khoury. Then there's the issue of price. Maher Canawati, owner of the Three Arches souvenir shop, sells locally made gifts and even has a wood workshop in the back. But he keeps room for imports as well.

"We have to carry all kinds of merchandise in our shop because we have different markets and different pilgrims with different budgets," said Canawati, whose family has provided services to pilgrims since the 16th century. Canawati said he wants to give his customers options, and he is clear about the differences. "A dozen of made-in-China rosaries sell for \$4 while a dozen of locally made sell for \$25," he said. "The made-in-China Jesus babies sell for \$20 and the Bethlehem ones sell for \$64."

While craft workshop owners grumble about foreign imports, not everyone believes the imports have seriously threatened local merchants and artisans. "It's a business," said Samir Hazboun, Chairman of the Bethlehem Chamber of Commerce. "I'm not aware of anyone running out of business because of the imports." — AP



SEATTLE: In this May 14, 2015, file photo, the oil drilling rig Polar Pioneer is towed toward a dock in Elliott Bay. — AP

OBAMA BANS FUTURE OIL LEASES IN MUCH OF ARCTIC, ATLANTIC

The finishing touches on Obama's environmental legacy

HONOLULU: President Barack Obama on Tuesday designated the bulk of US-owned waters in the Arctic Ocean and certain areas in the Atlantic Ocean as indefinitely off limits to future oil and gas leasing. The move helps put some finishing touches on Obama's environmental legacy while also testing President-elect Donald Trump's promise to unleash the nation's untapped energy reserves.

The White House announced the actions in conjunction with the government of Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, which also placed a moratorium on new oil and gas leasing in its Arctic waters, subject to periodic review. Obama is making use of an arcane provision in a 1953 law to ban offshore leases in the waters permanently. The statute says that "the president of the United States may, from time to time, withdraw from disposition any of the unleased lands of the outer Continental Shelf."

Environmental groups hope the ban, despite relying on executive powers, will be difficult for future presidents to reverse. The White House said it's confident the president's order will withstand legal challenge and said the language of the statute provides no authority for subsequent presidents to undo permanent withdrawals.

The Atlantic waters placed off limits to new oil and gas leasing are 31 canyons stretching off the coast of New England south to Virginia, though some had hoped for a more extensive ban that would have extended further south. Existing leases aren't affected by the president's executive actions. The administration cited environmental concerns in both regions to justify the moratorium.

Vulnerability of the ecosystem

Obama also cited the importance of the Chukchi and Beaufort seas in providing subsistence for native Alaskans and the vulnerability of the ecosystem to an oil spill to justify his directive.

Obama also noted the level of fuel production occurring in the Arctic. Obama said just 0.1 percent of offshore crude production came from the Arctic in 2015, and at current oil prices, significant production would not occur in future decades.

"That's why looking forward, we must continue to focus on economic empowerment for Arctic communities beyond this one sector," Obama said. Still, industry officials objected to Obama's memorandum, calling it "last minute political rhetoric." "Instead of building on our nation's position as a global energy leader, today's unilateral mandate could put America back on a path of energy dependence for decades to come," said Dan Naatz of the Independent Petroleum Association of America.

And Alaska Gov Bill Walker, an independent, said Obama's move marginalized local voices. He said no one is more invested than Alaskans in making sure Arctic habitats are protected. "To lock it up against any further exploration or development activity is akin to saying that the voices of activists who live in Lower 48 cities have a greater stake than those to whom the Arctic is our front yard and our back yard," he said in a statement. In issuing a permanent ban, Obama appears to be trying to tie the hands of his successor. Trump has vowed a domestic energy revolution and is filling his Cabinet with nominees deeply opposed to Obama's environmental and climate change actions.

Environmental groups were calling for a permanent ban even before the presidential election, but Trump's victory has provided greater urgency for them and for businesses that rely on tourism and fishing. Trump has said he intends to use all available fuel reserves for energy self-sufficiency - and that it's time to open up offshore drilling.

"This decision will help protect existing lucrative coastal tourism and fishing businesses from offshore drilling, which promises smaller, short-lived returns and threatens coastal livelihoods," said Jacqueline Savitz, a senior vice president at the advocacy group, Oceana. A key question to be answered is how difficult it will be for future presidents to overturn Obama's decision should they seek to do so.

Simple memorandum

The American Petroleum Institute pointed to 2008 when President George W Bush used a simple memorandum to remove previously withdrawn lands and make all Outer Continental Shelf lands available for leasing except marine sanctuaries. "Fortunately, there is no such thing as a permanent ban," said the institute's Erik Milito. But White House officials in a conference call with reporters said previous "indefinite withdrawals" remain in place and voiced confidence that Obama's decision will stand.

Advocacy groups were already warning that they were prepared to file suit to protect the ban during future administrations. "If Donald Trump tries to reverse President Obama's withdrawals, he will find himself in court," said Marissa Knodel of Friends of the Earth. Frank Knapp, president of the South Carolina Small Business Chamber of Commerce in Columbia, said he was "extremely disappointed" in the decision not to extend drilling protections to the entire Atlantic seaboard.

Knapp and his group were among a number of business groups in the southeast who had advocated for banning new drilling leases off their shores, arguing that the environmental impacts would hurt fishing, tourism and other businesses the region relies upon. He'd gone to Washington to meet with Obama administration officials, and believed the entire Atlantic was to be protected.

The decision came as Obama spends the holidays in Hawaii. Some Democratic lawmakers applauded Obama, while some Republicans were highly critical. "As President-elect Trump nominates fossil fuel allies to his Cabinet, President Obama has instead put the interests of millions of Americans ahead of those of Big Oil with these permanent protections," said Democratic Sen. Ed Markey of Massachusetts. "The extremes to which this president will go to appease special interests never ceases to amaze," countered Rep. Rob Bishop, R-Utah, and chairman of the House Committee on Natural Resources. "This is not a moral calling; it's an abuse of power." — AP

AHLI CAPITAL INVESTMENT COMPANY COMPLETES ISSUE OF NIG'S BONDS

KUWAIT: Ahli Capital Investment Company (ACIC), a fully owned subsidiary of Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK), hereby announces the successful completion of the closing of bonds issuance of National Industries Group (NIG), in collaboration with ABK.

This Bond marks the first KD denominated Senior Asset-Backed Bond to be issued in Kuwait. The KD 25 million Senior Bonds are backed by assets with coverage up to 120% and not less than 112%. ACIC was able to complete the closing of this bond issuance on 20/12/2016 prior to the planned closing date on 29/12/2016. ACIC acts as the Bond's Lead Manager and Subscription Agent while ABK is the Paying Agent. The five-year Senior Asset-Backed Bond, callable after three years, was issued with a floating rate of 2.25% over the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) discount rate (equivalent to 4.75%p.a. at the current rate) andis backed by an investment portfolio of Boursa Kuwait listed

securities managed by ACIC.

Capital Intelligence, the international rating agency, has rated the bond as 'BBB', supported by the good operating performance of NIG as well as based on the segregated portfolio of equity investments supporting the bond; held by ACIC as being an independent investment custodian. Commenting on this issue, Muhsen M AlHarbi, Chief Executive Officer of ACIC, said:

"ACIC is proud to have played a key role in leading this unique bond issue for NIG and for providing our investors with an opportunity to invest in an excellent KD denominated investment grade product. The success of this transaction could not have happened without the support and cooperation of the Capital Markets Authority. On behalf of ACIC, I would like to extend my gratitude to our investors, both institutions and individuals, for their support in achieving full subscription prior to its planned closing date on 29/12/2016."





NBK CAPITAL PARTNERS, EBRD ENABLES THE GROWTH OF KAUMEYA LANGUAGE SCHOOLS

KUWAIT: NBK Capital Partners has partnered with the founders of Kaumeya Language Schools (KLS or the Company) to support the school in the next phase of its growth. The Company will also be supported by financing from the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD). KLS intends to expand its campus, upgrade its facilities and modernize its classrooms while enhancing students' academic and personal experience.

The education sector is vital for Egypt's future given that 32 percent of the population are under the age of 15. The city of Alexandria alone has one million students of which 20 percent are enrolled in private schools. A high quality education for all age groups and qualifications is essential for the Egyptian economy to grow, compete and create jobs. Education is key to foster the country's talent and to create the conditions under which the country can benefit from its development.

Yaser Moustafa, Senior Managing Director of NBK Capital Partners, said: "NBKCP is committed to developing the education sector in the region and KLS marks the firm's sixth education investment. KLS is founded on strong values and principles and has demonstrated its ability to deliver on its promise to parents and we look forward to taking the Company to the next level."

Eiman Abdel Nasser, Head of Kaumeya Language Schools, said: "Partnering with NBK Capital Partners and receiving EBRD's support is a major stepping stone for KLS, enabling us to advance the mission crafted by our family of empowering and equipping our students to become lifelong learners".

Frederic Lucenet, EBRD Director for Manufacturing and Services, said: "We are pleased to support the education sector for the first time in Egypt in partnership with experienced partners. The school expansion will improve quality for more pupils within the educational programs regulated by the Ministry of Education". Argaam Capital and Alliance Law Firm acted as the financial advisor and legal advisor, respectively, for the founders of KLS. Matouk Bassiouny acted as the legal advisor for NBK Capital Partners.



SAUDI BUDGET TO RAISE DOMESTIC FUEL PRICES

DUBAI: Saudi Arabia's state budget for 2017, which is expected to be released today, will boost spending to support economic growth while raising domestic energy prices to ease the government's subsidy burden, sources told Reuters. The government is expected to announce its budget deficit fell sharply this year to 297 billion riyals (\$79.2 billion), the sources, who are familiar with the budget planning, said vesterday.

That would allow Riyadh to claim substantial success in its battle to reduce a huge deficit caused by low oil prices. The deficit totaled a record 367 billion riyals in 2015, and the original budget for this year projected a 326 billion riyal gap. The finance ministry did not respond to a request for comment yesterday.

The sources said the numbers which they quoted were not final and could still be modified, but that they did not expect any major changes

Government revenues totaled 528 billion riyals in 2016, slightly higher than the 514 billion originally projected, while spending was 825 billion riyals, slightly lower than the 840 billion in the original plan. The 2017 budget plan sets spending of 890 billion riyals, 6 percent higher than the original projection for spending in 2016. Revenues next year are projected at 651 billion riyals, up from 514 billion. The higher spending would permit gross domestic product growth to accelerate to 2.0 percent in 2017 from an estimated 1.7 percent this year, the sources said. — Reuters

EXCHANGE RATES

AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

	ASIAN COUNTRIES
Japanese Yen	2.615
ndian Rupees	4.534
Pakistani Rupees	2.928
Srilankan Rupees	2.064
Nepali Rupees	2.836
Singapore Dollar	213.130
Hongkong Dollar	39.526
Bangladesh Taka	3.847
Philippine Peso	6.156
Thai Baht	8.591

GCC COUNTRIES Saudi Riyal Qatari Riyal 797.557 ani Riyal Bahraini Dinar 815.460 **UAE Dirham** 83.601

ARA	IB COUNTRIES
Egyptian Pound - Cash	19.990
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	16.755
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.233
Tunisian Dinar	133.840
Jordanian Dinar	432.470
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	2.046
Syrian Lira	2.188
Morocco Dirham	30.690

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EUROPEAN	& AMERICAN COUNTI	RIE
US Dollar Transfer	306.900	
Euro	322.710	
Sterling Pound	385.160	
Canadian dollar	231.100	
Turkish lira	881.900	

Swiss Franc Australian Dollar	300.880 225.570
US Dollar Buying	305.700 GOLD
20 Gram	234.93
10 Gram	120.38
5 Gram	61.04

DOLLARCO EXCHANGE CO. LTD

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CURRENC	Υ	BUY	SELL
		Europe	
British Pou	ınd	0.377822	0.387822
Czech Kori	une	0.003881	0.015881
Danish Kro	one	0.039143	0.044143
Euro		0.315745	0.324745
Norwegiar	n Krone	0.031458	0.036658
Romanian	Leu	0.085058	0.085058
Slovakia		0.009215	0.019215
Swedish K	rona	0.028798	0.033798
Swiss Fran	С	0.293170	0.304170
Turkish Lir	a	0.084259	0.094559
	Α	ustralasia	
Australian	Dollar	0.216445	0.228445
New Zeala	nd Dollar	0.208493	0.217993
		America	
Canadian I	Dollar	0.225053	0.234053
Georgina l		0.138615	0.138615
US Dollars		0.302800	0.307500
US Dollars	Mint	0.303300	0.307500
		Asia	
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Indian Run	nee	0.000263	0.005519

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Indonesian Rupiah

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Kenyan Shilling	0.003157	0.003157
Korean Won	0.000248	0.000263
Malaysian Ringgit	0.064809	0.070809
Nepalese Rupee	0.002910	0.003080
Pakistan Rupee	0.002648	0.002938
Philippine Peso	0.006100	0.006400
Sierra Leone	0.000068	0.000074
Singapore Dollar	0.207639	0.217639
South African Rand	0.016354	0.024854
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001649	0.002229
Taiwan	0.009514	0.009694
Thai Baht	0.008258	0.008808
	Arab	
Bahraini Dinar	0.807488	0.815986
Egyptian Pound	0.013871	0.023124
Iranian Riyal	0.000085	0.000086
Iraqi Dinar	0.000181	0.000241
Jordanian Dinar	0.427814	0.436814
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000149	0.000249
Moroccan Dirhams	0.020232	0.044232
Nigerian Naira	0.001274	0.001909
Omani Riyal	0.790721	0.796401
Qatar Riyal	0.083486	0.084936

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Saudi Riyal

Syrian Pound

Tunisian Dinar

Turkish Lira

UAE Dirhams

Yemeni Rival

BULGARIAN, HUNGARIAN FOIE GRAS MAKERS FEED MARKETS

MILEVO: Every Christmas, foie gras producers increasing in Switzerland and Japan, and in Bulgaria and Hungary are overwhelmed with overseas orders but while France remains their key client, the hunt for more lucrative markets is leading to Asia. France is the top producer and consumer of the controversial delicacy. Foie gras is fundamental to a traditional Gallic Christmas dinner and France has made a habit of stocking up its own inventories with cheaper versions from Bulgaria and Hungary.

At Bulgaria's largest factory near the southern village of Milevo, dozens of women nimbly sort, clean, devein, and pack hundreds of kilos of duck livers that have come straight from the slaughterhouse. Other workers cook and can glazed duck confit. Virtually unknown at local Christmas dinner tables, the bulk of Volex's production will go to France. The labels of big French brands are placed directly on the jars before they even leave the factories, although the country of origin is also indicated. This year, Bulgaria and Hungary estimate that sales in newer markets could shoot up by around 15 percent as French exports outside the EU have been hit by repeated bird flu scares. "If 10 years ago we sold 100 percent of our produce to France, now this share is about 80 percent," Volex factory owner Plamen Chelebiev told AFP.

For the past four years, his sales have been

more recently also in Vietnam and Thailand. "In these markets we sell our products under our own brand names and at much higher prices, which makes it more interesting for us," Chelebiev said. But Volex is also doing well inside the EU. In Spain and Belgium, "we're now selling our products without passing via France," Chelebiev added. Bulgaria and Hungary entered the lucrative trade in the 1990s by modernising large cooperative farms from communist times and using cheap hand labour. Since then, Bulgaria has become the world's largest maker of duck foie gras after France, while Hungary holds a quasi monopoly on fattened goose liver.

Even French producers have expressed concern over the growing competition. "A part of Bulgaria and Hungarian products are going to third countries whose markets remain closed to us," Marie-Pierre Pe, the director of French foie gras makers' group CIFOG, said earlier this year. Around 100 companies in Bulgaria, the EU's poorest country, are involved in the foie gras business.

Volex hatches some three million ducklings every year from French-imported eggs at an 80-hectare (195-acre) farm in the southern town of Haskovo. Two million are sold to other Bulgarian producers, while the rest are raised and fed in collective cages before



MILEVO: Workers prepare ducks on November 8, 2016 on the production line of a foie gras (duck livers) near the southern village of Milevo. — AFP

being transferred to the slaughterhouse and factory in Milevo. Unlike France, Bulgaria never had the money to invest in single cages for the highly criticised practice of gavage, or force-feeding birds with grains to fatten their livers around four times their natural weight.

Ducks put on weight more quickly in single cages because they have no room to movebut these were prohibited EU-wide in 2016 after protests by animal rights activists. Biosafety measures at farms in both Bulgaria and Hungary are extremely strict, insist producers. The huge buildings are regularly emptied for weeks and sanitized to prevent any bacterial diseases from breaking out, say officials.

'As good as French foie gras'

"The quality of our raw foie gras is the same as in France and even better, due to the good conditions during the raising of the birds," according to Volex. But all this notwithstanding, neither Bulgaria nor Hungary have the capacity to conquer traditional French markets. Although the bird flu crisis has slashed 25 percent of France's exports in 2016, the country has massive stocks due to overproduction in previous years.

In 2015, France produced around 19,000 tons of foie gras, while Bulgaria came a distant second with 2,500 tons and Hungary third with 2,000 tons. France's exports stood at 5,000 tons in 2015. By comparison, Bulgaria and Hungary together sell between 3,000 and 4,000 tons abroad annually, according to data from producers' organizations.

However, their eyes are now focussed on the burgeoning appetite for luxury products in Asia. "We have expanded our presence in Japan and also started recently to sell in Singapore and Thailand," said a Hungarian producer, requesting anonymity. "They cannot match demand by solely buying from France." — AFP



BERLIN: The Brandenburg Gate is seen in the colors of the German flag in Berlin on December 20, 2016 one day after a truck crashed into a Christmas market. — AFP

EU TO BOOST BORDER CHECKS TO TACKLE 'TERRORISM FINANCING'

SPANISH BANKS ORDERED TO

REPAY MORTGAGE INTEREST

BRUSSELS: The European Commission proposed tightening controls on cash and precious metals transfers from outside the EU yesterday, in a bid to shut down one route for funding of militant attacks on the continent. The move follows Monday's attack on a Christmas market in Berlin, where 12 people were killed as a truck ploughed into a crowd. It is part of an EU "action plan against terrorist financing" unveiled after the bombings and shootings in Paris in November 2015.

Under the new proposals, customs officials in European Union states will be able to step up checks on cash and prepaid payment cards transferred via the post or through freight shipments. Authorities will also be given the power to seize cash or precious metals carried by suspect individuals entering the EU.

People carrying more than 10,000 euros (\$10,391.00) in cash are already required to declare this at customs upon entering the EU. The new rules would allow authorities to seize money even below that threshold "where there are suspicions of criminal activity," the EU executive commission said in a note. "With today's proposals, we strengthen our legal means to disrupt and cut off the financial sources of terrorists and criminals," the commission vice-president Frans Timmermans said.

EU officials said some of the recent

MADRID: Spanish bank stocks fell

strongly yesterday after a European court

ruled lenders must reimburse clients who

attacks in Europe were carried out with limited funds, sometimes sent from outside the EU by criminal networks. The Commission is also proposing common rules for the 28 EU countries on freezing "terrorists' financial resources" and on confiscating assets even from those thought to

abide by minimum common rules on mon between different EU countries. Security forces across the bloc would also be able to exchange information more effectively on criminals under a new planned review of the European system for sharing information. The proposals will need approval from EU states and the European Parliament to become law. The plan complements proposals made by the Commission after the November Paris attacks to tighten controls on virtual currencies, such as bitcoin, and prepaid cards, which the French authorities said were used to fund the bombings.

After months of talks, EU states on Tuesday backed these proposals. Under the deal, which still needs the approval of the European Parliament, holders of prepaid cards would have to show some form of identity when they make payments of 150

be connected to criminals. To prevent the laundering of illegal funds, Brussels also wants EU states to ey laundering with the aim of blocking criminals from exploiting legal differences

euros or more. — Reuters

UBER LOOKS TO DOMINATE BRAZIL WHILE TAXIS PUSHING TO BAN APP

UBER'S THIRD LARGEST BUSINESS AFTER US AND INDIA

RIO DE JANEIRO: After ceding to the competition in China earlier this year, ride-hailing company Uber is shifting focus to Brazil, Latin America's most populous nation. Introduced in Brazil just over two years ago, use of the app has increased so quickly here that the South American giant now represents Uber's third largest business worldwide, after the United States and India. The rocketing growth, however, is also a race against time: local governments are moving toward regulating and taxing the company in ways that may hurt its competitive advantage while taxi unions are pushing to ban it entirely.

"There are many issues with Uber now because it's become a big business in Brazil," said Fabro Steibel, executive director of the Institute of Science and Technology, a Rio-based think tank. "It's too early to know if Uber will be a major problem or a major solution" to the country's transportation needs. The US-based company is operating in 37 Brazilian cities, including Rio de Janeiro, the capital of Brasilia and economic powerhouse Sao Paulo. The company boasts 8 million "active users" and more than 50,000 Uber drivers in Brazil. It has benefited from a confluence of factors.

Brazil's economy is mired in its worst recession in decades, with many riders looking to save money and a ready supply of potential drivers who are otherwise unemployed or underemployed. A strong car culture in Brazil, similar to the United States, combined with relatively good roads has allowed for growth that would be impossible in other, poorer Latin American

Growing competition

In contrast to the situation in China, where Uber China had a drag-out fight with rival Didi Chuxing before being acquired by Didi in August, in Brazil Uber has no significant competition. And while Brazil is known for a byzantine government bureaucracy and high taxes, such regulation has yet to catch up with the sharing economy.

Slowly, however, that is changing, which could make it harder for Uber to continue offering steeply reduced rates to capture market share. Taxi unions nationwide are pushing a bill before Congress that would ban the company. Thousands of drivers from around the country gathered for a protest in Brasilia last month.

In Rio, Mayor Eduardo Paes signed legislation last month to prohibit the use of private vehicles for paid rides, essentially banning the use of ride-hailing apps. Earlier this year, however, a Rio judge ruled that private drivers would have the right to continue operating until the activity was regulated at the federal level. Appeals are in

In Sao Paulo, where Uber pays a few cents per kilometer into a municipal fund, the city government is set next month to roll out a series of regulations, including surprise inspections of

advantage because they don't face the same bureaucratic hoops, including several inspec-



RIO DE JANEIRO: In this Nov 11, 2016 photo, Mirella Sanches, a 41-year-old architect, waits to be picked up at an Uber stand. — AP

tions each year, a litany of taxes and keeping comprehensive insurance. "It's hard to even have hope," said Fabio Freitas, a 37-year-old taxi driver in Rio who used to make \$84 per day but now makes half of that. "Uber is destroying our profession."

Freitas says he is looking into factory work, as he can go hours without picking up a passenger. Uber, a privately owned company, declined to provide revenue numbers in Brazil. But the company says accusations that it's unregulated or unfairly competing are wrong. "Uber pays taxes in every single place where it operates. We are legal," said Über Brazil general manager Gui Telles told The Associated Press.

Its drivers must have a valid driver's license with a special annotation allowing them to drive professionally. They must also get a background check, register their vehicle and carry insurance. All cars must have four doors and air conditioning. Telles said that Uber's rating system allowed the company to weed out any bad drivers. He said the company was working to ease traffic jams in big cities by offering a pool service, and said the platform was helping thousands of drivers support their families.

Making a living How much of a living driving for Uber can provide, however, is debatable. The company takes 20 to 25 percent off the top of each ride, already sharply discounted fares compared to taxis. Marcos Vinicius, a 30-year-old Rio resident who lost his job at an offshore oil company, began driving for Uber a few months ago. He spends \$235 a week to rent a 2015 Nissan sedan, plus another \$100 for insurance and gas. In a good week, he'll pull in a little over \$400 from rides, meaning his net is about \$100.

Even if he owned his own car, as many Uber drivers do, he figures the maintenance costs would be high from so many hours on the road. Despite the drawbacks, he says it's worth it. "For me, it was either this or die of hunger," said Vinicius. For riders, the biggest draw is clearly cheaper prices. Many customers are even finding ways to take Uber from places that only taxis can legally go, like bus stations and airports.

On a recent day, Laura de Oliveira Cortines and her boyfriend exited Rio's Santos Dumont airport and walked one block to a neighboring strip mall. There they waited for a driver to pick them up at a stand with Uber signs and young women wearing shirts that said, "How can I help you?" in various languages. Taking a taxi would cost about \$16. The Uber ride will cost about \$6. "We only take taxis when we can't get an Uber," said Cortines, a 25-year-old veterinarian. — AP

signed mortgage contracts that prevented them benefiting from a steady drop in ment. Most of Spain's home loans are pegged to the 12 month-euro interbank interest rates. The decision marks another blow for Spain's banking system, offered rate, or Euribor. The benchmark accounts of ride-sharing companies. which is already reeling from the impact has fallen, but thousands of clients with Taxi drivers argue that Uber drivers have an of mounting loan defaults, shrinking

credit demand and tougher capital rules. The Bank of Spain estimates the ruling could cost Spain's banking sector over four billion euros (\$4.2 billion), just four years after it received 41.4 billion euros in European Union bailout funds. Spanish bank stocks suffered heavy losses with small lender Liberbank leading the fall, down over 11 percent in early afternoon trading. Spain's Supreme Court ruled in 2013 that so-called mortgage "floor clauses", which impose a limit on how far interest rates in a variable rate mortgage can fall in line with the benchmark rate, were unfair because consumers had not

But it decided that any reimbursements should only be retroactive to May 2013, the date when it ruled that mortgage floors needed to be removed. Consumers had asked for the repayment of the sums they claim have been unduly paid to banks from the date they signed their mortgages. The European Court of Justice ruled that the proposed time limit on the refunds is illegal and customers should not be bound by such

been properly informed of the conse-

"The finding of unfairness must have

the effect of restoring the consumer to the situation that consumer would have been in if that term had not existed," the Luxembourg-based court said in a statemortgage floors did not benefit. Spain's main opposition Socialist party called on Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy's conservative government to quickly put in place a system to streamline the reimbursement of money to the roughly two million people it estimates are affected.

'Justice restored'

"It is going to be a very controversial question," Erick Berguer, a lawyer who specializes in bank law, told AFP. The European court ruling "will apply to court cases that are still open but there is a doubt in the case of lawsuits that have already been closed," he added. Spanish banks contributed to the property bubble in the 2000s by easing access to mortgages, sparking a construction frenzy across the country.

At its height in 2007, banks issued 1.78 million housing loans worth a total of nearly 300 billion euros, according to national statistics institute INE. The figure dropped to 372,000 housing loans last year worth around 49 billion euros. The property bubble finally burst at the beginning of 2008, sparking a sharp economic downturn that caused the unemployment rate to soar to a record high of 27 percent in 2013. — AFP

GOLD EDGES HIGHER AS DOLLAR RETREATS FROM 14-YEAR PEAK

LONDON: Gold firmed yesterday as a retreat in the dollar from the previous session's 14-year peak prompted some buyers to hunt bargains after the metal's sharp slide from its November high. Gold had been hit hard by a surge in the dollar after the November US elections, and a more hawkish tone from the Federal Reserve after it hiked US interest rates for only the second time in a decade last month. Prices of the metal have fallen more than 11 percent since the elections before finding a floor at around \$1,125 an ounce. Spot gold was up 0.3 percent at \$1,134.71 an ounce at 1315 GMT, while US gold futures for February

delivery were up \$3.10 an ounce at \$1,136.70. "With what we're seeing in the dollar at the moment, there is no real driver to push gold lower," ABN Amro analyst Georgette Boele said. "Because of that, we're seeing it taking a bit of a breather. We've had some big moves this year, and (buyers) don't want to burn their fingers for the remainder of the year." The dollar eased yesterday from the 14-year high it hit the day before, pausing in a post-U.S. elections run higher that has represented its entire gain for the year, while concerns over the banking sector pulled European shares lower. — Reuters

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Interested candidates may send CV's to

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STOCKS SLIP, ITALIAN BANK WOES RESURFACE

LONDON: Europe's main stock markets dropped yesterday, with focus once more on Italian bank Monte dei Paschi, whose shares tumbled on fading hopes that it will avoid a state bailout. Around 1115 GMT, London's benchmark FTSE 100 index was down 0.2 percent compared with the close on Tuesday.

In the eurozone, Frankfurt's DAX 30 slipped 0.1 percent and the Paris CAC 40 shed 0.5 percent. The three indices had closed higher Tuesday, with investors looking beyond fatal attacks in Germany and Turkey to focus on an upbeat outlook for the US economy, dealers said.

Stock in Monte dei Paschi di Siena tumbled yesterday as investors feared that the troubled

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oldest bank and Italy's third-biggest, is racing against the clock to raise five billion euros (\$5.2 billion) by the end of next week or face a government bailout. It is due to release the result of a debt-for-equity swap offer open to small bondholders later yesterday, but analysts already warned the take-up at 500 million euros so far was too small for comfort.

"The weak appetite rings the alarm bell as the year-end deadline approaches at a threatening speed," said Ipek Ozkardeskaya, senior market analyst at LCG. "Failure to save the bank could aggressively shake up the Italian and the European banking sector." Investors duly

quickly are all but doomed. BMPS, the world's cent to 16.30 euros in morning Milan trading.

Asia rises

Elsewhere yesterday, most Asian markets turned higher as investors tracked more record highs on Wall Street and refocused on the global economy after two deadly attacks. The Berlin Christmas market horror and the shooting of Russia's Turkish ambassador at the weekend fanned concerns that fresh geopolitical woes could upend a rally in world assets triggered by Donald Trump's election as US president. But the fear did not filter through to New York, where the Dow got within striking distance of the 20,000 mark for the first time.

kets and low volatility in the face of two horrific terrorist attacks in Europe," Jason Wong, a currency strategist at Bank of New Zealand in Wellington, wrote in a note to clients yesterday. "They seem to have had little impact on the market," he said.

Hong Kong added 0.4 percent yesterday after suffering a four-day sell-off, while Shanghai jumped 1.1 percent and Sydney put on 0.4 percent. But in Tokyo the Nikkei ended down 0.2 percent, having risen for 10 percent in the previous 11 sessions. World markets have been on the rise since Trump's November 8 election win as dealers bet his plans for big state infrastructure spending, tax cuts and deregulation will

fire the US economy, the world's largest and a key driver of world growth.

There are also widespread expectations that his policies will fire up inflation, prompting the Federal Reserve to hike borrowing costs. Last week the central bank said it foresaw three increases next year, surprising markets that had expected just two. The Fed's bullish outlook has pushed the dollar ever higher, sitting at 10-month highs against the yen and heading towards parity with the euro for the first time since 2002. Comments from Fed boss Janet Yellen this week that the US jobs market was at its strongest since before the financial crisis provided support for the greenback. — AFP





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SHIP	172	170	335,000	57,400	31	170		-4.0	ALAQARIA	24.5	24.5	3,000	74	1	24.5	w	
PCEM	910	900	50,500	45,950	3	900		-10.0	MAZAYA	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	112	_	
PAPER	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	275	_	0.0	ADNC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	11.0	_	
MRC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	68	_	0.0	THEMAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	89	_	
ACICO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	270	_	0.0	TIJARA	49.5	48.0	396,629	19,091	13	48.5	_	
GGMC	305	305	42,000	12,810	2	305	A	5.0	TAAMEER	21.5	21.0	446,501	9,377	7	21.5	A	
HCC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	118	_	0.0	ARKAN	88	85	70,158	5,965	7	88		

AREEC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	200	-	0.0
MASSALEH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	40.0	_	0.0
ARABREC	29.5	28.5	335,684	9,632	8	29.0	-	0.0
							777	
ERESCO	40.0	39.0	613,300	24,226	25	39.5	_	0.0
MABANEE	840	830	111,892	93,809	10	830	w	-10.0
INJAZZAT	77	77	85,000	6,545	6	77	_	0.0
And the state of t	- Contract of the Contract of						-	
INVESTORS	24.0	23.5	1,245,582	29,358	24	23.5	_	0.0
IRC	28.0	27.0	623,850	17,075	25	28.0		0.5
ALTIJARIA	81	81	101,250	8,201	4	81		1.0
SANAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	31.0	_	0.0
MINISTER AND ADDRESS OF THE PARTY OF THE PAR								
AAYANRE	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	64	_	0.0
AQAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	69	_	0.0
ALAQARIA	24.5	24.5	3,000	74	1	24.5		-0.5
MAZAYA	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	112	_	0.0
provide the state of the state	100000	100000000000000000000000000000000000000						
ADNC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	11.0	_	0.0
THEMAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	89	_	0.0
TIJARA	49.5	48.0	396,629	19,091	13	48.5	_	0.0
TAAMEER	21.5	21.0	446,501	9,377	7	21.5	A	0.5
	100000000000000000000000000000000000000			7.000000000				
ARKAN	88	85	70,158	5,965	7	88		-2.0
ARGAN	176	164	1,213,100	210,425	20	176		10.0
ABYAAR	23.0	22.5	681,020	15,323	13	22.5		0.5
MUNSHAAT	57	51	8,555,893	470,539	109	55		2.0
		58			-			
FIRSTDUBAI	60		1,452,750	85,212	50	58		0.0
KBT	42.0	40.5	3,556,249	146,769	62	41.5		1.0
REAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	196	_	0.0
MENA	21.0	20.5	544,380	11,321	9	21.0	A	0.5
AND DESCRIPTION OF THE PERSON	38.0			98,538				
ALMUDON		37.0	2,635,781		39	37.5	-	0.0
MARAKEZ	30.0	30.0	1	0	1	30.0		1.0
REMAL	61	57	8,016,200	477,697	158	60		1.0
AWJ	68	65	1,810,100	120,425	62	65	w	-1.0
Real Estate			48,765,792	2,635,210	888	873.97	A	7.67
			Manual Control	-10001-10	10000/			1000//
1400.004			10.001	0.010				
KINV	83	82	40,021	3,312	4	83		1.0
FACIL	160	160	75,000	12,000	5	160		2.0
IFA	31.5	31.0	1,567,232	49,111	35	31.0	-	0.0
NINV	99	98	566,200	55,488	22	98	w	-1.0
							2000	
KPROJ	510	500	858,000	429,450	22	510		0.0
COAST	38.0	38.0	904,571	34,374	25	38.0	_	0.0
SECH	45.5	44.0	10,577,608	472,551	181	44.5	A	0.5
SGC	90	90	100	9	1	90	_	0.0
,								
ARZAN	32.5	32.0	84,165	2,698	6	32.0	*	-1.0
				219	2	83		1.0
MARKAZ	83	81	2,672		-			
MARKAZ KMEFIC	83 23.0	81 23.0	60,435	1,390	1	23.0	٧	-0.5
KMEFIC	23.0	23.0	60,435	1,390	1	23.0	٧	
KMEFIC ALAMAN	23.0 51	23.0 49.0	60,435 565,789	1,390 28,230	1 26	23.0 51	¥ A	1.5
KMEFIC ALAMAN ALOLA	23.0 51 45.5	23.0 49.0 45.0	60,435 565,789 14,300	1,390 28,230 644	1 26 3	23.0 51 45.5	¥ A A	1.5 0.5
KMEFIC ALAMAN	23.0 51	23.0 49.0	60,435 565,789	1,390 28,230	1 26	23.0 51	¥ A	1.5
KMEFIC ALAMAN ALOLA	23.0 51 45.5	23.0 49.0 45.0	60,435 565,789 14,300	1,390 28,230 644	1 26 3	23.0 51 45.5	¥ A A	1.5 0.5
KMEFIC ALAMAN ALOLA ALMAL GIH	23.0 51 45.5 20.5 29.5	23.0 49.0 45.0 20.0 28.5	60,435 565,789 14,300 3,220,301 969,118	1,390 28,230 644 64,406 28,139	1 26 3 69 26	23.0 51 45.5 20.0 29.5	¥ A A	1.5 0.5 -0.5 0.0
KMEFIC ALAMAN ALOLA ALMAL GIH AAYAN	23.0 51 45.5 20.5 29.5 31.5	23.0 49.0 45.0 20.0 28.5 31.0	60,435 565,789 14,300 3,220,301 969,118 2,123,268	1,390 28,230 644 64,406 28,139 65,838	1 26 3 69 26 52	23.0 51 45.5 20.0 29.5 31.5	¥ A Y	1.5 0.5 -0.5 0.0 0.0
KMEFIC ALAMAN ALOLA ALMAL GIH AAYAN BAYANINV	23.0 51 45.5 20.5 29.5 31.5 33.5	23.0 49.0 45.0 20.0 28.5 31.0 33.0	60,435 565,789 14,300 3,220,301 969,118 2,123,268 1,957,063	1,390 28,230 644 64,406 28,139 65,838 64,593	1 26 3 69 26 52 54	23.0 51 45.5 20.0 29.5 31.5 33.0	¥ A A	1.5 0.5 -0.5 0.0 0.0
KMEFIC ALAMAN ALOLA ALMAL GIH AAYAN BAYANINV OSOUL	23.0 51 45.5 20.5 29.5 31.5 33.5	23.0 49.0 45.0 20.0 28.5 31.0 33.0 59	60,435 565,789 14,300 3,220,301 969,118 2,123,268 1,957,063 3,464	1,390 28,230 644 64,406 28,139 65,838 64,593 204	1 26 3 69 26 52 54 1	23.0 51 45.5 20.0 29.5 31.5 33.0 59	¥ A Y	1.5 0.5 -0.5 0.0 0.0 0.0
KMEFIC ALAMAN ALOLA ALMAL GIH AAYAN BAYANINV	23.0 51 45.5 20.5 29.5 31.5 33.5	23.0 49.0 45.0 20.0 28.5 31.0 33.0	60,435 565,789 14,300 3,220,301 969,118 2,123,268 1,957,063	1,390 28,230 644 64,406 28,139 65,838 64,593	1 26 3 69 26 52 54	23.0 51 45.5 20.0 29.5 31.5 33.0	¥ A ¥	1.5 0.5 -0.5 0.0 0.0
KMEFIC ALAMAN ALOLA ALMAL GIH AAYAN BAYANINV OSOUL	23.0 51 45.5 20.5 29.5 31.5 33.5 59 39.5	23.0 49.0 45.0 20.0 28.5 31.0 33.0 59 39.5	60,435 565,789 14,300 3,220,301 969,118 2,123,268 1,957,063 3,464 100,000	1,390 28,230 644 64,406 28,139 65,838 64,593 204	1 26 3 69 26 52 54 1	23.0 51 45.5 20.0 29.5 31.5 33.0 59	* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *	1.5 0.5 -0.5 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0
KMEFIC ALAMAN ALOLA ALMAL GIH AAYAN BAYANINV OSOUL KFIC	23.0 51 45.5 20.5 29.5 31.5 33.5	23.0 49.0 45.0 20.0 28.5 31.0 33.0 59	60,435 565,789 14,300 3,220,301 969,118 2,123,268 1,957,063 3,464 100,000 0	1,390 28,230 644 64,406 28,139 65,838 64,593 204 3,950	1 26 3 69 26 52 54 1 7	23.0 51 45.5 20.0 29.5 31.5 33.0 59 39.5	* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *	1.5 0.5 -0.5 0.0 0.0 0.0
KMEFIC ALAMAN ALOLA ALMAL GIH AAYAN BAYANINV OSOUL KFIC KAMCO NIH	23.0 51 45.5 20.5 29.5 31.5 33.5 59 39.5 0.0 62	23.0 49.0 45.0 20.0 28.5 31.0 33.0 59 39.5 0.0 62	60,435 565,789 14,300 3,220,301 969,118 2,123,268 1,957,063 3,464 100,000 0 53,000	1,390 28,230 644 64,406 28,139 65,838 64,593 204 3,950 0	1 26 3 69 26 52 54 1 7 0	23.0 51 45.5 20.0 29.5 31.5 33.0 59 39.5 118 62	* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *	1.5 0.5 -0.5 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0
KMEFIC ALAMAN ALOLA ALMAL GIH AAYAN BAYANINV OSOUL KFIC KAMCO NIH UNICAP	23.0 51 45.5 20.5 29.5 31.5 33.5 59 39.5 0.0 62 48.5	23.0 49.0 45.0 20.0 28.5 31.0 33.0 59 39.5 0.0 62 48.0	60,435 565,789 14,300 3,220,301 969,118 2,123,268 1,957,063 3,464 100,000 0 53,000 1,754,600	1,390 28,230 644 64,406 28,139 65,838 64,593 204 3,950 0 3,286 84,221	1 26 3 69 26 52 54 1 7 0 3	23.0 51 45.5 20.0 29.5 31.5 33.0 59 39.5 118 62 48.5	¥ A A V	1.5 0.5 -0.5 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0
KMEFIC ALAMAN ALOLA ALMAL GIH AAYAN BAYANINV OSOUL KFIC KAMCO NIH UNICAP MADAR	23.0 51 45.5 20.5 29.5 31.5 33.5 59 39.5 0.0 62 48.5	23.0 49.0 45.0 20.0 28.5 31.0 33.0 59 39.5 0.0 62 48.0	60,435 565,789 14,300 3,220,301 969,118 2,123,268 1,957,063 3,464 100,000 0 53,000 1,754,600 0	1,390 28,230 644 64,406 28,139 65,638 64,593 204 3,950 0 3,286 84,221 0	1 26 3 69 26 52 54 1 7 0 3 17	23.0 51 45.5 20.0 29.5 31.5 33.0 59 39.5 118 62 48.5 12.5	* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *	1.5 0.5 -0.5 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0
KMEFIC ALAMAN ALOLA ALMAL GIH AAYAN BAYANINV OSOUL KFIC KAMCO NIH UNICAP	23.0 51 45.5 20.5 29.5 31.5 33.5 59 39.5 0.0 62 48.5	23.0 49.0 45.0 20.0 28.5 31.0 33.0 59 39.5 0.0 62 48.0	60,435 565,789 14,300 3,220,301 969,118 2,123,268 1,957,063 3,464 100,000 0 53,000 1,754,600	1,390 28,230 644 64,406 28,139 65,838 64,593 204 3,950 0 3,286 84,221	1 26 3 69 26 52 54 1 7 0 3	23.0 51 45.5 20.0 29.5 31.5 33.0 59 39.5 118 62 48.5	* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *	1.5 0.5 -0.5 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0
KMEFIC ALAMAN ALOLA ALMAL GIH AAYAN BAYANINV OSOUL KFIC KAMCO NIH UNICAP MADAR	23.0 51 45.5 20.5 29.5 31.5 33.5 59 39.5 0.0 62 48.5	23.0 49.0 45.0 20.0 28.5 31.0 33.0 59 39.5 0.0 62 48.0	60,435 565,789 14,300 3,220,301 969,118 2,123,268 1,957,063 3,464 100,000 0 53,000 1,754,600 0	1,390 28,230 644 64,406 28,139 65,638 64,593 204 3,950 0 3,286 84,221 0	1 26 3 69 26 52 54 1 7 0 3 17	23.0 51 45.5 20.0 29.5 31.5 33.0 59 39.5 118 62 48.5 12.5	* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *	1.5 0.5 -0.5 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0
KMEFIC ALAMAN ALOLA ALMAL GIH AAYAN BAYANINV OSOUL KFIC KAMCO NIH UNICAP MADAR ALDEERA ALSALAM	23.0 51 45.5 20.5 29.5 31.5 33.5 59 39.5 0.0 62 48.5 0.0 32.0 50	23.0 49.0 45.0 20.0 28.5 31.0 33.0 59 39.5 0.0 62 48.0 0.0 32.0	60,435 565,789 14,300 3,220,301 969,118 2,123,268 1,957,063 3,464 100,000 0 53,000 1,754,600 0 110,000 7,484,633	1,390 28,230 644 64,406 28,139 65,838 64,593 204 3,950 0 3,286 84,221 0 3,520 370,312	1 26 3 69 26 52 54 1 7 0 3 17 0 2	23.0 51 45.5 20.0 29.5 31.5 33.0 59 39.5 118 62 48.5 12.5 32.0 50	* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *	1.5 0.5 -0.5 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0
KMEFIC ALAMAN ALOLA ALMAL GIH AAYAN BAYANINV OSOUL KFIC KAMCO NIH UNICAP MADAR ALDEERA ALSALAM EKTTITAB	23.0 51 45.5 20.5 29.5 31.5 33.5 59 39.5 0.0 62 48.5 0.0 32.0 50 38.0	23.0 49.0 45.0 20.0 28.5 31.0 33.0 59 39.5 0.0 62 48.0 0.0 32.0 49.0	60,435 565,789 14,300 3,220,301 969,118 2,123,268 1,957,063 3,464 100,000 0 53,000 1,754,600 0 110,000 7,484,633 1,262,000	1,390 28,230 644 64,406 28,139 65,838 64,593 204 3,950 0 3,286 84,221 0 3,520 370,312 47,612	1 26 3 69 26 52 54 1 7 0 3 17 0 2 147 40	23.0 51 45.5 20.0 29.5 31.5 33.0 59 39.5 118 62 48.5 12.5 32.0 50 37.5	* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *	1.5 0.5 -0.5 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0
KMEFIC ALAMAN ALOLA ALMAL GIH AAYAN BAYANINV OSOUL KFIC KAMCO NIH UNICAP MADAR ALDEERA ALSALAM EKTTITAB ALMADINA	23.0 51 45.5 20.5 29.5 31.5 33.5 59 39.5 0.0 62 48.5 0.0 32.0 50 38.0 42.5	23.0 49.0 45.0 20.0 28.5 31.0 33.0 59 39.5 0.0 62 48.0 0.0 32.0 49.0 37.5 41.5	60,435 565,789 14,300 3,220,301 969,118 2,123,268 1,957,063 3,464 100,000 0 53,000 1,754,600 0 110,000 7,484,633 1,262,000 1,609,855	1,390 28,230 644 64,406 28,139 65,838 64,593 204 3,950 0 3,286 84,221 0 3,520 370,312 47,612 67,608	1 26 3 69 26 52 54 1 7 0 3 17 0 2 147 40	23.0 51 45.5 20.0 29.5 31.5 33.0 59 39.5 118 62 48.5 12.5 32.0 50 37.5 42.0	V A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A	1.5 0.5 -0.5 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0
KMEFIC ALAMAN ALOLA ALMAL GIH AAYAN BAYANINV OSOUL KFIC KAMCO NIH UNICAP MADAR ALDEERA ALSALAM EKTTITAB	23.0 51 45.5 20.5 29.5 31.5 33.5 59 39.5 0.0 62 48.5 0.0 32.0 50 38.0	23.0 49.0 45.0 20.0 28.5 31.0 33.0 59 39.5 0.0 62 48.0 0.0 32.0 49.0	60,435 565,789 14,300 3,220,301 969,118 2,123,268 1,957,063 3,464 100,000 0 53,000 1,754,600 0 110,000 7,484,633 1,262,000	1,390 28,230 644 64,406 28,139 65,838 64,593 204 3,950 0 3,286 84,221 0 3,520 370,312 47,612	1 26 3 69 26 52 54 1 7 0 3 17 0 2 147 40 29	23.0 51 45.5 20.0 29.5 31.5 33.0 59 39.5 118 62 48.5 12.5 32.0 50 37.5	* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *	1.5 0.5 -0.5 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0
KMEFIC ALAMAN ALOLA ALMAL GIH AAYAN BAYANINV OSOUL KFIC KAMCO NIH UNICAP MADAR ALDEERA ALSALAM EKTTITAB ALMADINA	23.0 51 45.5 20.5 29.5 31.5 33.5 59 39.5 0.0 62 48.5 0.0 32.0 50 38.0 42.5	23.0 49.0 45.0 20.0 28.5 31.0 33.0 59 39.5 0.0 62 48.0 0.0 32.0 49.0 37.5 41.5	60,435 565,789 14,300 3,220,301 969,118 2,123,268 1,957,063 3,464 100,000 0 53,000 1,754,600 0 110,000 7,484,633 1,262,000 1,609,855	1,390 28,230 644 64,406 28,139 65,838 64,593 204 3,950 0 3,286 84,221 0 3,520 370,312 47,612 67,608	1 26 3 69 26 52 54 1 7 0 3 17 0 2 147 40	23.0 51 45.5 20.0 29.5 31.5 33.0 59 39.5 118 62 48.5 12.5 32.0 50 37.5 42.0 48.0 280	V A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A	1.5 0.5 -0.5 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0
KMEFIC ALAMAN ALOLA ALMAL GIH AAYAN BAYANINV OSOUL KFIC KAMCO NIH UNICAP MADAR ALDEERA ALSALAM EKTTITAB ALMADINA NOOR	23.0 51 45.5 20.5 29.5 31.5 33.5 59 39.5 0.0 62 48.5 0.0 32.0 50 38.0 42.5 48.5	23.0 49.0 45.0 20.0 28.5 31.0 33.0 59 39.5 0.0 62 48.0 0.0 32.0 49.0 37.5 41.5	60,435 565,789 14,300 3,220,301 969,118 2,123,268 1,957,063 3,464 100,000 0 53,000 1,754,600 0 110,000 7,484,633 1,262,000 1,609,855 1,836,798	1,390 28,230 644 64,406 28,139 65,838 64,593 204 3,950 0 3,286 84,221 0 3,520 370,312 47,612 67,608 87,588	1 26 3 69 26 52 54 1 7 0 3 17 0 2 147 40 29	23.0 51 45.5 20.0 29.5 31.5 33.0 59 39.5 118 62 48.5 12.5 32.0 50 37.5 42.0	A A A A	1.5 0.5 -0.5 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0
KMEFIC ALAMAN ALOLA ALMAL GIH AAYAN BAYANINV OSOUL KFIC KAMCO NIH UNICAP MADAR ALDEERA ALSALAM EKTTITAB ALMADINA NOOR TAMINV	23.0 51 45.5 20.5 20.5 31.5 33.5 59 39.5 0.0 62 48.5 0.0 32.0 50 38.0 42.5 48.5 0.0	23.0 49.0 45.0 20.0 28.5 31.0 33.0 59 39.5 0.0 62 48.0 0.0 32.0 49.0 37.5 41.5 47.0 0.0	60,435 565,789 14,300 3,220,301 969,118 2,123,268 1,957,063 3,464 100,000 0 1,754,600 0 110,000 7,484,633 1,262,000 1,609,855 1,836,798 0	1,390 28,230 644 64,406 28,139 65,638 64,593 204 3,950 0 3,286 84,221 0 3,520 370,312 47,612 67,608 87,588 0	1 26 3 69 26 52 54 1 7 0 3 17 0 2 147 40 29 48 0	23.0 51 45.5 20.0 29.5 31.5 33.0 59 39.5 118 62 48.5 12.5 32.0 50 37.5 42.0 48.0 280 1,500	A A A A	1.5 0.5 -0.5 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0
KMEFIC ALAMAN ALOLA ALMAL GIH AAYAN BAYANINV OSOUL KFIC KAMCO NIH UNICAP MADAR ALDEERA ALSALAM EKTTITAB ALMADINA NOOR TAMINV EXCH TAIBA	23.0 51 45.5 20.5 29.5 31.5 33.5 59 39.5 0.0 62 48.5 0.0 32.0 50 38.0 42.5 48.5 0.0	23.0 49.0 45.0 20.0 28.5 31.0 33.0 59 39.5 0.0 62 48.0 0.0 32.0 49.0 37.5 47.0 0.0 0.0	60,435 565,789 14,300 3,220,301 969,118 2,123,268 1,957,063 3,464 100,000 0 53,000 1,754,600 0 110,000 7,484,633 1,262,000 1,609,855 1,836,798 0 0	1,390 28,230 644 64,406 28,139 65,838 64,593 204 3,950 0 3,286 84,221 0 3,520 370,312 47,612 67,608 87,588 0	1 26 3 69 26 52 54 1 7 0 3 17 0 2 147 40 29 48 0 0	23.0 51 45.5 20.0 29.5 31.5 33.0 59 39.5 118 62 48.5 12.5 32.0 50 37.5 42.0 48.0 280 1,500 75	A A A A A	1.5 0.5 -0.5 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0
KMEFIC ALAMAN ALOLA ALMAL GIH AAYAN BAYANINV OSOUL KFIC KAMCO NIH UNICAP MADAR ALDEERA ALSALAM EKTITAB ALMADINA NOOR TAMINV EXCH TAIBA KSHC	23.0 51 45.5 20.5 29.5 31.5 33.5 59 39.5 0.0 62 48.5 0.0 32.0 50 38.0 42.5 48.5 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0	23.0 49.0 45.0 20.0 28.5 31.0 33.0 59 39.5 0.0 62 48.0 0.0 32.0 49.0 37.5 41.5 47.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0	60,435 565,789 14,300 3,220,301 969,118 2,123,268 1,957,063 3,464 100,000 0 53,000 1,754,600 0 110,000 7,484,633 1,262,000 1,609,855 1,836,798 0 0 0	1,390 28,230 644 64,406 28,139 65,838 64,593 204 3,950 0 3,286 84,221 0 3,520 370,312 47,612 67,608 87,588 0 0	1 26 3 69 26 52 54 1 7 0 3 17 0 2 147 40 29 48 0 0 0 0 4	23.0 51 45.5 20.0 29.5 31.5 33.0 59 39.5 118 62 48.5 12.5 32.0 50 37.5 42.0 48.	A A A A	1.5 0.5 -0.5 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0
KMEFIC ALAMAN ALOLA ALMAL GIH AAYAN BAYANINV OSOUL KFIC KAMCO NIH UNICAP MADAR ALDEERA ALSALAM EKTTITAB ALMADINA NOOR TAMINV EXCH TAIBA	23.0 51 45.5 20.5 29.5 31.5 33.5 59 39.5 0.0 62 48.5 0.0 32.0 50 38.0 42.5 48.5 0.0	23.0 49.0 45.0 20.0 28.5 31.0 33.0 59 39.5 0.0 62 48.0 0.0 32.0 49.0 37.5 41.5 47.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0	60,435 565,789 14,300 3,220,301 969,118 2,123,268 1,957,063 3,464 100,000 0 53,000 1,754,600 0 110,000 7,484,633 1,262,000 1,609,855 1,836,798 0 0	1,390 28,230 644 64,406 28,139 65,838 64,593 204 3,950 0 3,286 84,221 0 3,520 370,312 47,612 67,608 87,588 0	1 26 3 69 26 52 54 1 7 0 3 17 0 2 147 40 29 48 0 0	23.0 51 45.5 20.0 29.5 31.5 33.0 59 39.5 118 62 48.5 12.5 32.0 50 37.5 42.0 48.0 280 1,500 75	A A A A A	1.5 0.5 -0.5 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0
KMEFIC ALAMAN ALOLA ALMAL GIH AAYAN BAYANINV OSOUL KFIC KAMCO NIH UNICAP MADAR ALDEERA ALSALAM EKTITAB ALMADINA NOOR TAMINV EXCH TAIBA KSHC	23.0 51 45.5 20.5 29.5 31.5 33.5 59 39.5 0.0 62 48.5 0.0 32.0 50 38.0 42.5 48.5 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0	23.0 49.0 45.0 20.0 28.5 31.0 33.0 59 39.5 0.0 62 48.0 0.0 32.0 49.0 37.5 41.5 47.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0	60,435 565,789 14,300 3,220,301 969,118 2,123,268 1,957,063 3,464 100,000 0 53,000 1,754,600 0 110,000 7,484,633 1,262,000 1,609,855 1,836,798 0 0 0	1,390 28,230 644 64,406 28,139 65,838 64,593 204 3,950 0 3,286 84,221 0 3,520 370,312 47,612 67,608 87,588 0 0	1 26 3 69 26 52 54 1 7 0 3 17 0 2 147 40 29 48 0 0 0 0 4	23.0 51 45.5 20.0 29.5 31.5 33.0 59 39.5 118 62 48.5 12.5 32.0 50 37.5 42.0 48.	A A A A A	1.5 0.5 -0.5 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0
KMEFIC ALAMAN ALOLA ALMAL GIH AAYAN BAYANINV OSOUL KFIC KAMCO NIH UNICAP MADAR ALDEERA ALSALAM EKTITAB ALMADINA NOOR TAMINV EXCH TAIBA KSHC ASIYA GNAHC	23.0 51 45.5 20.5 29.5 31.5 33.5 59 39.5 0.0 62 48.5 0.0 32.0 50 38.0 42.5 48.5 0.0 0.0 29.5 31.5 33.5 59 39.5 39.0 30.0 30.0 30	23.0 49.0 45.0 20.0 28.5 31.0 33.0 59 39.5 0.0 62 48.0 0.0 32.0 49.0 37.5 41.5 47.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0	60,435 565,789 14,300 3,220,301 969,118 2,123,268 1,957,063 3,464 100,000 0 53,000 1,754,600 0 110,000 7,484,633 1,262,000 1,609,855 1,836,798 0 0 0 25,100 3,530 2,184,000	1,390 28,230 644 64,406 28,139 65,838 64,593 204 3,950 0 3,286 84,221 0 3,520 370,312 47,612 67,608 87,588 0 0 728 109 76,120	1 26 3 69 26 52 54 1 7 0 3 17 0 0 2 147 40 29 48 0 0 0 4 4 4 1	23.0 51 45.5 20.0 29.5 31.5 33.0 59 39.5 118 62 48.5 12.5 32.0 50 37.5 42.0 48.0 280 1,500 75 29.5 31.5 32.0 33.0	A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A	1.5 0.5 -0.5 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.5 0.0 0.5 0.0 0.5 0.0 0.5 0.0 0.5 0.0 0.0
KMEFIC ALAMAN ALOLA ALMAL GIH AAYAN BAYANINV OSOUL KFIC KAMCO NIH UNICAP MADAR ALDEERA ALSALAM EKTITIAB ALMADINA NOOR TAMINV EXCH TAIBA KSHC ASIYA GNAHC AMWAL	23.0 51 45.5 20.5 29.5 31.5 33.5 59 39.5 0.0 62 48.5 0.0 32.0 50 38.0 42.5 48.5 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0	23.0 49.0 45.0 20.0 28.5 31.0 33.0 59 39.5 0.0 62 48.0 0.0 32.0 49.0 37.5 47.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 39.5 49.0 37.5 47.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0	60,435 565,789 14,300 3,220,301 969,118 2,123,268 1,957,063 3,464 100,000 0 1,754,600 0 110,000 7,484,633 1,262,000 1,609,855 1,836,798 0 0 25,100 3,530 2,184,000 8,000	1,390 28,230 644 64,406 28,139 65,638 64,593 204 3,950 0 3,286 84,221 0 3,520 370,312 47,612 67,608 87,588 0 0 728 109 76,120 170	1 26 3 69 26 52 54 1 7 0 3 17 0 2 147 40 0 0 0 4 4 41 3	23.0 51 45.5 20.0 29.5 31.5 33.0 59 39.5 118 62 48.5 12.5 32.0 50 37.5 42.0 48.0 280 1,500 75 29.5 31.5 32.0 33.0 48.0 33.0 48.0 33.0 48.0 33.0 48.0	A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A	1.5 0.5 -0.5 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.5 0.0 0.5 0.0 0.5 0.0 0.5 0.0 0.0
KMEFIC ALAMAN ALOLA ALMAL GIH AAYAN BAYANINV OSOUL KFIC KAMCO NIH UNICAP MADAR ALDEERA ALSALAM EKTTITAB ALMADINA NOOR TAMINV EXCH TAIBA KSHC ASIYA GNAHC AMWAL ALIMTIAZ	23.0 51 45.5 20.5 29.5 31.5 33.5 59 39.5 0.0 62 48.5 0.0 32.0 50 38.0 42.5 48.5 0.0 0.0 29.5 31.5 33.5 59 39.5 0.0 50 31.5 32.0 50 32.0 50 32.0 50 32.0 50 32.0 50 32.0 50 32.0 50 32.0 50 32.0 50 32.0 50 32.0 50 32.0 50 32.0 50 32.0 50 32.0 50 32.0 50 32.0 50 50 50 50 50 50 50 50 50 5	23.0 49.0 45.0 20.0 28.5 31.0 33.0 59 39.5 0.0 62 48.0 0.0 32.0 49.0 37.5 41.5 47.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0	60,435 565,789 14,300 3,220,301 969,118 2,123,268 1,957,063 3,464 100,000 0 1,754,600 0 110,000 7,484,633 1,262,000 1,609,855 1,836,798 0 0 25,100 3,530 2,184,000 2,169,661	1,390 28,230 644 64,406 28,139 65,838 64,593 204 3,950 0 3,286 84,221 0 3,520 370,312 47,612 67,608 87,588 0 0 728 109 76,120 170 206,644	1 26 3 69 26 52 54 1 7 0 3 3 17 0 2 147 40 29 48 0 0 0 4 4 11 3 65	23.0 51 45.5 20.0 29.5 31.5 33.0 59 39.5 118 62 48.5 12.5 32.0 50 37.5 42.0 280 1,500 75 29.5 31.5 32.0 50 37.5 42.0 48.0 28.0 50 48.0 28.0 50 48.0 50 50 50 50 50 50 50 50 50 5	A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A	1.5 0.5 -0.5 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0
KMEFIC ALAMAN ALOLA ALMAL GIH AAYAN BAYANINV OSOUL KFIC KAMCO NIH UNICAP MADAR ALDEERA ALSALAM EKTTITAB ALMADINA NOOR TAMINV EXCH TAIBA KSHC ASIYA GNAHC AMWAL ALIMTIAZ MANAZEL	23.0 51 45.5 20.5 29.5 31.5 33.5 59 39.5 0.0 62 48.5 0.0 32.0 50 38.0 42.5 48.5 0.0 0.0 29.5 31.5 35.5 59 39.5 0.0 50 31.5 50 32.0 50 50 50 50 50 50 50 50 50 5	23.0 49.0 45.0 20.0 28.5 31.0 33.0 59 39.5 0.0 62 48.0 0.0 32.0 49.0 37.5 47.0 0.0 0.0 29.0 30.0 20	60,435 565,789 14,300 3,220,301 969,118 2,123,268 1,957,063 3,464 100,000 0 1,754,600 0 110,000 7,484,633 1,262,000 1,609,855 1,836,798 0 0 2,164,000 2,169,661 790,481	1,390 28,230 644 64,406 28,139 65,838 64,593 204 3,950 0 3,286 84,221 0 3,520 370,312 47,612 67,608 87,588 0 0 728 109 76,120 170 206,644 22,614	1 26 3 69 26 52 54 1 7 0 3 3 17 0 2 147 40 29 48 0 0 0 4 4 11 3 65 23	23.0 51 45.5 20.0 29.5 31.5 33.0 59 39.5 118 62 48.5 12.5 32.0 50 37.5 42.0 48.0 280 1,500 75 29.5 31.5 32.0 50 37.5 42.0 50 37.5 42.0 50 48.0 28.0 48.0 28.0 50 48.0 28.0 50 50 50 50 50 50 50 50 50 5	A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A	1.5 0.5 -0.5 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0
KMEFIC ALAMAN ALOLA ALMAL GIH AAYAN BAYANINV OSOUL KFIC KAMCO NIH UNICAP MADAR ALDEERA ALSALAM EKTTITAB ALMADINA NOOR TAMINV EXCH TAIBA KSHC ASIYA GNAHC AMWAL ALIMTIAZ	23.0 51 45.5 20.5 29.5 31.5 33.5 59 39.5 0.0 62 48.5 0.0 32.0 50 38.0 42.5 48.5 0.0 0.0 29.5 31.5 33.5 59 39.5 0.0 50 31.5 32.0 50 32.0 50 32.0 50 32.0 50 32.0 50 32.0 50 32.0 50 32.0 50 32.0 50 32.0 50 32.0 50 32.0 50 32.0 50 32.0 50 32.0 50 32.0 50 32.0 50 50 50 50 50 50 50 50 50 5	23.0 49.0 45.0 20.0 28.5 31.0 33.0 59 39.5 0.0 62 48.0 0.0 32.0 49.0 37.5 41.5 47.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0	60,435 565,789 14,300 3,220,301 969,118 2,123,268 1,957,063 3,464 100,000 0 1,754,600 0 110,000 7,484,633 1,262,000 1,609,855 1,836,798 0 0 25,100 3,530 2,184,000 2,169,661	1,390 28,230 644 64,406 28,139 65,838 64,593 204 3,950 0 3,286 84,221 0 3,520 370,312 47,612 67,608 87,588 0 0 728 109 76,120 170 206,644	1 26 3 69 26 52 54 1 7 0 3 3 17 0 2 147 40 29 48 0 0 0 4 4 11 3 65	23.0 51 45.5 20.0 29.5 31.5 33.0 59 39.5 118 62 48.5 12.5 32.0 50 37.5 42.0 280 1,500 75 29.5 31.5 32.0 50 37.5 42.0 48.0 28.0 50 48.0 28.0 50 48.0 50 50 50 50 50 50 50 50 50 5	A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A	1.5 0.5 -0.6 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0
KMEFIC ALAMAN ALOLA ALMAL GIH AAYAN BAYANINV OSOUL KFIC KAMCO NIH UNICAP MADAR ALDEERA ALSALAM EKTTITAB ALMADINA NOOR TAMINV EXCH TAIBA KSHC ASIYA GNAHC AMWAL ALIMTIAZ MANAZEL	23.0 51 45.5 20.5 29.5 31.5 33.5 59 39.5 0.0 62 48.5 0.0 32.0 50 38.0 42.5 48.5 0.0 0.0 29.5 31.5 35.5 59 39.5 0.0 50 31.5 50 32.0 50 50 50 50 50 50 50 50 50 5	23.0 49.0 45.0 20.0 28.5 31.0 33.0 59 39.5 0.0 62 48.0 0.0 32.0 49.0 37.5 47.0 0.0 0.0 29.0 30.0 20	60,435 565,789 14,300 3,220,301 969,118 2,123,268 1,957,063 3,464 100,000 0 1,754,600 0 110,000 7,484,633 1,262,000 1,609,855 1,836,798 0 0 2,164,000 2,169,661 790,481	1,390 28,230 644 64,406 28,139 65,838 64,593 204 3,950 0 3,286 84,221 0 3,520 370,312 47,612 67,608 87,588 0 0 728 109 76,120 170 206,644 22,614	1 26 3 69 26 52 54 1 7 0 3 3 17 0 2 147 40 29 48 0 0 0 4 4 11 3 65 23	23.0 51 45.5 20.0 29.5 31.5 33.0 59 39.5 118 62 48.5 12.5 32.0 50 37.5 42.0 48.0 280 1,500 75 29.5 31.5 32.0 50 37.5 42.0 50 37.5 42.0 50 48.0 28.0 48.0 28.0 50 48.0 28.0 50 50 50 50 50 50 50 50 50 5	A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A	1.5 0.5 -0.5 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0
KMEFIC ALAMAN ALOLA ALMAL GIH AAYAN BAYANINV OSOUL KFIC KAMCO NIH UNICAP MADAR ALDEERA ALSALAM EKTITAB ALMADINA NOOR TAMINV EXCH TAIBA KSHC ASIYA GNAHC AMWAL ALIMTIAZ MANAZEL NIND BIIHC	23.0 51 45.5 20.5 29.5 31.5 33.5 59 39.5 0.0 62 48.5 0.0 32.0 50 38.0 42.5 48.5 0.0 0.0 29.5 31.5 35.0 21.5 96 29.0 124 25.5	23.0 49.0 45.0 20.0 28.5 31.0 33.0 59 39.5 0.0 62 48.0 0.0 32.0 49.0 37.5 41.5 47.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 29.0 30.0 30.0 29.0 29.0 30.0 29.0 20.	60,435 565,789 14,300 3,220,301 969,118 2,123,268 1,957,063 3,464 100,000 0 53,000 1,754,600 0 110,000 7,484,633 1,262,000 1,609,855 1,836,798 0 0 25,100 3,530 2,184,000 8,000 2,169,661 790,481 3,956,040 11,582,468	1,390 28,230 644 64,406 28,139 65,638 64,593 204 3,950 0 3,286 84,221 0 3,520 370,312 47,612 67,608 87,588 0 0 0 728 109 76,120 170 206,644 422,614 477,049 288,601	1 26 3 69 26 52 54 1 7 0 3 3 17 0 2 147 40 29 48 0 0 0 4 4 11 3 65 23 72 76	23.0 51 45.5 20.0 29.5 31.5 33.0 59 39.5 118 62 48.5 12.5 32.0 50 37.5 42.0 48.0 48.0 28.0 1,500 75 29.5 31.5 32.0 50 37.5 42.0 48.0	A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A	1.5 0.5 -0.5 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.5 0.0 0.5 0.0 0.0
KMEFIC ALAMAN ALOLA ALMAL GIH AAYAN BAYANINV OSOUL KFIC KAMCO NIH UNICAP MADAR ALDERA ALSALAM EKTITIAB ALMADINA NOOR TAMINV EXCH TAIBA GNAHC ASIYA GNAHC AMWAL ALIMITIAZ MANAZEL NIND BIIHC SENERGY	23.0 51 45.5 20.5 29.5 31.5 33.5 59 39.5 0.0 62 48.5 0.0 32.0 50 38.0 42.5 48.5 0.0 0.0 29.5 31.5 32.0 50 33.0 50 34.0 50 35.0 50 50 50 50 50 50 50 50 50 5	23.0 49.0 45.0 20.0 28.5 31.0 33.0 59 39.5 0.0 62 48.0 0.0 32.0 49.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0	60,435 565,789 14,300 3,220,301 969,118 2,123,268 1,957,063 3,464 100,000 0 1,754,600 0 110,000 7,484,633 1,262,000 1,609,855 1,836,798 0 0 25,100 3,530 2,184,000 8,000 2,169,661 790,481 3,956,040 11,582,468 763,200	1,390 28,230 644 64,406 28,139 65,638 64,593 204 3,950 0 3,286 84,221 0 3,520 370,312 47,612 67,608 87,588 0 0 728 109 76,120 170 206,644 22,614 477,049 288,601 26,550	1 26 3 69 26 52 54 1 7 0 3 17 0 2 147 40 29 48 0 0 0 4 4 11 3 65 23 72 76 32	23.0 51 45.5 20.0 29.5 31.5 33.0 59 39.5 118 62 48.5 12.5 32.0 50 37.5 42.0 48.0 280 1,500 75 29.5 31.5 32.0 50 12.5 50 12.5 50	A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A	1.5 0.5 -0.5 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.5 0.0 0.5 0.0 0.0
KMEFIC ALAMAN ALOLA ALMAL GIH AAYAN BAYANINV OSOUL KFIC KAMCO NIH UNICAP MADAR ALDEERA ALSALAM EKTITAB ALMADINA NOOR TAMINV EXCH TAIBA KSHC ASIYA GNAHC AMWAL ALIMTIAZ MANAZEL NIND SENERGY AGHC	23.0 51 45.5 20.5 29.5 31.5 33.5 59 39.5 0.0 62 48.5 0.0 32.0 50 38.0 42.5 48.5 0.0 0.0 29.5 31.5 35.0 21.5 96 29.0 124 25.5 35.0 55	23.0 49.0 45.0 20.0 28.5 31.0 33.0 59 39.5 0.0 62 48.0 0.0 32.0 49.0 0.0 0.0 32.0 49.0 0.0 32.0 49.0 0.0 29.0 29.0 20.0	60,435 565,789 14,300 3,220,301 969,118 2,123,268 1,957,063 3,464 100,000 0 1,754,600 0 110,000 1,754,600 0 1,754,600 0 1,754,600 0 2,160,855 1,836,798 0 0 25,100 3,530 2,184,000 8,000 2,169,661 790,481 3,956,040 11,582,468 763,200 889,276	1,390 28,230 644 64,406 28,139 65,638 64,593 204 3,950 0 3,286 84,221 0 3,520 370,312 47,612 67,608 87,588 0 0 728 109 76,120 170 206,644 22,614 477,049 288,601 26,550 47,444	1 26 3 69 26 52 54 1 7 0 3 3 17 0 2 147 40 29 48 0 0 0 4 41 3 65 23 72 76 32 51	23.0 51 45.5 20.0 29.5 31.5 33.0 59 39.5 118 62 48.5 12.5 32.0 50 37.5 42.0 48.0 280 1,500 75 29.5 31.5 32.0 50 37.5 42.0 48.0 280 1,500 75 29.5 31.5 32.0 50 31.5 32.0 50 37.5 42.0 48.0 28.0 48.0 28.0 48.0 48.0 28.0 4	A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A	1.5 0.5 -0.5 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0
KMEFIC ALAMAN ALOLA ALMAL GIH AAYAN BAYANINV OSOUL KFIC KAMCO NIH UNICAP MADAR ALDERA ALSALAM EKTITIAB ALMADINA NOOR TAMINV EXCH TAIBA GNAHC ASIYA GNAHC AMWAL ALIMITIAZ MANAZEL NIND BIIHC SENERGY	23.0 51 45.5 20.5 29.5 31.5 33.5 59 39.5 0.0 62 48.5 0.0 32.0 50 38.0 42.5 48.5 0.0 0.0 29.5 31.5 32.0 50 33.0 50 34.0 50 35.0 50 50 50 50 50 50 50 50 50 5	23.0 49.0 45.0 20.0 28.5 31.0 33.0 59 39.5 0.0 62 48.0 0.0 32.0 49.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0	60,435 565,789 14,300 3,220,301 969,118 2,123,268 1,957,063 3,464 100,000 0 1,754,600 0 110,000 7,484,633 1,262,000 1,609,855 1,836,798 0 0 25,100 3,530 2,184,000 8,000 2,169,661 790,481 3,956,040 11,582,468 763,200	1,390 28,230 644 64,406 28,139 65,638 64,593 204 3,950 0 3,286 84,221 0 3,520 370,312 47,612 67,608 87,588 0 0 728 109 76,120 170 206,644 22,614 477,049 288,601 26,550	1 26 3 69 26 52 54 1 7 0 3 17 0 2 147 40 29 48 0 0 0 4 4 11 3 65 23 72 76 32	23.0 51 45.5 20.0 29.5 31.5 33.0 59 39.5 118 62 48.5 12.5 32.0 50 37.5 42.0 48.0 280 1,500 75 29.5 31.5 32.0 50 12.5 50 12.5 50	A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A	1.5 0.5 -0.5 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0

Financial Service	s		61,327,837	3,294,587	1,242	589.72	A	2.09
Investment Instru	iments		0	0	0	1081.97	-	0.00
ASC	246	236	4,047	983	4	240	A	4.0
osos	130	130	1,000	130	2	130	_	0.0
FUTURE	85	85	15,700	1,335	1	85		-5.0
HAYATCOMM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	47.5	_	0.0
Technology			20,747	2,447	7	600.19	¥	-0.98
SANAD	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	100	_	0.0
AFAQ	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	162	_	0.0
ALSHAMEL	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	460	_	0.0
EFFECT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	38.5	_	0.0
AJWAN	40.0	37.5	81,980	3,085	11	40.0	_	0.0
MASAKEN	62	55	493,830	29,417	28	59	A	1.0
DALQAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	350	-	0.0
ALEID	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	90	_	0.0
MIDAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	1,220	_	0.0
FLEX	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	45.0	_	0.0
THURAYA	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	158	_	0.0
AMAR	57	57	20,000	1,140	1	57		-1.0
Parallel Market			595,810	33,642	40	1050.77	Α.	0.18

18,000

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For more information, call Global Investment House on 1 80 42 42, www.globalinv.net

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Index	Previou	us Close	Last			inge	Daily Performance	Yearly Performanc
	A second	83.06		/4.62			%	%
Dow Jones NASDAQ		7.44	5,48		91.56		0.46	9.52
S&P 500		2.53	2,27	78 90 70 C	8.23	-	0.36	11.07
Financial Times	7,04	13.96	7,04	0.59	-3.37	*	-0.05	12.79
DAX	11,4	64.74	11,47	74.30	9.56	•	0.08	6.81
CAC 40	4,84	19.89	4,83	6.63	-13.26	•	-0.27	4.30
Swiss	8,74	13.00	8,25	0.18	7.18	A	0.09	-6.44
Nikkei 225	19,4	94.53	19,44	14.49	-50.04	•	-0.26	2.16
Topix		2.36	1,54		-7.42	*	-0.48	-0.15
Hang Seng		29.06	V///////	9.80	80.74	<u> </u>	0.37	-0.48
Straits Times	2,91	1.31	2,90		-9.61	Ψ,	-0.33	0.66
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Index	Previou	us Close	Last I	Price	Cha	inge	Daily Performance %	Yearly Performanc %
Kuwait	5,66	7.75	5,67	2.49	4.74		0.08	0.93
Saudi Arabia	7,03	11.11	7,02	3.94	-7.17	•	-0.10	1.73
Dubai	3,50	5.18	3,52	0.15	14.97		0.43	11.24
Abu Dhabi	4,47	79.04	4,46	7.19	-11.85	*	-0.26	3.99
Bahrain		1.34	1,19	10000	1.20		0.10	-2.02
Qatar		93.83	10,39	SURIA DISSO I	-1.68 13.23	•	-0.02	-0.34
Oman	-	5,714.87 1,215.09		5,728.10 1,212.21			0.23	5.71
Lebanon Jordan		3.09	2.18		-2.88 0.44	¥	0.02	3.90 2.32
Egypt		47.95		25.54	177.59	_	1.46	73.39
Morocco		41.16	11,39		-42.83	-	-0.37	28.18
Tunisia	5,42	4.11	5,41	9.35	-4.76	•	-0.09	7.58
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Currency	Kuwaiti Dinar	Saudi Riyal	US Dollar	Euro	Sterling Pound	Swiss Franc	Japanese Yen	Australian Dollar
Kuwait Dinar		12.1384	3.2499	3.1219	2.6296	3.3393	381.74	4.4783
Saudi Riyal	0.08238		0.2677	0.2572	0.2166	0.2751	31.45	0.3689
US Dollar	0.30770	3.7350		0.9606	0.8091	1.0275	117.46	1.3780
Euro	0.32032	3.8881	1.0410		0.8427	1.0698	122.28	1.4346
Sterling Pound	0.38029	4.6161	1.2359	1.1867		1.2702	145.15	1.7029
Swiss Franc	0.29946	3.6350	0.9732	0.9348	0.7873	0.0007	114.35	1.3411
Japanese Yen Australian Dollar	0.00262	0.0318 2.7105	0.0085	0.0082	0.0069	0.0087	85.24	0.0117
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Currency	US Dollar	Kuwaiti Dollar	Saudi Riyal	Bahraini Dinar	Qatari Riyal	Omani Riyal	Emirates Dirham	Egyptian Pound
US Dollar		0.30770	3.7350	0.3741	3.6267	0.3832	3.6568	19.6900
Kuwaiti Dinar	3.2499		12.1384	1.2156	11.7865	1.2453	11.8843	63.9909
Saudi Riyal	0.2677	0.08238	200000000000000000000000000000000000000	0.1001	0.9710	0.1026	0.9791	5.2718
Bahraini Dinar	2.6734	0.82262	9.9853	7,000,000,000	9.6958	1.0244	9.7762	52.6400
Qatari Riyal	0.2757	0.08484	1.0299	0.1031	1202000	0.1057	1.0083	5.4292
Omani Riyal	2.6098	0.80304	9.7476	0.9762	9.4650	D ****	9.5435	51.3871
Emirates Dirham Egyptian Pound	0.2735	0.08414	1.0214 0.1897	0.1023	0.9918	0.1048	0.1857	5.3845
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Currency Kuwaiti Dinar	1-Week 0.75	1-Month 1.13	3-Mc	100000	140,23000	onth 75	_	ear 06
US Dollar	0.70	0.74	0.9	0.104		32		69
Euro	-0.39	-0.38	-0.	-100	-	.22		.08
Sterling Pound	0.24	0.25	0.		0.	53		79
Swiss Franc	-0.80	-0.81	0.	73	0	.66	0.	.50
Australian Dollar	1.60	1.68	1.0	63	1.	65	1.	70
Japanese Yen	-0.01	-0.05	-0.	01	0.	02	0.	13
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Previous Close

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Source: National Bank of Kuwait

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Commodities

Last Price

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Change

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Daily

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-0.19

0.20

Yearly

%

44.29

31.18

28.96

6.23

13.87

CAMARO ZL1 SET TO THRILL KUWAIT CUSTOMERS

Unprecedented levels of refinement, track capability and drag-strip performance

KUWAIT: The 2017 Camaro ZL1 is poised to challenge the most advanced sports coupes in the world in any measure - with unprecedented levels of technology, refinement, track capability and straight-line acceleration. The Camaro ZL1 is the most powerful Camaro in the model's fifty year history and will be made available for sale in Kuwait in April 2017 by Chevrolet Alghanim, the exclusive distributor of Chevrolet vehicles in Kuwait.

Acceleration is delivered via a new supercharged 6.2L V-8 engine, with estimated 650hp. Its 0-100kph time is a mere 3.6 seconds, and it can complete the quarter mile in 11.4 seconds at a speed of 204 kph. It builds on the sixth generation Camaro's segment leadership as the fittest in the segment.

"The Camaro ZL1 is designed to excel at everything, delivering on design, dependability, quality and performance," said Abdallah Madhoun, Regional Sales and Marketing Manager for Chevrolet, GM Middle East. "The ZL1 is the track capable version of the awardwinning sixth generation of the Camaro and can challenge the most advanced sports coupes in the world." The Camaro ZL1 is the first production car to use a new, advanced 10-speed automatic gearbox, which offers strong economy and performance benefits. It is also available as a six-speed manual.

Handling capability starts with the light-weight, stiff structure of the all-new sixth-Generation Camaro, married with Magnetic Ride suspension and an electronic limited-slip differential. Standard technologies include Driver Mode Selector, dual-mode exhaust and advanced connectivity features. Take a look at the 2017 Chevrolet Camaro in more detail:-

Designed for Performance

Functionality defines the Camaro ZL1's form, with the exterior shaped during more than 100 hours of wind-tunnel testing and on-track validation to improve aerodynamics and cooling for track use. Accordingly, its exterior elements all play a part in managing airflow over, under and through the ZL1. "The design supports the Camaro ZL1's exceptional performance and

does so with compelling style," said John Mack, Camaro exterior design manager. "From every angle, the elements coalesce to give the car a purposeful, super aggressive attitude."

The lower grille opening, for example, offers greater airflow compared to the Camaro SS, and the upper grille incorporates a new version of the "flow-tie" open bowtie insignia. There's also a new hood, with a carbon fiber insert and heat extractor that pulls hot air from the engine compartment. Additional changes include a larger front splitter, unique rockers, a wing-style rear spoiler and wider front fenders - all tuned to improve aerodynamics for greater high-speed stability. The Camaro ZL1's interior also features a carbon

fiber instrument panel molding interior trim. Inside, there are standard Recaro front seats, along with a sueded flat-bottom steering wheel and shift knob. Chevrolet's Performance Data Recorder is available.

Fast with finesse

A cohesive suite of performance technologies tailors ZL1's performance for street and track. Features include an updated Magnetic Ride suspension, Performance Traction Management, electronic limited-slip differential, Custom Launch Control and Driver Mode Selector. It also has a stronger power-toweight ratio than its predecessor, weighing 200 pounds less, while offering approximate-

ly 60 more horsepower and 80 more poundfeet of torque. The result is a one-of-a-kind driving experience.

"Driving the Camaro ZL1 is best described as 'fast with finesse," said Reuss. "It is beautifully balanced, with perfect damping and isolation for optimal performance and driver confidence in virtually any situation - from the Pacific Coast Highway to Willow Springs to Pomona."

Additional chassis features include:

 Unique 20-inch forged aluminum wheels with 285/30ZR20 front and 305/30ZR20 rear tires
 Goodyear Fagle F1 Supercar tires with a

• Goodyear Eagle F1 Supercar tires with a compound and construction developed exclu-

sively for the Camaro to offer exceptional grip on the track

• Brembo brakes with six-piston monobloc front calipers - featuring the ZL1 logo - and massive, 15.35-inch (390 mm) two-piece front rotors.

Supercharged performance and new 10-speed automatic

Underhood, the ZL1 features a supercharged LT4 6.2L V-8 Small Block engine, with intake and exhaust systems tailored for Camaro. It is rated at an estimated 650 horsepower and 650 lb-ft of torque (881 Nm), making this the fastest Camaro ZL1 in the vehicles 50 year history. The LT4 is backed by a standard six-speed manual transmission or allnew, available paddle-shift 10-speed automatic. The 10-speed automatic has 7.39 overall ratio for smaller steps between gears. It enables the LT4 engine to remain at optimal rpm levels during acceleration, particularly when exiting corners, for quicker laps and lightning-quick responses on both up- and down-shifts.

This is the first Chevrolet application of the new quick-shift 10-speed, with unique calibrations and hardware developed exclusively for the ZL1. Finally - and unlike some competitors - there's no need to purchase an optional package to make the ZL1 track ready. Track capability comes standard, with features including an impressive 11 heat exchangers for optimal powertrain cooling.

Chevrolet Care

All customers who purchase a Chevrolet from Yusuf A. Alghanim & Sons will receive the benefits of the Chevrolet Care Program, which entails new levels of post-sale support and trust. The Chevrolet Care is an exceptional customer service that is based on four main pillars: competitive and transparent service costs (especially for four-wheel drive vehicles), scheduled service appointment booking with same day delivery, quality service by certified technicians and 3yr/100,000km warranty with 24x7 roadside assistance for 4 years.

ONLY A NEW LAW WILL GUARANTEE INDIAN WOMEN HAVE LAND RIGHTS

CHENNAI: India must pass a law granting women equal rights to land as men if the country is to ensure more food is grown for its more than 1 billion people and greater respect for the environment, a leading scientist said. MS Swaminathan is known as the father of India's 'Green Revolution' for developing high-yielding varieties of wheat in the 1960s that helped make the country self-sufficient in food.

As a member of the upper house of parliament he drafted a bill in 2011 to protect the rights of women farmers. Although the bill lapsed when his term ended in 2013, Swaminathan, 91, has not given up hope that a similar law will be passed.

"We need to increase awareness of the need for equal rights for women farmers, but we also need a law that guarantees it," he told the Thomson Reuters Foundation in an interview. India's constitution gives women equal rights but rarely do they exercise those rights when it comes to land ownership - "a complex social issue that is tied to how we treat the girl child versus the boy child," Swaminathan said.

"The father may say: 'I am giving my daughter dowry for her marriage, so I don't have to give her land.' They are afraid they will lose control of the land if they give it to the daughter," he said in an interview at his office in the southern Indian city of Chennai. Women make up more than a third of India's agriculture workforce, yet only about 13 percent of farmland is owned by women, according to official

data. Land is usually transferred though inheritance in India, and it is almost always men who inherit land. While a Hindu woman is entitled to a share of land owned by her father, she is generally under pressure to give up this right when she gets married. Some states issue joint titles when they allocate land to the landless poor. But rarely are women added to old titles.

Destitution

As more men from villages migrate to urban areas in search of jobs, their wives and daughters tend to the land. But land titles are almost always in the man's name, and women farmers are denied loans, insurance and other government benefits because their names are not on the titles. "Men may do the ploughing, but the rest of it - including harvesting, threshing, storage - is done by women," said Swaminathan, who was named by Time magazine in 1999 as one of the 20 most influential Asians of the 20th century.

Women farmers tend to grow more food crops rather than cash crops, and are more sensitive to the environment and to their children's long-term needs, Swaminathan said. "But we are slow to acknowledge the important role of women, and slow to give them rights," he said. India ranked 130 of 155 countries on the UNDP's gender inequality index, worse than countries including Cambodia and Zimbabwe, on parameters such as infant



AIZAWL: An Indian Mizo store keeper hangs Santa hats outside her shop in Aizawl, capital of northeastern Mizoram state, yesterday. Apart from household activities, Mizo women control most of the business in Mizoram state. — AFP

NIGERIA'S ARIK RESUMES FLIGHTS AFTER DEAL SIGNED WITH UNIONS

LAGOS: Nigeria's Arik airline has resumed flights following a deal to end a one-day strike that paralyzed its operation, the company said yesterday. Aviation unions called the strike on Tuesday to protest non-payment of seven months of salaries to Arik workers, non-remittance of taxes and the sacking of five union leaders. Thousands of local and foreign passengers were stranded due to the stoppage. Arik said in a statement on Wednesday that the dispute had been resolved "following the meeting called by the Nigeria Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA) to address the airline

and the aviation unions.

The airline said it had provided bigger planes to cope with the backlog of passengers whose flights were affected by the strike. Union leader Tokuboh Korodo told AFP the strike had been suspended. "We met the management of Arik last night and they agreed to pay the arrears of salaries by December 31," Korodo said. He said the airline also agreed to recall the five union leaders that were sacked. "If Arik refuses to honor the deal by December 31, we will resume the strike," he warned. Arik, Nigeria's leading carrier, is responsible for 60 percent of flights with an international network that includes Johannesburg and New York. — AFP



AHMADABAD: Indians throng a vegetable market at dusk. — AP

INDIA ROLLS BACK LATEST CURBS ON DEPOSITS OF BANNED NOTES

NEW DELHI: India's central bank yesterday rolled back an order restricting deposits of banned rupee bills into bank accounts, after the move sparked a huge public backlash. Prime Minister Narendra Modi unleashed chaos last month with his shock move to withdraw high-denomination 500 (\$7.50) and 1,000 rupee notes from circulation, in an effort to tackle widespread corruption and tax evasion.

On Monday, just days before the December 30 deadline to swap old rupee bills for new ones, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said that deposits of over 5,000 rupees in old banknotes would only be allowed once before the cut-off date. People would also be required to explain why they had not deposited the money earlier. The RBI reversed its decision yesterday for all "verified" bank accounts, without giving a reason.

"On a review of above, we advise that provisions of the above circular... not apply," it said, citing the Monday order. The restrictions had caused anger and confusion across the country, with local media reporting that some banks had declined deposits higher than 5,000 rupees. Opposition parties had also attacked the move, with many Indians already facing a shortage of cash as ATMs run dry and long queues materialise outside banks across the country as people try to get rid of their old notes-some 86 percent of all bills in circulation.

Modi has repeatedly defended the scheme, saying it will bring billions in so-called "black", or undeclared, money back into the formal system. Political activist and Modi critic Yogendra Yadav lashed out at the government on Twitter. "I was assured by the Prime Minister, the Finance Minister and the RBI that there was no need to rush to the banks and that I had till 30 December for making any deposit. I believed them," Yadav tweeted.

Modi losing friends

Meanwhile, a leading political ally of Narendra Modi has abruptly distanced himself from the Indian prime minister's move to scrap high-value banknotes, as broad initial support for the radical monetary reform showed signs of crumbling. The shift by N Chandrababu Naidu, chief minister of

the southern state Andhra Pradesh, came six weeks after Modi announced to a stunned nation that he would scrap 86 percent of the cash in circulation.

While Modi remains by far India's most popular politician, any crack in his authority could have negative implications in state elections next year that will set the tone for his expected bid for a second term in 2019. Naidu's regional party is allied to Modi's nationalists and he heads a federal committee set up to find ways to soften the impact on ordinary people of the crackdown against tax evaders, racketeers and bribe takers who rely on so-called "black cash". "I am breaking my head daily but we are unable to find a solution to this problem," Naidu told party workers on Tuesday in the city of Vijayawada.

Modi, announcing the reform on Nov. 8, cautioned that people would face temporary hardship. He promised to restore normalcy by the end of the year, when a deadline to deposit old 500 and 1,000 rupee banknotes expires. His announcement enjoyed popular support at first, with many people prepared to endure hardship as long as others are forced to give up their ill-gotten wealth or pay tax.

But continuing shortages of new 500 and 2,000 rupee notes have caused tempers to rise as millions queue at banks and ATMs to draw money. With new 500 rupee notes, worth \$7.50, in very short supply it is hard for people to buy necessities because of a shortage of change. "Modi is now a one-man army, every political ally will blame him if the cash crisis does not come to an end in the next 10 days," said P. Raja Rao, a political science professor in Hyderabad.

Furious over the lack of cash, mobs attacked six bank branches in Uttar Pradesh on Tuesday, forcing police to rescue bank staff. The northern state, home to one in six Indians, is due to hold an election in early 2017 that is increasingly being viewed as a referendum on Modi's demonetization drive. In the last 20 days, Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has won several local elections in western and northern states. Party officials said the wins were a clear endorsement of the new cash policy. "Each and every Indian understands the genuine intention behind the bold move. They trust the prime minister and we hope our political allies put an end to their doubts," said BJP spokesman Siddharth Nath Singh. — Agencies

NIKE EARNINGS RISE, BULLISH ON CHINA

NEW YORK: Nike reported higher secondquarter earnings Tuesday behind increased sales in key markets, including China, and said it was making progress in cutting inventory in North America. Executives gave an upbeat outlook on China, where sales jumped 12 percent to \$1.1 billion. Net income for the quarter ending November 30 rose seven percent to \$842 million. Sales rose six percent to \$8.2 billion. Participation in the Shanghai marathon was 38,000 and nearly four times that many tried to sign up, said Nike brand president Trevor Edwards.

"It's still early days in unlocking the growth," Edwards said. Executives also touted running shoe launches, a new flagship store in New York and a Michael Jordan-oriented

shop in Paris. Analysts have expressed worry about Nike's profit outlook in North America due to excessive supply of athletics goods apparent in deep discounts in US stores this holiday season.

Gross profit margins contracted company-wide in the second quarter. Nike chief financial officer Andy Campion said the sports giant is in the process of addressing excess supplies and that the key North America region should return to profit-margin growth in the next six months. "You will see evidence of the progress that we've made returning North America to pull market" or a market of strong demand, Campion said. Shares of Nike rose 1.6 percent to \$52.60 in after-hours trade. — AFP



QNB LAUNCHES MOBILE BANKING APPLICATION FOR RETAIL CUSTOMERS

KUWAIT: QNB Kuwait, the local branch smartphones and tablets. It is downloadof QNB Group, the leading financial institution in the Middle East and Africa, has announced the launch of a mobile banking application with distinctive features that offer more accessibility and convenience for its customers. The QNB Mobile Banking application is available on both

able from the application stores of both IOS and Android by searching for "QNB Mobile" or "QNB Mobile for Tablets".

The application offers numerous features such as QNB Global Account view, the ability to pay card balances, view loan details, make transfers within

request cheque books, quickly apply for products, locate ATMs and branches, as well as check interest rates, among other features. Furthermore, the most notable feature of the QNB Mobile Banking application is "QNB Chat", which customers can use to chat support around the clock.

In addition to Mobile Banking, QNB Kuwait offers free of charge access to its award-winning Internet Banking, which facilitates access to a wide range of exclusive banking services online, thus giving customers a comprehensive

QNB accounts and to other accounts, with a Bank representative and get online banking experience, so that they can stay in control of their finances, wherever they are. It is noteworthy that QNB Kuwait offers a number of products and services that are tailored to suit its customers' needs, such as current, salary. savings, deposit accounts, credit cards, and consumer/installment loans.







THE SKODA SUPERB: NEW FLAGSHIP CLAIM IN THE AUTOMOTIVE MID-CLASS SEGMENT

KUWAIT: The name alone is a commitment - a SKODA Superb has to be something special. In accordance with this task, the SKODA designers and developers have taken the new SKODA Superb to a new level in terms of creativity and technology. The SKODA Superb is driving the brand forward with its new, modern and emotionally-rich design, its aboveaverage spaciousness has once again been improved and it benefits technically from the Group's innovative MQB technology.

Generous dimensions, innovative assistance systems for safety, environment and comfort, engines and 'Simply Clever' details, typical of SKODA, move the brand's flagship to the upper end of the automotive mid-class segment. In short, the new Superb is the best SKODA of all time and is the highlight of SKODA's largest-ever model campaign.

The 'Superb' name has to be earned by a SKODA. Never before have such enormous demands been placed on the design of a SKO-DA, never before has so much new technology been incorporated into the design of a new model. Never before have there been so many 'Simply Clever' concepts and never before have the SKODA engineers managed to deliver so much space for driver, passengers and their luggage.

A whole 'phalanx' of new assistance systems from higher vehicle classes is available for more safety, the environment and comfort. The third-generation Superb is more powerful than ever and yet it is up to 30 per cent more economical.

Connectivity attains a new quality: the new SKODA Superb has a new-generation infotainment system which automatically connects to a smartphone via SmartLink.

SmartLink includes MirrorLinkTM, Apple CarPlay and Android Auto, which provide easy access to many apps from your personal smartphone on the car's display. In addition, the SmartGate function enables accessing vehicle data via your smartphone and using it intelligently with your own apps. The high-speed



internet connection also turns the Superb into the first SKODA hotspot on wheels. It is clear that the new SKODA Superb with its new and modern SKODA design will be rolling towards the customers. "SKODA is a leading global automobile brand in the mid-class segment that has successfully presented the fine engineering design, the space and the price" said Tarek Al Shafie, General Manager of Fouad Alghanim & Sons Automotive Company, the sole dealer of SKODA in Kuwait. "The third-generation model of this SKODA Superb is not only introducing new spacious design but also incorporates cutting-edge features that today's family needs. We are delightfully to bring this new car to our customers in Kuwait ".

The SKODA Superb has been at the top of SKODA's model range since 2001. To date, the car manufacturer has delivered more than 700,000 first- and second-generation SKODA Superbs, making the model one of the most popular vehicles in the automotive mid-class segment.

Customers have always valued the vehicle's overall package: extremely generous space, a timelessly elegant design, modern, tried-and-tested technology, top comfort, maximum safety, optimum functionality and very good value for money.

The new SKODA Superb is now available in the showroom at Fouad Alghanim and Sons Automotive Company, the exclusive dealer of

TRAVEL LIGHT WITH AMERICAN TOURISTER FUN SHINE

KUWAIT: If you want to add more fun to travelling, check out Funshine's 3 piece luggage. Each soft suitcase brings its own benefits to the mix: the cabin case fits airline hand luggage dimensions, the medium case is great for a 1 week break and the large case is perfect for a 2 week holiday. These matching suitcases also make the perfect set if you're travelling as a couple or want to pack loads of stuff.

Lightness

We use advanced technology to create lightweight suitcases with a tough core, American Tourister's wide range of suitcases and travel bags are easy to handle and maneuver.

Freedom

If you would rather invest in your adventures than in your luggage, American Tourister is the luggage brand for you. With no sacrifice on quality, American Tourister offers no-nonsense, great value for money lightweight cabin luggage for an exciting weekend break, to large suitcases and duffle bags with huge volumes for thrilling long-haul iournevs.

Trust

As we have been around for more than 80 years we know a thing or two about travel and pride ourselves on being travel bag gurus. We offer some of the best suitcase and luggage options for the active and enthusiastic globetrotter, determined to explore the world in their own style. American Tourister has long



been at the head of the check-in queue, producing dependable and affordable luggage since 1933. Respected and known across the globe, we consistently provide the most reliable luggage, designed with the eager, impulsive and cost conscious traveler in mind.

Colors

Colorful hand luggage and suitcases in fresh, youthful designs ensure you take on the world in style! We are not afraid of vibrant colors and patterns to let you stand out from the crowd at the baggage carousel.

Hard suitcases & soft suitcases

Whether you need a secure and robust hard suitcase for a long-haul journey, or a flexible soft suitcase which is easy to squeeze into tight corners, American Tourister has just what you need.

ITHMAAR BANK WINS PRESTIGIOUS WIBC AWARD

Islamic retail bank, was singled out among the world's Islamic banks for a prestigious international award in recognition of its Corporate Social Responsibility and Financial Disclosure.

The independent award was presented at the World Islamic Banking Conference (WIBC) which was recently held in Bahrain in strategic partnership with the Central Bank of Bahrain (CBB). The high-profile event, which was attended by leading international banking experts, is widely recognized as one of the most important events on the world Islamic banking calendar.

The award was received by Ithmaar Bank Head of Human Resources, Enas Rahimi, from Sahar Kazranian, CEO of Middle East Global Advisors, WIBC's conveners throughout its 23-year history, in the presence of Ithmaar Bank Chief Operating Officer, Ravindra Khot and General Manager Banking Group Abdulhakeem Al Mutawa.

"The Performance Awards are the WIBC's flagship awards, and are granted to the top financial institutions based on their aggregate performance scores against multiple measures on a global, regional and country level," said Sahar Kazranian. "This year, Ithmaar Bank topped the WIBC Leaderboard in terms of Corporate Social Responsibility and Financial Disclosure when compared to Islamic banks across the world. Its ultimate win is a testament to its commitment to transparency and impact, and I hope their leadership will inspire other banks to follow suit," she said.

"As a pioneering Islamic retail bank, Ithmaar recognizes the important role we must play both in the community in which we operate, as well as in promoting high levels of transparency in



the local banking and finance industry," said Ithmaar Bank Chief Executive Officer, Ahmed Abdul Rahim.

"This is a responsibility we have always taken very seriously, and I am pleased to note that our efforts, with the blessings of Allah, under the guidance of the Board of Directors and with the continuous support of the Central Bank of Bahrain, are paying off and earning the Bank international praise and recognition," he said.

ZAIN LAUNCHES NEW CAMPING OFFER FOR PREPAID CUSTOMERS

KUWAIT: Zain, the leading telecommunications company in Kuwait, launched an all new promotion for prepaid customers in the occasion of the camping season. The new promotion includes two unique packages that suit customers' different needs on the company's most advanced network. Zain designed the new promotion exclusively to serve the needs of prepaid customers who enjoy camping, as it is considered one of the most popular outdoors activities in the Kuwaiti community. The promotion includes two different prepaid Internet packages on Zain's nationwide network.

The new promotion offers the KD 24 package, which includes 1 TB of LTE-A Internet for two months with a free hotspot device and a the ability to renew at KD 7.5 only. Additionally, the KD 27 package includes 1.5 TB of LTE-A Internet for three months and a free hotspot device with the ability to renew at KD 9.5 only. The new promotion was specifically designed to complement the needs and aspirations of the largest family of subscribers in Kuwait. By



launching the new Camping Offer, Zain aims at creating a new concept for the services it offers, as well as offering convenience with flexible plans that meet the different personal and professional needs of customers.

Through this launch, Zain continues to reinforce its leadership position and its pledge in offering the best services and offers to meet customers' practical and personal telecom-

ARGAN AL BIDA'A LAUNCHES WINTER VILLAGE

KUWAIT: ARGAN Al Bida'a yesterday launched its Winter Village, bringing the spirit of the winter season to life at the popular dining and leisure destination. Planned to run between December 20, 2016, and January 14,2017, visitors will find the outdoor area transformed, with snow settling across the landscape, icecaps hanging from the roof tops, and various winter themed elements such as penguins and igloos to entertain and delight visitors of ARGAN Al Bida'a.

In a first for Kuwait, children aged three to 12 can enjoy a special snow playground, featuring a safe material to play in, just as if they were living in a winter wonderland. Visitors can find the playground near the Rimal Hotel and Resort at ARGAN Al Bida'a, next to Elevation Burger and Crave Nation. Furthermore, ARGAN Al Bida'a will be offering a special scratch and win promotion to customers. For every KD5 spent at participating Winter Village partners, visitors can receive a scratch and win coupon from a special booth next to the snow playground, with hundreds of prizes and exclusive discounts to be used at participating partners at ARGAN Al Bida'a.

Social media competitions have also been included as part of the Winter Village activities, with an iPhone 7 to be won every week throughout the duration of the Winter Village activity, and an iPad



Pro for one lucky winner. To find out more about how to win one of these prizes, follow @arganalbidaa on Instagram

The ARGAN Al Bida'a outdoor leisure and dining strip comprises restaurants, hotels, activity centers and retail shops that offer visitors a unique atmosphere to dine, shop and live life as they love it. The first concept of its kind in Kuwait, ARGAN Al Bida'a has been entertaining visitors and impacting the surrounding communities since its launch in 2007, and continues to be one of the top leisure destinations in the country. Its unique tenant list includes many of the country's favorite restaurant and cafè brands, the leading Movenpick Hotel and Resort Al Bida'a, and the country's premier social club, the C Club.



MIAMI: In this Monday, Dec 12, 2016, photo, an online shopper searches a site, while logged in from Miami, Florida. — AP

ONLINE SITES COURT PROCRASTINATORS WITH SPEEDY SHIPPING

ATLANTA: Forget ordering online weeks in advance or dashing out to the drug store for a gift card on Christmas Eve. Procrastinating holiday shoppers are finding a haven online as retailers ramp up expedited shipping and same-day delivery services.

Far from discouraging last-minute online shoppers, retailers are actually courting them. Amazon is offering a "Procrastinator's Delight" special. Clothing retailer Madewell proclaims on its website that "procrastinators get the best deals" - 25 percent off everything, with orders as late as noon Thursday for holiday deliveries.

It's a far cry from 2013, when Amazon and package deliverers misjudged demand and delivered some holiday packages after Christmas . Since then, the Seattle company has added warehouses to be closer to customers. It has also leased jets and trucks to get packages delivered on time - even last-minute orders. Package carriers such as FedEx and UPS have also increased staffing and hired outside contractors for the holiday season.

"So many people are shopping online because it's easier," said Sucharita Mulpuru, chief retail strategist for the ShopTalk retail conference. "They're waiting for last minute because nobody is encouraging them to shop earlier."

Trust in reliability

If you're an online shopper in the days leading up to Christmas and Hanukkah, be ready to forgo free shipping and shell out for expedited service. Look for sites that offer detailed shipping information. And check where the package is coming from - if it's shipping from China or the U.K., you won't get it in time.

But the extra cost and vigilance is worth it to those seeking to avoid the hassles of jampacked stores, crowded parking lots and frenzied crowds. Laura Curtis turned to expedited two-day shopping from Etsy and elsewhere when she realized she needed more gifts for her nieces and nephews.

"I'm usually way done by now," said the writer from Mt Kisco, New York. But she said she has faith that she'll get her packages on time. "Our FedEx guy is really reliable." Although a union warned that Amazon might not be able to retain enough pilots under contract to deliver packages through its new airline shipping service, Prime Air, Amazon said it doesn't expect any delays.

Spiraling demand, more services

The number of holiday packages has been rising each year as more people shop online. Research firm comScore predicts online shopping during the November and December holiday period will rise as much as 19 percent from last year to \$81 billion. That compares with an expected 3.6 percent rise in overall shopping during the same period to \$656 billion, according to the National Retail Federation, an industry trade group.

That means many more packages each year. UPS predicts global delivery volume during the holidays will rise 14 percent from last year to about 700 million packages.

FedEx expects volume to rise about 10 per-

Meanwhile, the number of services for last-minute online orders keeps growing. Amazon has been expanding its Prime Now same-day delivery service, adding nine cities to reach 31 this year. It is using local delivery service providers and regular drivers as ondemand messengers. The service is catering to last-minute shoppers by offering a "Procrastinator's Delight" program that will deliver products up until 11:59 p.m. on Christmas Eve. PetSmart is offering same-day delivery through startup Deliv. Uber is using its network of contract drivers for same-day delivery of goods for small businesses in New York, San Francisco and Chicago.

In addition, Amazon now lets people subscribe to its regular \$99-a-year Prime program, which offers free two-day shipping, on a month-by-month basis. That means shoppers can sign up in December to take advantage of free two-day shipping and have the option of canceling the next month. All this could lead to a rush in last-minute online deliveries.

Primed for procrastination

ShopTalk's Mulpuru said she received a FedEx package in an unmarked van rather than a regular FedEx truck, a sign FedEx could be adding outside help for some deliveries. (FedEx confirmed it temporarily rents vehicles to accommodate increased package volume during the holidays.) "This year the demand must have been really high," she said. "It's only going to get busier."

Prime's growth is estimated to be 50 percent over last year, and most of that growth happens during the holiday season, she said. "Consumers are getting frustrated by store shopping," she said. "If you need something by a certain date, it becomes really easy to sign on to Amazon Prime."

Matthew Hall, a student in Denton, Texas, plans to take advantage of his student discounted-Prime membership and pick up movies and coffee-related items for his parents online. "Shopping online is easier than just walking up and down the aisles, thinking 'Oh, they might like this," he said. "If I'm online I can scroll through pages of stuff without having to worry about, 'Oh, I should have grabbed that," he said. Expedited shipping is a must, he added. "I'm cutting it pretty close to the wire," he said. "I plan on doing everything two-day delivery if it's available. If not, I'm just not going to buy that."

Taking a Zen approach

Favian Quesada, a graphic designer at a TV station in Tyler, Texas, plans to rely on one-day shopping on Amazon because he's waiting until he gets paid Friday, just two days before Christmas. He said he's confident that things will get to him on time because online delivery has gotten much better over the years. What if packages get delayed? "I understand it's busy this time of year, and it's my fault for ordering last minute," he said. "If it doesn't get here on time, it will get here when it gets here. Holiday is not about presents, it's about hanging out with family." — AP

FACEBOOK ADDS LIVE AUDIO STREAMS TO IOS, ANDROID APPS

LOS ANGELES: After throwing its weight behind live video, Facebook is now expanding to real-time audio streaming: The company added the ability to listen to live audio broadcasts to its iOS and Android apps this week, and is now testing the format with a group of select publishers including the BBC World Service and

Users can find audio streams in their news feeds, and interact with broadcasters via chat and reactions just like they would with a video stream. Android users will be able to continue listening even after they close the app, making it easier to listen on the go, while iOS users have to keep Facebook's app up and running to stay tuned in

Facebook product specialist Shirley Ip and Facebook software engineer Bhavana Radhakrishnan said in a blog post Tuesday that the new format was, in part, a response to broadcasters already using Facebook's video streaming for audio-

only programming. "We've even seen some Pages find creative ways to go live and reach audiences with audio only by using the Facebook Live API or by adding a still image to accompany their audio broadcast."

They also suggested that audio may help in situations with slow internet access. "Live Audio presents another option for connecting with audiences in real time from low-connectivity areas," they said. Facebook is at launch putting a big emphasis on spoken word content for live audio, and has book authors Adam Grant and Britt Bennett participating in the current tests as well.

However, the company wants to open up the feature more widely early next year, and one has to wonder whether labels artists and DJs will embrace it for music at that point as well-which in turn could be an interesting way for Facebook to once again dip a toe into the music streaming world. — Reuters

BIGGEST TECH FAILS OF 2016

LOS ANGELES: Technology connects, entertains and informs billions of people worldwide every day-so when something inevitably goes wrong, the ripple effects are massive. Looking back on 2016, here are the biggest bombs and snafus in technology and digital media. They range from Facebook's fake-news plague to Samsung's hot (and not in a good way) smartphone, and from Yahoo's ridiculously enormous data breaches to Twitter's battle with antisocial behavior.

Facebook and the fake-news fiasco

Was an FBI agent investigating Hillary Clinton's WikiLeaks emails involved in a murdersuicide? Nope. Neither was Fox News planning to fire Megyn Kelly for backing Clinton nor did Taylor Swift say she voted for Donald Trump-just a few of the numerous bogus articles that rapidly infected Facebook and other social networks. The wave of deliberately crafted falsehoods may have affected the U.S. presidential election, despite Facebook chief Mark Zuckerberg's insistence that was a "crazy" idea. Facebook was the whipping boy for the uproar over fake news given its 1.7 billion-plus user base, but other players have been implicated including Google, which after the election said it would stop accepting ads from fake-news websites.

Responding to calls for action, Facebook last week unveiled a plan to let users fact-check articles posted on the service in partnerships with ABC News, Snopes.com, FactCheck.org and PolitiFact. But it remains to be seen how well the system will work to curb the flood of misinformation, especially in an online-advertising ecosystem where fakery has been a profitable endeavor. In a separate development, the Democratic National Committee's email servers were hacked by Russian operatives who then shared the data dump with WikiLeaks in an effort to sway the U.S. election, according to American intelligence officials.

Samsung's Galaxy Note 7 burns up

In August, Samsung debuted the Galaxy Note 7 "phablet," aimed at one-upping Apple in the high-end smartphone segment. But the product literally blew up in its face: First the Korean consumer-electronics giant recalled 2.5 million Galaxy Note 7s because of a risk they could catch fire or even explode because of a battery flaw. After shipping replacement units that had the same issue, Samsung in October said it would entirely discontinue the device. The setback will depress Samsung's profits more than \$5 billion over the next three quarters, and analysts say the damage to its brand could hurt future sales to the benefit of rivals like Apple and Google.

Yahoo's epic user-data hacks

It's hard to fathom how CEO Marissa Mayer and her lieutenants failed-for several years-to detect hacks that resulted in the theft of data on more than 1 billion user accounts. But that's what Yahoo is telling users, investors, law enforcement agencies... and Verizon, which is now reevaluating the terms of its \$4.8 billion bid for the sagging internet company in the wake of the two unprecedentedly huge security breaches (which Yahoo says were perpetrated by unknown actors in 2013 and 2014). The telco may end up scrapping the entire deal or asking for a price cut. Either way, the hacks have already become another blemish on Mayer's legacy at the helm of Yahoo.

Twitter's hate-speech problem

Trolls, creeps and bigots are all over the internet, but Twitter's open social service has been particularly buffeted by abusive comments and other bullying behavior. After high-profile attacks on actress Leslie Jones, CEO Jack Dorsey acknowledged that the company needed to take more aggressive action to address the problem. Last month the company introduced new ways to block and report malignant users, admitting that "we've had some challenges keeping up with and curbing abusive conduct." Twitter at the same time booted several notorious alt-right users, before reinstating the account of white supremacist Richard Spencer. For Twitter, making the service safer is important to grow and retain

its user base, while the nastier elements of the Twittersphere reportedly scared off Disney from moving forward on acquisition talks.

Vine gets strangled

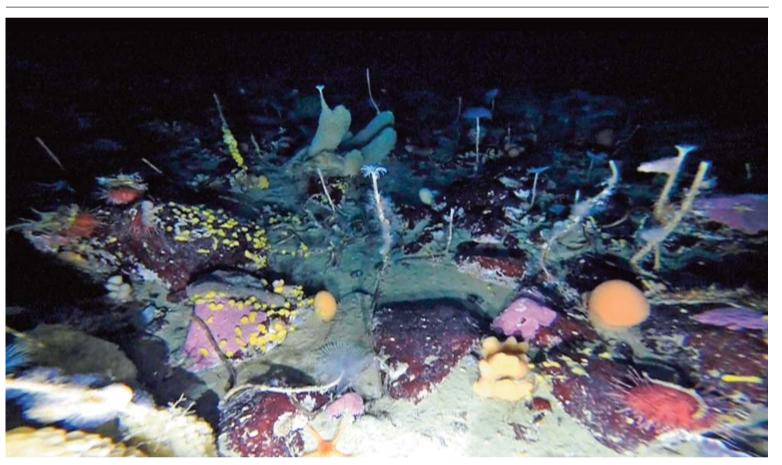
Another sign of Twitter's woes: The company in October said it was shutting down the six-second video service. Vine had attracted millions of users and launched the careers of several internet-famous creators but Twitter could never figure out to turn it into a moneymaker. Twitter reportedly had been exploring the possibility of selling Vine, acquired in 2012, but that didn't happen. Instead, the company last week said Vine will live on as an app for recording six-second video loops (while the Vine service will be frozen).

Mode media goes belly-up

Without warning, Mode Media-a female-focused digital publisher worth more than \$1 billion a few short years ago-shut its doors in September and sent employees packing. The abrupt demise of the Silicon Valley-based fashion, beauty and lifestyle media company came after it failed to find a buyer or secure additional operating capital (after raising a total of about \$225 million over its life). Mode Media's passing served as a cautionary tale for digital-media upstarts about the dangers of unsustainable expansion. The firm, formerly known as Glam Media, was at one time among the 10 biggest US internet media companies in terms of audience.

GoPro's failed Hollywood dream

The maker of mountable camera gear wanted to become more than, well, a maker of mountable cameras. It had ambitions of producing dozens of original shows, and GoPro had set up a sizable media operation staffed with execs hailing from HBO, MTV, Time Inc and elsewhere. But with device sales down, the company killed the entire division last month as part of cutting 15 percent of its workforce and is shutting down offices in L.A. and elsewhere. — Reuters



SYDNEY: This undated screen grab taken from handout video received from the Australian Antarctic Division (AAD) on December 21, 2016 shows a rare glimpse beneath the Antarctic sea ice. — AFP

ROBOT GIVES RARE GLIMPSE UNDER ANTARCTIC SEA ICE

SYDNEY: An underwater robot has captured a rare glimpse beneath the Antarctic sea ice, revealing a colorful world filled with coconut-shaped sponges, dandelion-like worms, pink algae and spidery starfish.

The Australian Antarctic Division (AAD) took footage on a camera attached to a Remotely Operated Vehicle sent down by scientists through a small hole drilled in the ice as they recorded the acidity, oxygen, salinity and temperature of the seawater.

"When you think of the Antarctic coastal marine environment, the iconic species such as penguins, seals and whales usually steal the show," AAD biol-

ogist Glenn Johnstone said yesterday. "This footage reveals a habitat that is productive, colorful, dynamic and full of a wide variety of biodiversity, including sponges, sea spiders, urchins, sea cucum-

These species, recorded near Australia's Casey research station, live in water that is -1.5 degrees Celsius (29.3 degrees Fahrenheit) year round and covered in 1.5 meters (nearly five feet) of sea ice for 10 months of the year.

pers and sea stars."

"Occasionally an iceberg may move around and wipe out an unlucky community, but mostly the sea ice provides protection from the storms that rage above, making it a relatively stable environment in which biodiversity can flourish," he said.

Scientists are in Antarctica working on better understanding the impact of acidification on Southern Ocean sea-floor communities under increasing carbon dioxide emissions. Project leader Johnny Stark said a quarter of the carbon dioxide emitted into the atmosphere was absorbed by the ocean, which increases its acidity. "Carbon dioxide is more soluble in cold water and polar waters are acidifying at twice the rate of tropical or temperate regions," he said. "So we expect these ecosystems to be among the first impacted from ocean acidification." — AFP

TWITTER CHIEF TECHNOLOGY OFFICER LEAVING

SAN FRANCISCO: Twitter's chief technology officer on Monday said is leaving the company, his departure adding to a roster of exiting executives at the one-to-many messaging service. Adam Messinger had been with Twitter for five years, most recently heading engineering and products. "I've decided to leave Twitter and take some time off," Messinger said in a tweet, not specifying his plans for the future. Twitter vice president of product Josh McFarland also put out word on Tuesday that he is leaving the company, with plans to join Greylock Partners venture capital firm in Silicon Valley. San Francisco-based Twitter has been striving to boost its ranks of users and revenue.

In an email reply to an AFP inquiry, Twitter said it is "taking steps to streamline and flatten the organization by elevating our engineering, product and design functions, with each area now reporting directly to" co-founder and chief executive Jack Dorsey.

Twitter announced the departure of chief operating officer Adam Bain last month, just weeks after reporting job cuts and a disappointing fiscal quarter. Twitter reported a net loss for the third quarter ended September 30 of \$103 million, compared with a \$132 million loss a year earlier. Revenues meanwhile grew eight percent year-over-year to \$616 million, most of that from advertising.—AFP

RUSSIAN CYBERGANG SCORED MILLIONS IN FAKE-AD SCAM

NEW YORK: A Russian criminal group is running a massive fraud that has been siphoning off millions of digital advertising dollars a day for a couple of months, a firm that specializes in detecting online-ad fraud says. The scam may have cost brands, and potentially media companies, hundreds of millions of dollars.

The New York-based firm White Ops said in a report yesterday that the "Methbot" scam made it appear that hundreds of thousands of people, mostly in the US, were watching real video ads from real companies on more than 6,000 fake websites that mimicked well-known publishers, including CNN, ESPN, Vogue and The New York Times. Nobody was actually watching.

The criminal ring's gains come out of the pockets of companies paying for digital ads and also, potentially, of the websites that could have hosted those ads. White Ops President Eddie Schwartz said he can't put a total value on the amount the Russian group has stolen, because it's not clear when the scam began. But the firm estimates that the scammers were getting \$3 million to \$5 million per day since roughly early October, and

the fraud is still going on.

The revelation of the fraud and ongoing

anxiety about where ad dollars are going could make it harder for legitimate web publishers to make money from ads if brands become more suspicious, said Forrester digital publishing expert Susan Bidel. "It's the advertiser's money that's being stolen, it's the publisher's reputation. It punishes all of publishing," she said.

Brands need to insist that advertisingtechnology platforms and ad agencies show them exactly what they are paying for - where ads end up, Bidel said. Right now, that's difficult to determine because of the number of companies and networks involved in automatically placing digital ads on sites that have ad holes to fill.

Fraud has long been a problem in the roughly \$187 billion global digital-ad market. White Ops, which sells anti-fraud software to ad agencies and other advertising players, estimated in January that "bot" ad fraud would amount to \$7 billion globally this year. The company will put out a 2017 estimate in May. Methbot is "a novel, new approach" to digital-ad fraud that seemingly allowed the scammers to go undetected for longer and make more money, said Cameron Camp, a researcher for IT security firm ESET.—AP

DOES A DOCTOR'S GENDER AFFECT YOUR CHANCE OF SURVIVAL?

CHICAGO: What if your doctor's gender could influence your chance of surviving a visit to the hospital?

A big study of older patients hospitalized for common illnesses raises that provocative possibility - and also lots of



ALABAMA: This Thursday, July 30, 2015, file photo shows an exam room in a hospital. —AP

care from women doctors were more likely to leave the hospital alive than those treated by men.

The differences were small - about 11 percent of patients treated mostly by women died within 30 days of entering the hospital, versus 11.5 percent of those treated by men. But the all-male research team estimated that there would be about 32,000 fewer deaths each year in the US if male physicians performed at the same level as their female peers.

The study didn't probe why there might be these differences in survival. And Dr. Ashish Jha, the lead author, said the study doesn't mean patients should avoid him and all other male physicians.

But he said male doctors could take a cue from women doctors' tendencies that might contribute to better care. According to other research, women doctors are more likely than men to follow treatment guidelines, provide preventive care more often and communicate more with patients.

Jha said that it was important to better understand the reasons behind the

questions. Patients who got most of their differences, and to share that information with all physicians to improve care. Jha, an internist and Harvard Medical School professor, said he has not spoken to his own patients about the study - yet. "As a male physician, I have a stake in this," Jha said.

Study data

The study was published Monday in JAMA Internal Medicine. The researchers looked at data involving more than 1.5 million hospitalizations for Medicare patients aged 65 and older between January 2011 and December 2014. Patients' illnesses included pneumonia, heart failure, intestinal bleeding, urinary infections and lung disease.

All were treated by general internists in the hospital. The researchers compared results in patients who got most or all of their care from women internists with those who got most or all of their

Most patients survived and were sent home within a month of treatment. But in addition to better survival chances, those treated by women doctors were slightly less likely to be re-admitted to the hospital within that first month.

On average, women doctors were in charge of fewer patients and some of their patients weren't as sick as those of male doctors, but the researchers considered those factors and still found a link between doctors' gender and patients' survival differences.

Dr. Lisa Schwartz of the Dartmouth Institute for Health Policy & Clinical Practice said the study doesn't prove whether doctors' sex accounted for the results. "To make a stronger case, you'd need information on doctors' practices in the study," she said. For example, did women physicians give patients with pneumonia antibiotics sooner than men physicians - treatment that could potentially improve survival chances, she said.

For example, did women doctors give patients with pneumonia antibiotics sooner - treatment that could potentially mprove survival chances, she said. Dartmouth policy analyst Dr. H. Gilbert Welch called the results "intriguing" but preliminary and "not something for patients to act on."—AP

AT SOARING RATE, NEPALIS SEEKING JOBS ABROAD COME HOME DEAD

WHILE STILL PROMOTING FOREIGN LABOR

KATHMANDU, Nepal: A tiny young woman crouches just outside the airport, crying softly into her thin shawl. It's cold out, but her sleeping toddler is heavy and warm in her arms.

Travelers swarm around: Himalayan trekkers load up expedition backpacks. A Chinese tour group boards a bus. A dozen flight attendants in crisp blue suits and heels click by. Saro Kumari Mandal. 26. covers her head completely, a bundle of grief. Hundreds of young Nepali men excitedly wave final goodbyes to friends and family. On this day 1,500 will fly out of the Kathmandu airport bound for jobs mostly in Malaysia, Qatar or Saudi Arabia jobs that are urgently needed by the people of this desperately poor country. But on this day, too, six young men will come back in wooden caskets, rolled like suitcases out of baggage claim on luggage carts.

On the wooden lid of one someone has written in black marker: "Human Remains, Balkisun Mandal Khatwe, Male - 26 years - Nepali." Saro's husband

struction boom employs about 1.5 million migrants. The Nepali workers "are comparatively cost effective," says the embassy, and they're experienced at "working in the extreme climatic conditions."The unskilled workers fill a host of global demands: building highways, stadiums and houses in Gulf states and guarding shopping malls, sewing sweatshirts and assembling televisions in Malaysia. Anyone who has bought imported sportswear or electronics, or who plans to go to the 2022 World Cup in Qatar, may be using the products of their labor.

Luckv

Nepali law bans recruiters and employers from charging fees. Qatar, where Balkisun was working, prohibits the fees too. But in reality everyone has to pay for these jobs. The men borrow at 36 percent interest rates from money lenders or sell off family land to get the \$1,100 stake needed for recruiters, airline tickets and more. Conditions vary by

spokeswoman Rama Bhattarai shruqs off the death toll. "I'm not trying to be insensitive but we have sent millions of workers to more than 100 countries, and so yes, sometimes people will die. They die as foreign employees, they die here when a bus goes off a cliff," she says.

Others are more incensed

Krishna Dawadee, acting director of Kathmandu's one-stop work permit center, waves an arm at the hundreds of young men gathered at the service window seeking final work approvals. Outside the gates, life insurance salesmen grab at the prospective workers' arms and sweaters, trying to pull them nto their offices to sell policies.

"These are our youth, draining out from our country," Dawadee says. "I am very much worried about these people. Six weeks after Balkisun Mandal Khatwe made the long journey from his village to the employment office, his wife travels back across the country

knew this guy, and the thing is when you see people coming back in a coffin like this, it's hard," he says. He adds quietly: "I'm leaving for Saudi in 10 days." Tohit is the envy and inspiration of the village. He worked in Malaysia for almost six years sewing clothes for Nike, Lacoste and Columbia Sportswear, saving more than \$20,000. That was enough to build a sturdy, cement two-bedroom house with

People are chronically hungry, living

marginalized in every way: Ethnically, they're from the "untouchable" caste, and

they speak Maithili, a language more

coffin off the truck. Mohammed Tohit, 28,

watches from across the street, then looks

at his hands, the cloudless sky, a distant

mango tree. He wipes a wet cheek. "I

Family members wrestle Balkisun's

common in India, just a few miles south.

The Mandals and their neighbors are

on less than \$1 a day.

plaster walls and a brick foundation. He bought a piece of farmland and a television set. There's a cow staked outside his woven fence, among the goats and chickens. His round-cheeked, 6-month-old daughter, Saieha, is shy in the arms of his wife, Jarina Khatun. "I am scared, sure, but I have no way to earn anything here," he savs. "I have no choice but to leave again."

Balkisun's brother Ramasis, 35, went for work in Dubai but returned three months later with a debilitating mental illness. Bidhya Nanda, 25, the youngest, is still in the Gulf, working as a janitor in Saudi Arabia. Another brother, 30-yearold Ramkisun, flew back from Malaysia, where he was working in factories making Sony and Panasonic products, when he learned of Balkisun's death.

Their father, Kalaru, hates to see his sons go, but has no option: "We are poor and we don't have any way at all to earn money in our village."

The news of his son's death came in a morning phone call two weeks earlier. It seemed impossible. Here's what people sav about Balkisun: He was a good lad. He didn't smoke. He got along with everyone. He was very helpful. He was honest.

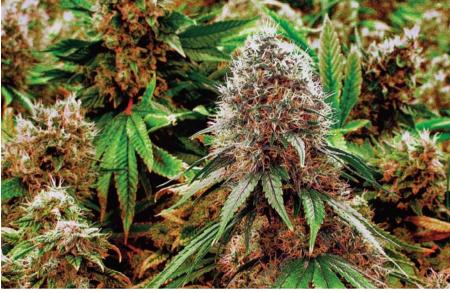
Balkisun was working for Habtoor Leighton Group in Qatar, loading trucks to build new highways. The highway was being built as part of broader infrastructure improvements for the 2022 World Cup, said his supervisor Ganesh Khang Mandal, 48. Dubai-based HLG did not respond to requests for an interview. Australia-based CIMIC, a 45 percent owner of HLG, said in a statement that it did not want to comment.

Saro had chatted with Balkisun through Facebook Messenger just the evening before his death.

Although he confided to friends he was having a difficult time with his job, money and housing, he told Saro that everything was going well. He took a selfie in his yellow work hardhat, eyes grinning through protective sunglasses, his face covered in a blue scarf to fend off the harsh climate. He told her about a big festival that day. "OK, I'll call you tomorrow morning" - the last words her husband said to her.

This is what happened, according to his supervisor: "After work he went to dinner at 7 and bed at 10. In the morning we tried to wake him up but he didn't respond. We took the body to the hospital where they did an autopsy and said it was cardiac arrest." He'd been in Qatar less

Authorities in Nepal say their citizens seem to die abroad more frequently than their equally vulnerable Sri Lankan, Bangladeshi and Indonesian co-workers. but the explanation for the increased mortality has been unclear. "It's usually sleeping disease," said Kumud Khanal, vice president of the Nepal Association of Foreign Employment Agencies, which represents more than 400 registered agents. "We get the report that he was talking with friends in the evening, had dinner and went to bed, and in the morning he was found dead." The deaths are reported as a hypertension problem, he said, like heart attack or cardiac arrest. —AP



ALBION, IllINOIS: This Sept 15, 2015 file photo shows marijuana plants with their buds covered in white crystals at a medical marijuana cultivation center. —AP

US WOMEN INCREASINGLY USE POT **DURING PREGNANCY, STUDY FINDS**

CHICAGO: US women are increasingly using marijuana during pregnancy, sometimes to treat morning sickness, new reports suggest. Though the actual numbers are small, the trend raises concerns because of evidence linking the drug with low birth weights and other

In 2014, almost 4 percent of pregnant women said they'd recently used marijuana, up from 2.4 percent in 2002, according to an analysis of annual drug use surveys.

Dr. Nora Volkow, director of the National Institute on Drug Abuse, said the results raise concerns and urged doctors and other health care providers to avoid recommending the drug for pregnant women. Volkow commented in an editorial published online Monday with the study in the Journal of the American Medical Association.

A separate study in the same journal found that almost 10 percent of adult marijuana users in the United States - 3 million people - have used it at least partly for medical reasons; 20 percent of these users live in states where medical marijuana isn't legal.

Volkow noted that laws legalizing medical marijuana in 29 states and Washington, D.C. do not list pregnancyrelated conditions among allowed uses. But the laws also don't prohibit that use and don't include warnings about possible harms to the fetus, she said.

Strong evidence of harms is limited, but besides low birth weights, newborns whose mothers used marijuana while pregnant may face increased risks for anemia and other problems requiring intensive care. Memory and attention problems also been found in older children whose moms used marijuana in pregnancy, Volkow noted.

How marijuana might lead to those problems is unclear but Volkow said one theory is that it might interfere with formation of nerve cells and circuits in the brain during fetal development.

The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists discourages marijuana use by women who are pregnant or breastfeeding. Both studies analyzed data from annual US government surveys on drug use that are based on participants' self-reporting.

One focused on 200,510 women of reproductive age who participated in the 2002-2014 surveys. Recent use within the past month - among nonpregnant women also increased over those years, from about 6 percent to 9 percent, researchers from Columbia University Medical Center reported.

Doctors "should screen and counsel pregnant women and women contemplating pregnancy about prenatal marijuana use," the researchers said. The other study, led by the drug agency's Dr. Wilson Compton, focused on pastyear marijuana use by nearly 100,000 adults aged 18 and up who participated in the 2013-14 drug survey.

About 13 percent said they had used marijuana; that translates to about 30 million adults. Overall, 90 percent used it for nonmedical reasons only and 6 percent used it only for medical reasons. Prevalence of medical use was higher in states where that use is legal, but the researchers say the results suggest some doctors in other states may not feel bound by restrictions. —AP

SAPTARI DISTRICT, Nepal: In this Wednesday, Nov 23, 2016 photo, a woman breaks down after seeing the body of her son Balkisun Mandal Khatwe, a migrant worker who died in his sleep in Qatar, at Belhi village. —AP

- another victim of a hidden and escalating tragedy.

Promoting foreign labor

The number of Nepali workers going abroad has more than doubled since the country began promoting foreign labor in recent years: from about 220,000 in 2008 to about 500,000 in 2015. Yet the number of deaths among those workers has risen much faster in the same period. One out of every 2,500 workers died in 2008; last year one out of every 500 died, according to an Associated Press analysis of data released by Nepal's Ministry of Labor and Employment.

In total, over 5,000 workers from this small country have died working abroad since 2008- more than the number of US troops killed in the Iraq War. The causes, in many cases, have been mysterious. Natural death, heart attack or cardiac arrest are listed for nearly half the deaths. Most families are notified that their loved ones simply went to bed and never woke up. That's exactly what Saro was told.

But now medical researchers say these deaths fit a familiar pattern: Every decade or so, dozens, or even hundreds, of seemingly healthy Asian men working abroad in poor conditions start dying in their sleep. It happened in the US in the late 1970s, in Singapore about a decade later and more recently in China. The suspected killer even has a name: Sudden Unexplained Nocturnal Death Syndrome. Next year, an international consortium is launching to investigate and hopefully offer solutions. For today's arrivals, they're too late. Nepal exports iron and steel, carpets, some vegetables - but mainly, Nepal exports men. It even advertises them.

"Nepalese workers are well known for their hard work, dedication and loyalty," boasts the Nepalese Embassy website in Doha, Qatar, where a pre-World Cup concountry and employer, but it's not uncommon for workers to find themselves living a dozen or more to a room, sleeping stacked on three-tiered bunks, working 10- to 15-hour days, seven days a week, for years. If they're lucky - and some are - they can send home wads of cash, about \$300 a month. Often, however, they are tricked or cheated out of their earnings. About 10 percent of Nepal's 28 mil-

lion residents are working abroad. They send back more than \$6 billion a year, amounting to about 30 percent of the country's annual revenues. Only Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan are more dependent on foreign earnings. Some come back maimed or dis-

abled, like Salit Mandal, who rolled off a third-level bunk in Malaysia and smashed in his skull. He's in debt, partially paralyzed, and lives with his parents. "I have no idea what I'm going to do, how I'm going to raise them, because I can't move," he says, gazing at his three children. "If my hands and legs could move I would do something, but I can't do anything at all."

His family had pinned their hopes on him after he returned from an earlier stint in Qatar with enough money to build a five-bedroom house. Now his mom takes a visitor aside and says the situation is horrible - Salit can't squat by himself over the pit toilet, she says, and she has to clean him up afterward.

His little brother Jamun Mandal, 24, is next in line. He's abandoned his aspirations of going to college and has paid the recruiting broker. He holds up a passport. "I know it sounds weird to be planning to go, because people die, disappear, they come back in comas," he says, "But what to do?"

Sitting behind her tidy desk at the Department of Foreign Employment, to retrieve his body.

His casket arrives on a 7 p.m. flight. It takes more than three hours to get paperwork sorted out between his barely literate family and the airport bureaucrats who needed a death certificate, identifications, work permits and more.

Finding transport is less complicated: The casket slides easily into a customwelded coffin rack. The government of Nepal arranged to have 10 trucks so equipped after labor exports - and deaths abroad - began to rise.

The badly rutted and cracked road from the Kathmandu airport to Belhi village is closed after dark because too many buses have plunged off the narrow, steep, sharp curves. But under starry skies, the truck was waved past checkpoints by police who spotted the rooftop coffin while warming their hands over small fires. After death, Hindu funerals must take place as soon as possible, hopefully by the next dawn.

Saro and her son, just 3 years old, jolt around the backseat for a precarious eight-hour journey. They jounce in their seats as the truck bottoms out in potholes, jerk side to side as it races around corners.

When the truck reaches Belhi, hundreds of women in traditional saris, men in their work clothes and children pour into the narrow dirt street, tears streaming down their faces. Everyone pushes and shoves to get close to the coffin. Some stand on rooftops. Others crowd a balcony.

Nepal is one of the poorest and least developed countries in the world, and Belhi is one of its poorest places. The Mandals live eight people to a room in one of about 700 mudand-stick homes set among dry, sparse rice paddies. A shared cellphone is passed from house to house.

SALES EXECUTIVE PLEADS GUILTY IN FATAL MENINGITIS OUTBREAK

BOSTON: Two men facing multiple murder charges stemming from a national meningitis outbreak that killed 64 people will be tried separately, a federal judge has ruled.

US District Court Judge Richard Stearns said in his decision last week that he severed the trials of Barry Cadden and Glenn Chin reluctantly because their lawyers plan "antagonistic" defenses and because of an "imbalance of evidence." Cadden was the cofounder and head pharmacist of the New England Compounding Center in Framingham. Chin was supervisory

pharmacist at the now-closed business. A company sales executive, Robert Ronzio, pleaded guilty on Monday to conspiring to defraud the US Food and Drug Administration and is expected to testify at the trials of the other defendants, prosecutors said.

The compounding center used expired ingredients and failed to follow

cleanliness standards, resulting in tainted steroid injections, prosecutors said. More than 750 people in 20 states fell ill in 2012, and 64 died.

Cadden and Chin are each charged with 25 counts of murder and other offenses under federal racketeering laws. Lawyers for both men have said federal prosecutors overreached in charging them with murder. Both have pleaded not guilty and are free on bail.

Cadden's lawyers filed the motion for separate trials this month. The motion remains under seal. Cadden's trial is scheduled to start Jan 4. Chin's trial will begin immediately afterward.

Ronzio, of North Providence, Rhode Island, was the company's national sales director. He admitted the company created numerous work-arounds to make it appear to regulators it was dispensing drugs for patient-specific prescriptions when it was actually making them in bulk. —AP

DOCTOR: COMMON BACTERIA CAUSED THANKSGIVING DINNER DEATHS

bacteria caused an illness that left three people dead and sickened 22 others who attended a dinner at an events hall in the San Francisco suburb of Antioch on Thanksgiving Day, health officials said Tuesday.

Dr. Louise McNitt, deputy health officer with Contra Costa County Health Services, said the deaths and illnesses were caused by bacteria named Clostridium perfringens. "Clostridium perfringens is one of the most common foodborne illnesses in the US It can be found in the human intestine without hurting us, but eating food containing large amounts of this bacteria can cause illness and

ANTIOCH, California: A common food-borne in some cases death," McNitt said. The bacteria can be found in the soil, in people and in animals, she said.

Officials identified the three people who died as Christopher Cappetti, 43, Chooi Keng Cheah, 59, and Jane Evans, 69. All were residents of assisted living facilities in Antioch.

The bacteria was likely found in one of the food items that wasn't cooked to the right temperature or held at the right temperature when eaten, McNitt said. It was not determined which dish contained it.

However, officials said that after extensive interviews, it was determined that those who were sickened and died ate turkey and mashed

of day. Some dishes served at the event, including cooked turkey, were brought to the site after they were prepared in private homes.

McNitt said most strains of the bacteria are harmless and that there is no way to measure what would have been a lethal level in the victims. "This bacteria usually causes fairly mild symptoms, such as stomach cramping and diarrhea that lasts for 6 to 12 hours," said McNitt, adding that it can more adversely impact those with compromised immune systems. "It can vary from person to person as to how they react to illness."

Officials said proper food handling is essen-

potatoes. They also ate around the same time tial to prevent foodborne illness, including cooking foods to proper temperatures; cooling and storing them appropriately if they're not going to be eaten right away; separating raw meats from foods that won't be cooked; storing food properly; and washing hands and cooking surfaces often.

> "We're saddened for the families that suffered losses this holiday season. We encourage anyone planning charity events where food will be served to the public to contact us to understand the permitting process and to learn about food safety," said Dr. Marilyn Underwood, environmental health director for the county. —AP



CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas: In this Friday, Nov 11, 2011 file photo, a mother holds her newborn baby at a hospital. —AP

BRAIN CHANGES SEEN IN PREGNANCY, MAY HELP PREPARING FOR BABY

NEW YORK: Pregnancy affects not only a woman's body: It changes parts of her brain too, a new study says. When researchers compared brain scans of women before and after pregnancy, they spotted some differences in 11 locations. They also found hints that the alterations help women prepare for motherhood.

For example, they might help a mother understand the needs of her infant, Elseline Hoekzema, a study author at Leiden University in the Netherlands, explained via email. The women were also given memory tests, and they showed no signs of decline.

Hoekzema, a neuroscientist, began working on the study while at the Autonomous University of Barcelona in Spain. She and colleagues present the results in a paper released Monday by the journal Nature Neuroscience.

The study includes data on 25 Spanish women scanned before and after their first pregnancies, along with 20 women who brain changes in the pregnancy group emerged from comparisons of those two groups. The results were consistent: A computer program could tell which women had gotten pregnant just by looking at results of the MRI scans. And the changes, first documented an average of 10 weeks after giving birth, were mostly still present two years after childbirth. That's based on follow-up with 11 study participants.

Mother thing

Further work showed they're a motherhood thing: No brain changes were seen in first-time fathers. Based on prior research findings, the researchers think the brain changes happened during pregnancy rather than after childbirth.

What's going on? Hoekzema and colleagues think the differences result from sex hormones that flood the brain of a pregnant woman. In the 11 places, the MRI data indicate reductions in volume of the brain's gray matter, but it's not clear what that means. For example, it could reflect loss of brain cells or a pruning of the places where brain cells communicate, called synapses.

Losing some synapses is not necessarily a bad thing. It happens during a hormonal surge in adolescence, producing more specialized and efficient brain circuits. The researchers suspect that could be happening in the pregnant women.

Some study results hint that such upgrades may prepare a woman for motherhood. One analysis linked brain changes to how strongly a woman felt emotionally attached to her infant. And when women viewed pictures of their babies, several brain regic the most were ones that showed pregnancy-related change.

In addition, the affected brain areas overlapped with circuitry that's involved in figuring out what another person is thinking and feeling. That's a handy ability for a mother tending to an infant.

The idea of synapses being pruned in pregnancy makes a lot of sense, commented Bruce McEwen of Rockefeller University in New York, who studies hormonal effects on the brain but didn't participate in what he called a terrific study.

"The brain is being shaped all the time," he said, and "sex hormones are part of the whole orchestra of processes that change the brain structurally." —AP

POWER, HOPE TO RURAL UGANDA

SOROTI: When power goes out in the rural town of Soroti in eastern Uganda, store manager Hussein Samsudin can only hope it won't go on so long it spoils his fresh goods. Another shop owner, Richard Otekat, 37, has to pay a neighbor hourly to use his generator during blackouts as he can't afford to buy one himself, while others simply go without.

However residents of the town, surrounded by thatched huts, rivers and grasslands, hope a new solar plant, which went into operation last week, will bring an end to their electricity woes. The \$19 million (18-million euro), 33-acre solar plant-the first of its kind in East Africa-can produce 10 megawatts of power that is fed into Uganda's national power grid.

The project is crucial as Uganda seeks new ways to bring electricity to the 80 percent of its 40 millionstrong population that does not have access to power. "We are an agricultural economy, the majority live in rural areas," said Ziria Tibalwa Waako, acting head of the national electricity regulator, Uganda **Electricity Regulatory Authority** (ERA). She said the main source of energy available to most Ugandans is firewood, while others use charcoal and gas, as electricity is just too expensive at around 15 US cents a unit.

It is hoped the introduction of power from the solar plant into the national electricity grid-fed by hydro power and independently run diesel generators-will bring the price down. "Power is costly. It eats into our profit margin," Otekat told AFP. "Unfortunately when power is not there for like six hours that is an automatic loss we are expecting," said fellow shop manager Samsudin, tired of melting icecream and meat going off.

"The plant will provide clean, low-carbon, sustainable electricity to 40,000 homes, schools and businesses in the area," said Christophe Fleurence, vice president of Eren Renewable Energy, one of two private companies operating the plant, funded by EU partners. He said that Soroti, some 300 kilometers (186 miles) from Kampala, was "where the sun is brighter than anywhere in Uganda."

Dangerous wait for power

HUGE SOLAR PLANT BEAMS

Dangerous wait for power Uganda has one of the lowest electrification rates in Africa, according to Climatescope, the clean energy country competitiveness index. While the solar plant could ensure businessmen like Samsudin and Otekat have a more steady power supply, those who aren't yet connected to the national grid or cannot afford electricity at

gy investment had doubled from 2014 to 2015 to reach \$5.2 billion in the 58 emerging markets it surveys.

And Bloomberg New Energy Finance released data last week showing that solar had surpassed wind in becoming the cheapest form of new electricity. Aside from Uganda, Senegal, Mauritania, Rwanda and Kenya are among the sub-Saharan African nations invest-

While Uganda is hoping to triple its generation capacity in the next three years, switching on two other solar plants, Waako says it is smaller, mini-grids that are more affordable to power up the most far-flung

"We recognize that the extension of the grid to the rural poor is not financially viable because of the sparse nature of our popula-



SOROTI: Solar Panels are pictured during the inauguration of the Soroti Power plant in Soroti District about 300 kilometers Northeast of the Capital Kampala, on December 12, 2016. —AFP

all, are unlikely to benefit soon.

And the wait for electricity can prove dangerous. "People use firewood to light their houses because kerosene is very expensive to some households. We had cases of people's homes burnt especially as they slept or when left unattended to,"

said local official Edward Esegu. Many African nations, and developing nations elsewhere in the world, are taking the lead in renewable energies by turning to solar as a first step in their power arsenal. Climatescope said that clean ener-

ing in large-scale solar projects. Kenya is building a 55MW solar plant and Rwanda is working on an 8.5MW solar plant.

Not all to benefit

Meanwhile, consumers who don't want to wait for the government to provide them with energy often buy small solar panels to power their own homes and businesses. "People walked two or more kilometers to charge phones at a fee but slowly some have bought smaller solar panels," said Esegu.

tion," she said. Robert Otala, 50, gave up some of his land for the solar plant, and now lives 300 meters from the shiny panels soaking up the sun. "It is good. It has

come to develop the area," he said. However he is one of several who will be unable to access the power from the plant, as he is not connected to the national electricity grid. "We are in support of these projects but government has to prioritize the needs of the communities hosting such national projects," said local MP Herbert Ariko. —AFP



Kuwait 🗻 Times 248 33 199

















IIT-IIM HOLDS 3RD ANNUAL KUWAIT OPEN QUIZ 2016 CONTEST

IT IIM Alumni Association does it again third year in a row by organizing the biggest quiz event of the Year, in a spectacular style which has won the hearts of all the quizzers in Kuwait. In fact, the onset of winter has become synonymous with this popular Quiz event during which the preparations by the quiz lovers reach highest peaks who defy and overcome all the barriers of age, professional and personal commitments with a sole aim of winning the coveted Mind's honor of this prestigious signature event of this elite IIT-IIM Alumni Association in Kuwait. The Alumni Association of India's Premium Institutions, IITs & IIMs, organized its spectacular annual open quiz program Q8OQ~2016 for the third year running on 17th December, 2016 at the majestic Auditorium of the Gulf University of Science and Technology, GUST, Kuwait. Though in its third year, IIT-IIM Alumni Association's quiz has become very popular among the quiz enthusiasts and general public alike.

This year too, the program popularity rose exponentially to doozy heights and the number of teams reached new scales crossing the high bar set last year in a geometric progression with the enthusiastic participation of over 150 three member teams of quiz cognoscenti and aficionados from all walks of

life, sizes, ages, nationalities including few overseas contestants. The deedy silver sliced shining baldies of baby boomers era, and techno savvy digitally dulled millennials fought with student teams of bubbly budding ankle biters, adolescent avid zany wizards of high schools and universities. The quizmaster too, as always been, was an exception, with his distinctive style of high quality quizzing, great sense of humor, impromptu quick wit and affable amazing personal presence. The quiz participants and the avid enthusiastic audience which included fair share of girls of the houses, were enthralled with a great range of interesting

questions posed. With unique format aided by efficient electronic gadgets and software systems, event was conducted in a flawlessly

smooth seamless fashion. The Association President, Peeyush Jain welcomed the dignitaries, quizmaster, and the enthusiastic quiz fraternity and thanked all for making this event a grand success. The Indian Ambassador to Kuwait, His Excellency Sunil Jain in his inaugural speech recalled his nostalgic moments with his alma mater of IIT-Delhi and reaffirmed the grueling at these prestigious IITs prepares them to perform

and excel in whatever field they take up. All the dignitaries were felicitated with the Mementoes. The Program ended with a vote of thanks proposed by General Secretary of the Association Sanjay Fuller. He thanked the Indian Ambassador to Kuwait, HE Sunil Jain and Mrs Jain for gracing the occasion both in his official capacity as well as an avid quiz buff and Alumni member. He further appreciated and thanked all the sponsors and guests. He specially thanked GUST for providing the University Auditorium as the venue of this event with all facilities. Last but not the least; he appreciated the efforts of all the members of the Alumni Association, especially the Core Committee members, for putting up a grand show.

SCORPIONS BEAT FRIENDS KUWAIT IN THRILLING Q7KPL SEASON 8 FINAL

■he Grand final of the Q7KPL season 8 took place on 16th December 2016 afternoon at the Jabriya Cricket Ground in Jabriya. It was played between the tournament's two big teams Scorpions and Friends Kuwait and in the neck to neck final Scorpions won by 19 runs. In the morning,

that of South Indian cricket star Sagar Bhandari. Scorpions were making slow progress and were 49 for 2 from 7 overs. Shailesh Kanchan was bowled the following over by Nilantha Kumara - the Malinga of Friends Kuwait - for 25 runs. By the halfway mark, Scorpions were 54 for 3 with Johnson and Nadeem on the



Scorpions overcame Q7 Kuwait to reach the finals & Friends Kuwait defeated Friday Court to reach the ultimate match played at TCR Ground and Teams Abbasiya ground respectively.

Scorpions won the toss and elected to bat first. Opener Ajaya Kumar was bowled in the second over by Mohammed Arif. By the time the second wicket had fallen,

crease. Nadeem scored 33 from just 18 balls with 3 huge sixes and got out in Gayasinghe Nihals over. Raess Majeeds quick 24 with 2 sixes helps Scorpions to reach a total of 123 for 7 wickets.

Friends Kuwaits start was equally ignominious with Gayasinghe Nihal being caught by Shailesh in Hasan Kazis over. By the end of the 8th over, Friends Kuwait were 58 for 2,

with Mohammed Sadik on 33 and icon player Rajesh Poojary on 5. Poojary was dismissed in the next over for the same score, being caught by Sharath in the bowling of SagarBandari. The turning point of the match was Umer Khans out in Raees Majeeds over, Umer Khan clean bowled by Raees for 1 run. After Umer Khans dismissal of Sadik played aggressively and scored 19 runs from Sagars over but at the other end wickets was falling. At the end Sadik got run out while trying for second run, and he scored 65 runs with 5 huge sixes. In the last over Friends Kuwait all out for 104 and Scorpions won by 19 runs.

Raees Majeed of Scorpions got Man of the Final award for his allrounder performance with 24 runs and 3 wickets. Nithin Saldanha of Desert Bulls got Man of the Series award of an Air ticket from Eternity Tours and Travels. All the Top 10 Bowlers and Batsmans got award and distributed by the Guests.

Q7 Mobile partners Hawas, Noushad, Grand hyper Regional manager AyyoobKechery, Mohammed Kunhi, Eternity Travels Branch in charge Jerry George, Winners Int'l Director Faisal M ahmad were attend the prize distribution. The KPL committee members Sameeulla, Niyas and Shabeer handed over the mementos for the guests and Shuaib controlled the prize distribution event.











BHARATIYA VIDYA BHAVAN CELEBRATES 'SWARA SANDHYA'

he exceptional school of Kuwait basks yet again a novel and noble cause, as it traverses in its decennial year of its existence in the Middle East with its launch of musical extravaganza on Friday, 16th December 2016 at the SIS auditorium in Jleeb Al Shyoukh with the vision to nurture the philharmonic lovers with quality music and help the underprivileged by soulful music through music therapy.

The unique collaboration of Indian Educational School and Smart Indian School won huge plaudits from the visitors as they christened SWARA SANDHYA with an endeavor to train and form Bhavans Band and to facilitate and felicitate the unsung heroes. As rightly said "we make a living by what we get but we make a life by what we give", the Bhavans family

proves it to be a propitious one in this

age of metamorphosis. The lighting of the ceremonial lamp conjointly performed by the legend and the visionary Chairman N.K. Ramachandran Menon, the Principals and Vice-Principals of IES and SIS, marked the significance and solemnity of the occasion. Mr Mahesh lyer Principal, SIS, proudly introduced the host of the evening - Mr Prem Kumar, Principal, IES who later introduced the co-host Ms Meenakshi, HOD - Social Science, IES on stage who received thunderous applauses intermittently as they gave the audience the most far-reaching crescendo in presenting

a creative anchoring. The landmark achieved the largest audience ever for a live-streamed event. This opera witnessed music

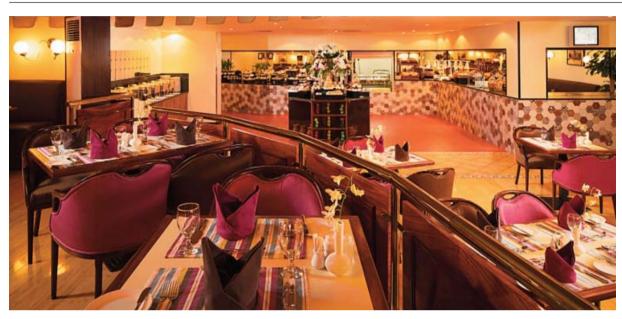
artists in the making of the future singers. The program paved its own unique platform to display young dandy artists and to empower attendees with positive and supportive messages so as to send the same to the family of all ages. The commendable contribution of parent community left the faculty of Bhavans in awe. The teaching fraternity kept the flag flying high as they equally contributed to the rhapsodic and euphonious entertainment. The concertgoers truly enjoyed themselves as they remembered listening to good old days karaoke based music and some contemporary songs in Tamil, Malayalam, Hindi and English with an amalgamation of solos and duet. The seamless blending was indeed a howling success.





AMIR HONORS PROFESSOR

is Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah honored Associate Professor at the Environment Health Dept at the Health Science College of the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training Dr Haleema Al-Kandary, during the distribution of Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Science, as she was the production award for 2016 due to her scientific efforts.









CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR AT INN & GO KUWAIT PLAZA HOTEL

NN & Go Kuwait plaza hotel will be at the center of Kuwait Christmas and New Year celebrations this year, the hotel is offering a luxurious room package, festive menus. On New Year's Eve, it will host a

stunning Countdown Party. INN & GO Kuwait plaza hotel with a prime location in Kuwait's most established business district. The hotel's 154 comfortable and modern rooms and suites are elegantly designed with classic inspiration and contemporary touches, and are the most spacious in the city. Two restaurants will showcase innovative and superlative cuisine Al Dallah oriental and Arirang Korean, together with 2 cafes triangle for shisha lovers and le café for quite break. In addition, the diverse meeting and event spaces will bring a level of sophistication and elegance to any occasion.













KGL Logistics sponsored a Thanksgiving dinner hosted recently for more than 200 US soldiers in Kuwait and families of US embassy staff members.

01:00 In Fear

04:15 Freezer

11:45 Con Air

06:00 Surrogates

08:00 Heatstroke

15:30 Heatstroke

17:15 Ladder 49

10:00 The Mark: Redemption

19:15 Sherlock Holmes 21:30 Avengers: Age Of Ultron

ON MOVIES HID

COMEDY

02:00 Hanging Up 04:00 Bill & Ted's Bogus Journey

06:00 Take Care
08:00 The Single Moms Club
10:00 Bill & Ted's Bogus Journey

15:45 The Single Moms Club

00:00 Revenge For Jolly!

12:00 Hanging Up

17:45 The A-Team

22:00 Road Trip

20:00 Talladega Nights

13:45 Overboard

Surrogates

OM MOVIES HD

ACTION

The Man With The Iron Fists

CRAIG SHEFFER SONYA COULING GARY DANIELS IVAN KAMARAS ERIC ROBERTS



00:50 River Monsters: Lair Of Giants Bondi Vet

02:40 Dr. Jeff: Rocky Mountain Vet 03:35 Tanked Ten Deadliest Snakes 05:15 Gator Boys 06:02 River Monsters: Lair Of

Giants 06:49 Dr. Jeff: Rocky Mountain Vet 07:36 Swamp Brothers Groomer Has It 09:15 Dr. Jeff: Rocky Mountain Vet 10:10 Venom Hunter

Tanked 12:00 Groomer Has It

12:55 Bondi Vet Bondi Vet 13:50 Dr. Jeff: Rocky Mountain Vet 14:45 Gator Boys Venom Hunter

16:35 Tanked 17:30 Ten Deadliest Snakes Monster Croc Invasion 19:20 Wildest Islands Of Indonesia

20:15 Tanked 21:10 Ten Deadliest Snakes 22:05 Man, Cheetah, Wild 23:00 Wildest Islands Of Indonesia

crime &investigation

00:00 The Haunting Of... 01:00 Psychic Kids 02:00 50 Ways To Kill Your Lover 03:00 My Crazy Ex 04:00 The Haunting Of...

05:00 Psychic Kids 06:00 50 Ways To Kill Your Lover 07:00 The First 48 08:00 Nightmare In Suburbia 09:00 Homicide Hunter

10:00 It Takes A Killer 10:30 It Takes A Killer 11:00 Nightmare In Suburbia 15:00 The First 48 16:00 Fred Dinenage: Murder

Casebook 17:00 Crimes That Shook Britain 18:00 Deadly Wives

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 Homicide Hunter Discovery

00:30 World's Toughest Jobs 01:20 Dogs: The Untold Story 02:10 Wildest Africa 03:00 Destroyed In Seconds 03:25 Destroyed In Seconds 03:50 Ultimate Survival

04:40 How It's Made 05:05 How It's Made 05:30 World's Toughest Jobs 06:20 Mythbusters 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 What Could Possibly Go Wrong? 10:20 Mythbusters

11:10 Prehistoric 12:00 Prehistoric 12:50 Prehistoric 13:55 The Liquidator 14:20 Railroad Alaska 15:10 Deadliest Job Interview

16:00 Deadliest Catch 16:50 Cuban Chrome 17:40 Wheeler Dealers 18:30 How Do They Do It? 18:55 How Do They Do It? 19:20 Deadliest Job Interview

23:30 Cuban Chrome

01:00 Ancient Aliens

20:10 Storage Hunters UK 20:35 The Liquidator 21:00 Salvage Hunters 21:50 Marooned With Ed Stafford 22:40 The Return Of The Monster

00:00 In Search Of Aliens

America's Book Of Secrets 03:00 Ancient Discoveries 03:50 Warriors 04:40 Last Days Of The Nazis 05:30 In Search Of Aliens 06:20 America's Book Of Secrets

The Universe 08:00 Ancient Aliens 09:00 America's Book Of Secrets 10:00 Ancient Discoveries 11:00 How The States Got Their Shape

12:00 Heroes Of War 13:00 In Search Of Aliens 14:00 Ancient Aliens 15:00 America's Book Of Secrets 16:00 Ancient Discoveries 17:00 How The States Got Their Shape

18:00 Heroes Of War 19:00 Ancient Aliens America's Book Of Secrets 21:00 Ancient Discoveries 22:00 Warriors 23:00 Engineering Disasters

00:40 Killer Instinct With Chris

01:30 A Crime To Remember 02:20 Suspicion 03:10 Murder Among Friends 04:00 Killer Instinct With Chris

04:48 I Almost Got Away With It 05:36 Tabloid With Jerry Springer 06:24 Beauty Queen Murders 07:12 Blood Relatives 08:00 I'd Kill For You

08:50 I Almost Got Away With It 09:40 Tabloid With Jerry Springer 10:30 Beauty Queen Murders 11:20 Blood Relatives 12:10 Disappeared

13:00 I'd Kill For You 13:50 I Almost Got Away With It 14:40 Tabloid With Jerry Springer 15:30 Beauty Queen Murders 16:20 Blood Relatives

17:10 Swamp Murders 18:00 I'd Kill For You 18:50 I Almost Got Away With It 19:40 Tabloid With Jerry Springer 20:30 Beauty Queen Murders

21:20 Blood Relatives 22:10 | Am Homicide 23:00 The Perfect Murder 23:50 Nowhere To Hide

12:10 Austin & Ally 12:35 Austin & Ally 13:00 Liv And Maddie 13:25 Liv And Maddie Shake It Up 14:15 Shake It Up 14:40 Dog With A Blog 15:05 Dog With A Blog Good Luck Charlie 15:55 Good Luck Charlie 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 The Suite Life On Deck 19:25 Disney Mickey Mouse 19:30 Austin & Ally 19:55 Descendants Wicked World 20:00 Backstage 20:25 Tsum Tsum Shorts Elena Of Avalor 20:55 Best Friends Whenever 21:20 Jessie

21:45 Jessie

Teenage Witch

Teenage Witch

00:10 Hank Zipzer 00:35 Binny And The Ghost

01:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A

02:15 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch

03:05 Binny And The Ghost 03:30 Violetta

04:20 Sabrina Secrets Of A

04:45 Sabrina Secrets Of A

05:35 Binny And The Ghost

Tsum Tsum Shorts

07:55 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug

The Ultimate Christmas

Violetta

01:45 The Hive

Teenage Witch

02:40 Hank Zipzer

04:15 The Hive

Teenage Witch

Teenage Witch 05:10 Hank Zipzer

06:00 Violetta 06:45 The Hive

06:50 Mouk 07:00 Dog With A Blog 07:25 Dog With A Blog

And Cat Noir

09:15 Jessie

09:40 Jessie

10:05 Jessie

10:30

08:20 Elena Of Avalor

08:50 Liv And Maddie

08:45 Star Darlings



22:35 H2O: Just Add Water

23:00 Binny And The Ghost 23:25 Sabrina Secrets Of A

23:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A

00:00 Doc McStuffins 00:30 Minnie's Bow-Toons 00:35 Zou 00:50 Loopdidoo

01:05 Art Attack 01:30 Henry Hugglemonster 02:00 Zou 02:15 Loopdidoo

MORTENŠEŇ

22:00 Miles From Tomorrow 22:30 Miles From Tomorrow 23:00 The Adventures Of The Disney Fairies



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 08:35 Danger Mouse 09:00 Mighty Med: How The Mighty Med Have Fallen 09:50 Kirby Buckets

10:20 Kirby Buckets 10:45 Gravity Falls 11:10 Gamer's Guide To Pretty

"A FILM OF CLASS" ★★★★

FROM THE PRODUCERS OF

THE TALENTED MR RIPLEY

AND THE WRITER OF

DRIVE

AND ISAAC

TINKER TAILOR SOLDIER SPY

DUNST

A MYSTERIOUS ENCOUNTER. A DANGEROUS PAST. A DEADLY SECRET

THE MARK: REDEMPTION ON OSN MOVIES ACTION HD 08:55 Banger Boys 09:45 Banger Boys

15:25 Wineroads

15:50 Lucky Chow

16:45 Grandma's Boy

17:15 Grandma's Boy

19:05 What's For Sale?

19:30 Wineroads

20:00 Lucky Chow

20:50 Grandma's Boy

21:15 Grandma's Boy

00:20 Killer Dragons

06:30 Making Panda

The Invaders

09:15 Big Baboon House 10:10 Extreme Animal Babies

12:00 Life On The Barrier Reef

Grizzly Cauldron

15:40 Animals Behaving Badly

17:30 Extreme Animal Babies

World's Weirdest

20:10 Animals Behaving Badly

21:00 The Monster Project

The Monster Project

How Human Are You?

14:45 How Human Are You?

12:55 Original Fight Club

01:10 Animals Gone Wild 02:00 Clouded Leopard

Making Panda 03:45 The Invaders 04:40 Make You Laugh Out Loud

Clouded Leopard

Make You Laugh Out Loud

World's Creepiest Killers

Dishes

16:20 My Restaurant In India

17:40 Miguel's Tropical Kitchen 18:10 Around The World In 80

20:25 My Restaurant In India

21:40 Miguel's Tropical Kitchen 22:05 Around The World In 80

22:55 Food Lover's Guide To The

NAT GEO

E MARK

REDEMPTION

Time Team 12:15 Ice Road Truckers 13:05 Ice Road Truckers 13:55 Counting Cars 14:20 Counting Cars

Shipping Wars

10:35 Shipping Wars

14:45 Fifth Gear 15:35 Pawn Stars 16:00 American Pickers 16:50 Storage Wars: Best Of 17:15 Storage Wars: Best Of

17:40 Swamp People 18:30 Time Team 19:20 American Pickers 20:10 Pawn Stars

20:35 Pawn Stars 21:00 Forged In Fire 21:50 Billion Dollar Wreck 22:40 Time Team



00:10 Masterpiece With Alan Titchmarsh 01:00 Emmerdale 01:30 Coronation Street 02:00 Coronation Street 02:30 Cash Trapped 03:25 Jericho 04:20 Royal S Royal Stories

04:50 Royal Stories 05:15 The Doctor Blake Mysteries 06:15 Masterpiece With Alan Titchmarsh 07:05 Cash Trapped 08:00 Jericho

Royal Stories 09:30 Royal Stories 10:00 The Doctor Blake Mysteries Masterpiece With Alan Titchmarsh 11:50 Cash Trapped

Emmerdale 13:15 Coronation Street 13:45 Coronation Street 14:15 Masterpiece With Alan Titchmarsh 15:10 Cash Trapped

Big Star's Little Star 16:55 Gino's Hidden Italy 17:20 Tracey Ullman's Show 17:50 The Doctor Blake Mysteries 18:50 Emmerdale 19:15 Coronation Street

Coronation Street 20:10 Cash Trapped 21:00 Big Star's Little Star Gino's Hidden Italy 22:20 More Tales From Northumberland With Robson...

22:50 Emmerdale 23:15 Coronation Street 23:40 Coronation Street

people E

00:10 My Restaurant In India 00:35 My Restaurant In India 01:00 Food Lover's Guide To The Planet

01:25 A Is For Apple 01:50 Lee Chan's World Food Tour 02:15 Food School 02:40 What's For Sale? 03:05 What's For Sale?

03:30 Wineroads 03:55 Lucky Chow 04:20 My Restaurant In India 04:45 Grandma's Boy 05:10 Grandma's Boy 05:35 Miguel's Tropical Kitchen

06:00 Around The World In 80

06:50 Food Lover's Guide To The Planet 07:15 A Is For Apple 07:40 Lee Chan's World Food Tour 08:05 Food School 08:30 What's For Sale?

09:20 Wineroads 09:45 Lucky Chow 10:10 My Restaurant In India 10:35 Grandma's Boy Grandma's Boy 11:25 Miguel's Tropical Kitchen 11:50 Around The World In 80

08:55 What's For Sale?

12:40 Food Lover's Guide To The Planet 13:05 A Is For Apple 13:35 Lee Chan's World Food Tour14:00 Food School 14:30 What's For Sale?

14:55 What's For Sale?

21:50 Extreme Animal Babies 22:40 World's Weirdest23:30 Life On The Barrier Reef

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC CHANNEL

00:10 Desperate Hours 00:35 Desperate Hours 01:00 Years Of Living Dangerously

02:55 Startalk 03:50 Desperate Hours 04:15 Desperate Hours

04:45 Chasing UFOs 05:40 Strippers: Cars For Cash 06:35 Beyond Magic With DMC 07:30 Inside Turkish Airlines 08:25 Mega Factories

09:20 Chasing UFOs 10:15 Explorer 11:10 WW2 Hell Under The Sea 12:05 Locked Up Abroad 13:00 Mega Factories

14:00 Megastructures

15:00 Beyond Magic With DMC 16:00 Hitler's Jurassic Monsters 17:00 WW2 Hell Under The Sea 18:00 Locked Up Abroad 19:00 Taboo 20:00 Hitler's Jurassic Monsters

20:50 WW2 Hell Under The Sea 21:40 Locked Up Abroad 22:30 Taboo

00:00 The Last Kingdom 01:00 Marvel's Agents Of

02:00 Scream Queens

04:00 Good Morning America

03:00 The Strain

06:00 Prison Break

09:00 C.S.I. Cvber

12:00 Shark Tank

10:00 Prison Break

07:00 The Amazing Race

11:00 Marvel's Agents Of

19:00 Once Upon A Time

13:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show

14:00 The Amazing Race15:00 Live Good Morning America

17:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show

OM FIRST HID

COMEDY

S.H.I.E.L.D.

08:00 Castle

S.H.I.E.L.D.

18:00 Castle

20:00 Blindspot

22:00 Empire

21:00 Lethal Weapon

00:30 Cougar Town

01:30 Silicon Valley

02:00 Silicon Valley

Philadelphia

Jimmy Fallon

08:00

06:00 The Grinder

02:30 It's Always Sunny In

03:00 Last Man Standing

04:30 The Tonight Show Starring

03:30 Baby Daddy 04:00 Better With You

05:30 10 Items Or Less

08:30 10 Items Or Less

09:30 Truth Be Told

10:00 Dr. Ken 10:30 Men At Work

13:30 Men At Work

14:00 Baby Daddy

14:30 Truth Be Told 15:00 Dr Ken

15:30 Cougar Town

19:30 Dr. Ken

Jimmy Fallon

Philadelphia

21:00 Cougar Town

21:30 Cougar Town

22:00 Silicon Valley

22:30 Silicon Valley

23:00 It's Always Sunny In

Jimmy Fallon

09:00 Last Man Standing

Better With You

11:00 The Tonight Show Starring

16:00 Cougar Town 16:30 My Big Fat Greek Life 17:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers

18:00 Last Man Standing 18:30 The Last Man On Earth

20:00 The Tonight Show Starring

23:30 Late Night With Seth Meyers

12:00 My Big Fat Greek Life 12:30 Better With You

OM MOVIES OM FIRST HD 00:45 Cocaine Cowboys: Reloaded

03:15 Fury 05:30 Monkey Kingdom 07:00 Tracks 09:00 I'll Follow You Down

11:00 Monkey Kingdom 12:30 Days Of Heaven 14:30 Escobar: Paradise Lost 17:00 I'll Follow You Down

19:00 Erin Brockovich 21:15 Along Came A Spider 23:00 Taking Lives

OM MOVIES HD

01:00 Lila & Eve 03:00 The SpongeBob Movie: Sponge Out Of Water 05:00 Preggoland 07:00 Infinitely Polar Bear 09:00 The Two Faces Of January 11:00 Jackie & Rvan 13:00 McFarland, USA

15:30 The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel 17:30 The Walk

20:00 The Transporter: Refueled 22:00 Exposed

OM MOVIES HD

KIDS

01:00 Cher Ami 02:45 Virus Attack The First Antivirus

04:30 Memory Loss 06:00 Baby Geniuses And The Space Baby 07:45 Bolts And Blip 09:30 Baby Geniuses And The

Treasures Óf Egypt 06:30 Men At Work 07:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers 11:00 The Olsen Gang In Deep **Trouble** 12:45 Virus Attack The First

Antivirus 14:30 Miffy The Movie 16:00 Barnyard

18:00 Baby Geniuses And The Treasures Óf Egypt 20:00 Pim And Pom: The Big Adventure 21:45 Miffy The Movie

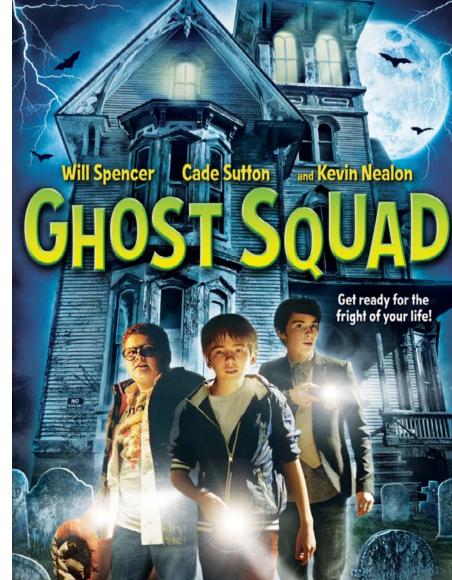
23:15 Barnyard

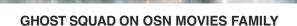
OM MOVIES HD **FAMILY**

01:00 American Girl: Isabelle Dances Into The Spotlight 03:00 Ghost Squad 05:00 Jingle All The Way 2 07:00 Houba! On The Trail Of Marsupilami 09:00 Christmas Trade

11:00 Jingle All The Way 2 13:00 Doctor Proctor's Fart Powder 15:00 Minions 17:00 Oz The Great And Powerful 19:15 American Girl: Saige Paints

The Sky 21:00 It Takes Two 23:00 Minions







How The Universe Works 18:40 What Could Possibly Go Wrong? How It's Made 19:55 How It's Made

20:20 Mythbusters Secret Space Escapes 22:00 How The Universe Works 22:50 Destroyed In Seconds

Destroyed In Seconds 23:40 Ultimate Survival

00:20 Wheeler Dealers 01:10 Blue Collar Backers 02:00 Incredible Engineering Blunders: Fixed

02:50 Sydney Harbour 03:40 Cuban Chrome 04:30 The Liquidator 05:00 How Do They Do It? 05:30 How Do They Do It? 06:00 Deadliest Catch

06:50 Wheeler Dealers 07:40 Cuban Chrome 08:30 Deadliest Job Interview 09:20 The Liquidator 09:45 How Do They Do It? 10:10 How Do They Do It?

11:25 Incredible Engineering Blunders: Fixed 12:15 Sydney Harbour 13:05 How Do They Do It? 13:30 Storage Hunters UK

10:35 Blue Collar Backers



World End?

03:10 How Do They Do It? 03:35 Food Factory 04:00 Penn & Teller Tell A Lie 04:48 Prototype This 05:36 Curiosity: How Will The

06:24 Weird Or What? 07:12 How Do They Do It? 07:36 Food Factory 08:00 How Do They Do It? 08:26 Prototype This 09:14 Weird Or What?

10:02 Penn & Teller Tell A Lie 10:50 How Do They Do It? 11:14 Food Factory 11:38 Curiosity: How Will The

World End? 12:26 Prototype This 13:14 Weird Or What? 14:02 How Do They Do It? 14:26 Food Factory 14:50 Penn & Teller Tell A Lie

15:38 Curiosity: How Will The World End? 16:26 Prototype This 17:14 Weird Or What? 18:02 Penn & Teller Tell A Lie 18:50 The Big Brain Theory

19:40 Weird Or What? 20:30 How To Build... Everything 20:55 How To Build... Everything 21:20 How Do They Do It? 21:45 Food Factory

18:30 Goldie & Bear 19:00 Jake And The Never Land Pirates 19:30 Little Mermaid 22:10 Race To Escape 20:00 PJ Masks 23:00 How To Build... Everything 20:30 Sofia The First 23:25 How To Build... Everything 21:00 Jake And The Never Land 23:50 Time Warp

THE TWO FACES OF JANUARY ON OSN MOVIES HD

DISCOVERY

science

03:00 Calimero

03:30 Loopdidoo

03:45 Art Attack

04:25 Calimero

04:45 Loopdidoo

05:00 Art Attack

06:00 Loopdidoo

06:50 Calimero

07:20 Loopdidoo 07:35 Art Attack

Calimero

Art Attack

Henry Hugglemonster

Mickey Mouse Clubhouse

08:30 Sheriff Callie's Wild West 09:00 Goldie & Bear

Doc McStuffins

Doc McStuffins

Sofia The First

Little Mermaid

Sofia The First

The Lion Guard

Sofia The First

Doc McStuffins

The Lion Guard

13:30 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse

14:00 Jake And The Never Land

16:00 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse

The Adventures Of The

11:30 The Lion Guard 12:00 Doc McStuffins

14:30 Doc McStuffins

17:30 PJ Masks

Disney Fairies

10:30 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse

05:35

05:50 Zou

06:15

07:00 Zou

08:00

09:30

10:00

11:00

12:30

13:00

Pirates

15:00

15:30

16:30

17:00

18:00

03:15 Zou

Much Everything 11:35 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything 12:00 Counterfeit Cat 04:10 Henry Hugglemonster 12:30 K.C. Undercover 12:55 K.C. Undercover 13:20 Star Wars Freemaker Adventures 05:25 Henry Hugglemonster

> 14:15 Lab Rats 14:40 Counterfeit Cat 15:05 K.C. Undercover 15:30 Atomic Puppet 15:55 Lab Rats

All Villains 18:05 Disney Mickey Mouse 18:10 Supa Strikas 18:35 Supa Strikas 19:00 Star Wars Freemaker Adventures 19:25 Gamer's Guide To Pretty

20:45 Mighty Med 21:10 Pickle And Peanut

00:20 Fifth Gear 01:10 American Pickers 02:00 Storage Wars: Best Of 02:25 Storage Wars: Best Of 02:50 Fifth Gear 03:40 Fifth Gear 04:30 Pawn Stars Best Of 05:00 Time Team

Storage Wars Texas

HISTORY

06:00 Swamp People 06:50 Ax Men 07:40 Ice Road Truckers

13:45 Lab Rats 14:10 Disney Mickey Mouse 14:50 Star vs The Forces Of Evil

16:25 Danger Mouse 16:50 Future-Worm! 17:15 Mighty Med: The Mother Of

Much Everything 19:55 K.C. Undercove 20:20 Counterfeit Cat



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Kuwait Times



KNCC PROGRAMME FROM THURSDAY TO WEDNESDAY (22/12/2016 TO 28/12/2016)

SHARQIA-1		NOTHU+FRI+SAT	
SING	12:15 PM	MOANA	2:45 PM
SING	2:30 PM	MOANA	5:15 PM
SING	4:45 PM	al maa wa al khoudrah wa al wajeh <i>A</i>	AL HASSAN
SING	7:00 PM	7:45 PM	
PASSENGERS	9:15 PM	al maa wa al khoudrah wa al wajeh <i>i</i>	AL HASSAN
PASSENGERS	11:45 PM	10:00 PM	
		COLLATERAL BEAUTY	12:15 AM
SHARQIA-2			
PASSENGERS	12:30 PM	FANAR-2	
PASSENGERS	3:00 PM	SING	11:45 AM
MOANA	5:30 PM	SING -3D	2:00 PM
PASSENGERS	8:00 PM	SING	4:15 PM
PASSENGERS	10:30 PM	SING	6:30 PM
PASSENGERS	1:00 AM	ROGUE ONE:A STAR WARS STORY	8:45 PM
		ROGUE ONE:A STAR WARS STORY	11:30 PM
SHARQIA-3			
DANGAL-Hindi	12:45 PM	FANAR-3	
MOANA	4:00 PM	ROGUE ONE:A STAR WARS STORY	12:45 PM
DANGAL-Hindi	6:15 PM	13 DAYS	3:30 PM
ROGUE ONE:A STAR WARS STORY	9:30 PM	ROGUE ONE:A STAR WARS STORY	5:30 PM
PASSENGERS	12:15 AM	13 DAYS	8:15 PM
		COLLATERAL BEAUTY	10:30 PM
MUHALAB-1		13 DAYS	12:45 AM
MOANA	1:00 PM		
THU+SAT		FANAR-4	
PASSENGERS	1:00 PM	PASSENGERS	12:00 PM
NOTHU+FRI+SAT		PASSENGERS	2:30 PM
MOANA	3:30 PM	PASSENGERS	5:00 PM
DANGAL-Hindi	6:00 PM	PASSENGERS	7:30 PM
DANGAL-Hindi	9:15 PM	PASSENGERS	10:00 PM
PASSENGERS	12:45 AM	PASSENGERS	12:30 AM
MUHALAB-2		FANAR-5	
SING	11:30 AM	MOANA	11:30 AM
SING	1:45 PM	DANGAL-Hindi	2:00 PM
SING	4:00 PM	DANGAL-Hindi	5:15 PM
SING	6:15 PM	DANGAL-Hindi	8:30 PM
ROGUE ONE:A STAR WARS STORY	8:30 PM	DANGAL-Hindi	11:45 PM
DANGAL-Hindi	11:15 PM		
		MARINA-1	
MUHALAB-3		ROGUE ONE:A STAR WARS STORY	12:30 PM
PASSENGERS	11:30 AM	MOANA	3:30 PM
PASSENGERS	2:00 PM	MOANA	6:00 PM
PASSENGERS	4:30 PM	AL MAA WA AL KHOUDRAH WA AL WAJEH A	AL HASSAN
THU+FRI+SAT		8:15 PM	
MOANA	4:30 PM	PASSENGERS	10:30 PM
NOTHU+FRI+SAT		PASSENGERS	1:00 AM
PASSENGERS	7:00 PM		
PASSENGERS	9:30 PM	MARINA-2	
PASSENGERS	12:05 AM	SING	12:45 PM
		SING	3:00 PM
FANAR-1		SING	5:15 PM
MOANA	12:15 PM	SING	7:30 PM
THU+SAT		ROGUE ONE:A STAR WARS STORY	9:45 PM
COLLATERAL BEAUTY	12:15 PM	ROGUE ONE:A STAR WARS STORY	12:30 AM

APARTMENT FOR RENT

1. AL MAHBUOLLA AREA

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2016

◆ Sea View • Featured Site

2. AL JABRIYA AREA

- AL JABRIYA ARE
 ★ Featured Site
- ◆ Near Royale Hayat Hospital

3. AL SALMIYA (Hamad Al Mubarak Street)

◆ Features Site, Near from Al Mowasat Hospital, near from seaside.

4. AL SALMIYA (Amman Street)

◆ Featured Site, near from Fifth Ring Road

All Apartments with Furnished and Unfurnished For Inquiries, please call: 96671717 - 95554549



Automated enquiry about the Civil ID card is

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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

13:45

FOR SALE

ACCOMMODATION

For Filipino Bachelor ONLY near Big Jamiya Farwaniya. Available on December 25, Contact 66826412 or 97512782 22-12-2016

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)

SITUATION WANTED

Purchase Manager experience 20 years in constructions field, seeking for job in one of the leading Co. Tel: 99061637. (C 5248) 18-12-2016

CHANGE OF NAME

I HATIM S/o MANSUR, holder of Indian Passport No. K8514434 and Civil ID No. 291072601473 has changed my name to HATIM MANSUR NAJMI, hereinafter in all my dealing and documents I will be known by name of HATIM MANSUR NAJMI. (C 5249) 17-12-2016

I, Chejalla Nageshwar Raju (old name) S/o. Chejarla Pedda Chengal Raju, R/o. H.No. 2/150, Bommavaram (V) & (P), Obulavaripalli (M), Y.S.R. Kadapa, Dist., A.P. hereby state that I have changed my name as CHEJARLA NAGESWAR RAJU (new name). (C 5247) 13-12-2016



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Kaju Masala Rose Cookies Rice Ladoo Nevri Assorted Cookies

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Istanbul

PRAYER TIMINGS

Fajr:	05:13
Shorook	06:38
Duhr:	11:46
Asr:	14:36
Maghrib:	16:54
Isha:	18:16

155

KAC



13:50



KAC

788

Jeddah

Arrival Flights on Thursday 22/12/2016

Directorate General of Civil Aviation Home Page (www.kuwait-airport.com.kw)

DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

Departure Flights on Thursday 22/12/2016

A : !	_	Davida	T:	FFC	700	Alexandria	13.45	A :!:		Davida		MCD	(11	Caina	14.00
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	FEG	931	Alexandria	13:55	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	MSR	611	Cairo	14:00
KLM	411	Amsterdam/Dammam	00:20	KNE	231	Riyadh	13:55	AIC	976	Goa/Chennai	00:05	FDB	076	Dubai	14:05
JZR	267	Beirut	00:30	QTR	1078	Doha	14:10	PIA	240	Sialkot	00:40	AXB	394	Kozhikode	14:10
JZR				SVA				FDB	072	Dubai	00:40	UAE	872	Dubai	14:15
	539	Cairo	00:40		500	Jeddah	14:15								
KAC	102	London	00:55	FDB	059	Dubai	14:20	JAI	573	Mumbai	00:50	KAC	561	Amman	14:20
THY	772	Istanbul	00:55	KAC	692	Muscat	14:30	BBC	044	Dhaka	01:30	KAC	521	Al Najaf	14:45
MSC	411		01:00	KAC	414	Bangkok	14:35	KLM	411	Amsterdam	01:35	KNE	382	Taif	14:50
		Asyut													
RJA	642	Amman	01:05	GFA	221	Bahrain	14:40	MSC	412	Asyut	01:55	BON	102	Sarajevo	14:55
QTR	1086	Doha	01:15	KAC	542	Cairo	14:45	KAC	417	Manila	02:00	FEG	932	Alexandria	14:55
SAI	441	Lahore	01:30	KAC	672	Dubai	14:50	THY	773	Istanbul	02:25	KAC	673	Dubai	15:00
								SAI	442	Lahore	02:30	FDB	060	Dubai	15:10
DLH	635	Doha	01:55	KNE	529	Jeddah	14:55								
PGT	858	Istanbul	02:00	ETD	303	Abu Dhabi	15:15	DLH	635	Frankfurt	02:55	KAC	785	Jeddah	15:15
AXB	395	Kozhikode	02:00	OMA	645	Muscat	15:35	AXB	396	Kozhikode	02:55	PAL	669	Manila	15:20
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	02:05	UAE	857	Dubai	15:45	ETH	621	Addis Ababa	03:05	GFA	222	Bahrain	15:25
								PGT	859	Istanbul	03:35	QTR	1079	Doha	15:40
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:30	ABY	127	Sharjah	15:50								
UAE	853	Dubai	02:30	KAC	154	Istanbul	15:55	UAE	854	Dubai	03:45	JZR	188	Dubai	15:40
OMA	643	Muscat	02:55	SAW	705	Damascus	16:00	KKK	6505	Istanbul	03:55	SVA	501	Jeddah	15:45
								OMA	644	Muscat	03:55	KNE	530	Jeddah	15:55
KKK	6506	Istanbul	02:55	KNE	531	Jeddah	16:05	MSR	613	Cairo	04:10	KAC	283	Dhaka	16:15
FDB	069	Dubai	03:05	JZR	535	Cairo	16:10								
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:10	JZR	779	Jeddah	16:10	ETD	306	Abu Dhabi	04:10	ETD	304	Abu Dhabi	16:20
MSR	612	Cairo	03:10	QTR	1072	Doha	16:10	KAC	167	Paris	04:25	KAC	357	Kochi	16:20
				-				QTR	1077	Doha	04:40	ABY	128	Sharjah	16:30
QTR	1076	Doha	03:30	FDB	051	Dubai	16:25	LMU	511	Cairo	05:00	OMA	646	Muscat	16:35
KAC	546	Cairo	03:55	KAC	662	Abu Dhabi	16:35								
LMU	510	Cairo	04:00	RJA	640	Amman	16:55	MSC	502	Alexandria	05:05	SAW	706	Damascus	16:55
								QTR	1087	Doha	05:50	KNE	532	Jeddah	16:55
MSC	501	Alexandria	04:05	JZR	787	Riyadh	17:00	FEG	954	Asyut	06:00	KAC	675	Dubai	17:00
KAC	418	Manila	04:25	KAC	118	New York	17:00	JZR	560	Sohag	06:05	JZR	266	Beirut	17:05
ETD	9891	BRU	04:30	SVA	510	Riyadh	17:15								
KAC	284	Dhaka	04:55	GFA	215	· .	17:30	DHX	173	Bahrain	06:20	JZR	240	Amman	17:15
						Bahrain		FDB	070	Dubai	06:30	FDB	052	Dubai	17:25
FEG	933	Sohag	05:00	JZR	777	Jeddah	17:45	ETD	9891	Abu Dhabi	06:30	KAC	615	Bahrain	17:35
JZR	503	Luxor	05:10	NIA	251	Alexandria	17:55	THY	771	Istanbul	06:50	QTR	1073	Doha	17:40
JZR	529	Asyut	05:15	UAE	875	Dubai	18:00								
								KAC	153	Istanbul	06:50	KAC	343	Chennai	17:40
KAC	354	BLR	05:20	FDB	063	Dubai	18:10	KAC	165	Rome	06:55	UAE	858	Cairo	17:45
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:20	JZR	177	Dubai	18:20	JZR	164	Dubai	06:55	RJA	641	Amman	17:55
KAC	332	Trivandrum	05:45	KAC	522	Al Najaf	18:25								
THY	770	Istanbul	05:55					RJA	643	Amman	07:05	KAC	331	Trivandrum	18:00
				MSR	620	Cairo	18:30	JZR	238	Amman	07:10	SVA	511	Riyadh	18:15
KAC	364	Colombo	06:05	QTR	1080	Doha	18:50	GFA	212	Bahrain	07:15	KAC	353	BLR	18:15
KAC	206	Islamabad	06:20	ABY	123	Sharjah	19:25	KAC	541	Cairo	07:15	GFA	216	Bahrain	18:20
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	06:25			•		KAC	773	Riyadh	07:30	JZR	184	Dubai	18:40
				KAC	502	Beirut	19:30								
BAW	157	London	06:40	GFA	217	Bahrain	19:30	KAC	787	Jeddah	07:45	NIA	252	Alexandria	18:55
PAL	668	Manila/Dubai	07:00	KAC	674	Dubai	19:45	FDB	5062	Dubai	07:55	FDB	064	Dubai	19:05
KAC	204	Lahore	07:15					KAC	563	Amman	08:00	JZR	124	Bahrain	19:15
FDB	5061	Dubai	07:15	FDB	057	Dubai	19:50								
				KAC	166	Rome	19:55	KAC	411	Bangkok	08:20	UAE	876	Dubai	19:30
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	KAC	168	Paris	19:55	BAW	156	London	08:40	MSR	621	Cairo	19:30
QTR	8511	Doha	08:00			Taif		KAC	173	Munich	08:50	QTR	1081	Doha	19:50
KAC	302	Mumbai	08:20	KNE	381		19:55	FDB	054	Dubai	08:55	ABY	124	Sharjah	20:05
				KAC	562	Amman	20:00								
UAE	855	Dubai	08:40	MSR	618	Alexandria	20:05	KAC	743	Dammam	09:00	GFA	218	Bahrain	20:15
KAC	382	Delhi	08:45	OMA	647	Muscat	20:10	KAC	691	Muscat	09:00	KAC	383	Delhi	20:30
IRA	667	Esfahan	09:00					KAC	117	New York	09:00	FDB	058	Dubai	20:35
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	09:05	JZR	189	Dubai	20:15	JZR	534	Cairo	09:15	KAC	361	Colombo	20:35
				QTR	1088	Doha	20:35	KAC		London	09:15	KAC	775	Riyadh	
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:05	DLH	634	Frankfurt	20:45		101						20:45
KAC	352	Kochi	09:10	FDB		Dubai	20:50	ABY	126	Sharjah	09:45	KNE	232	Riyadh	20:55
QTR	1070	Doha	09:30		5053			UAE	856	Dubai	09:55	MSR	619	Alexandria	21:05
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	KAC	616	Bahrain	20:50	QTR	8512	Doha	10:00	OMA	648	Muscat	21:10
				JAI	572	Mumbai	20:55	IRA	668	Mashhad	10:00	KAC	619	Doha	21:20
IRA	673	Ahwaz	10:10	KAC	786	Jeddah	21:15								
AVV	653	Sohag	10:10					KAC	671	Dubai	10:05	QTR	1089	Doha	21:35
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	ETD	307	Abu Dhabi	21:20	ETD	302	Abu Dhabi	10:10	DLH	634	Doha	21:35
SYR	341	Damascus	11:00	MEA	402	Beirut	21:20	JZR	778	Jeddah	10:30	DHX	171	Bahrain	21:50
				ALK	229	Colombo	21:25	FDB	056	Dubai	10:35	FDB	5054	Dubai	21:50
KAC	774	Riyadh	11:05												
RBG	553	Alexandria	11:15	UAE	859	Dubai	21:40	QTR	1071	Doha	10:40	JAI	571	Mumbai	21:55
MSC	403	Asyut	11:15	GFA	219	Bahrain	21:45	AVV	654	Asyut	11:10	KAC	205	Islamabad	22:00
				KAC	676	Dubai	21:45	IRA	672	Ahwaz	11:10	KAC	351	Kochi	22:00
JZR	165	Dubai	11:30	KAC	174	Munich	22:00	KAC	501	Beirut	11:15	KAC	783	Jeddah	22:10
FDK	801	Damascus	11:45												
MEA	404	Beirut	11:55	QTR	1082	Doha	22:00	GFA	214	Bahrain	11:25	ETD	308	Abu Dhabi	22:15
KAC	744	Dammam	12:10	KLM	417	Amsterdam	22:05	RBG	554	Alexandria	11:55	MEA	403	Beirut	22:20
				JZR	125	Bahrain	22:05	SYR	342	Damascus	12:00	ALK	230	Colombo	22:25
FEG	953	Asyut	12:35					KAC	661	Dhabi	12:05	GFA	220	Bahrain	22:30
JZR	561	Sohag	12:40	NIA	151	Cairo	22:10								
JZR	239	Amman	12:45	ETD	309	Abu Dhabi	22:15	JZR	776	Jeddah	12:05	KAC	301	Mumbai	22:45
UAE	871	Dubai	12:50	AIC	981	Chennai/Ahmedabad	22:25	MSC	404	Asyut	12:15	KAC	1543	Cairo	22:45
				JZR			22:45	FDK	802	Damascus	12:45	KAC	381	Delhi	22:45
FDB	075	Dubai	12:50		241	Amman		MEA	405	Beirut	12:55	UAE	860	Dubai	22:55
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00	JZR	185	Dubai	23:15	FEG					417	Dammam/Amsterdam	
AXB	393	Kozhikode	13:10	KAC	156	Istanbul	23:25		934	Sohag	13:35	KLM			23:05
BON	101	Sarajevo	13:30	FDB	071	Dubai	23:45	JZR	176	Dubai	13:45	ETD	310	Abu Dhabi	23:05
		•						JZR	786	Riyadh	13:45	NIA	152	Cairo	23:10
KAC	564	Amman	13:40	JAI	574	Mumbai	23:50			-					

CROSSWORD 1468

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ACROSS

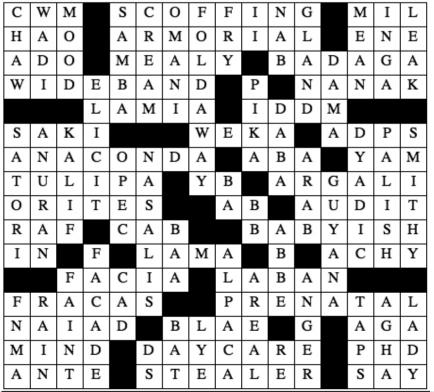
- 1. The template for protein synthesis.
- 5. Fudge made with brown sugar and butter and milk and nuts.
- 12. An enclosed space.
- 15. No longer having or seeming to have
- or expecting to have life. 16. A word (such as a pronoun) used to
- avoid repetition.
- 17. Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
- 18. Some point in the air. 19. An Indian side dish of yogurt and
- chopped cucumbers and spices. 20. A sign of assent or salutation or com-
- mand.
- 21. (Old Testament) In Judeo-Christian
- mythology. 22. Large lipoproteins rich in triglycerides. 25. Perennial mountain rice native to
- Mediterranean region and introduced into North America. 29. A young woman making her debut
- into society. 32. A federally chartered savings bank.
- 33. A soft silvery metallic element of the
- alkali earth group. 36. A strategically located monarchy on the southern and eastern coasts of the
- Arabian Peninsula. 38. A branch of the Tai languages.
- 40. A cloud of fine particles suspended in
- a gas. 42. (Babylonian) God of wisdom and agriculture and patron of scribes and schools. 44. A white metallic element that burns
- with a brilliant light. 46. Loud confused noise from many sources.
- 50. The longer of the two telegraphic sig-
- nals used in Morse code. 52. Towards the side away from the wind.
- 53. Lacking gonads.
- 4. A member of an agricultural people in southeastern India.
- 56. A toxic nonmetallic element related to sulfur and tellurium.
- 57. Jordan's port. 60. The cardinal number that is the sum of five and one.
- 64. Large northern deer with enormous flattened antlers in the male.
- 66. A Dravidian language spoken in southern India.
- 69. Formerly two short sleds coupled
- together. 74. (of tempo) Leisurely n.
- 77. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
- 78. God of death.
- 79. A tricycle (usually propelled by pedalling).
- 81. Characteristic of a mob. 82. (Greek mythology) Greek god of war.
- 83. A state in the southeastern United States on the Gulf of Mexico
- 84. (Irish) Mother of the ancient Irish gods.

DOWN

- 1. Designer drug designed to have the effects of amphetamines (it floods the brain with serotonin) but to avoid the
- 2. Scottish philosopher of common sense who opposed the ideas of David Hume (1710-1796).
- 3. A quantity of no importance. 4. American Revolutionary patriot.
- 5. A courtyard or portico in front of a

- building (especially a cathedral). 6. An associate degree in nursing.
- 7. Australian clover fern.
- 8. A translucent mineral consisting of hydrated silica of variable color.
- 9. The 22nd letter of the Greek alphabet. 10. A blind god.
- 11. A constellation in the southern hemi-
- sphere near Telescopium and Norma. 12. The capital and largest city of Yemen.
- 13. Highly excited.
- 14. (of a young animal) Abandoned by its mother and raised by hand.
- 23. A three-year law degree.
- 24. Soreness and warmth caused by fric-
- 26. 300 to 3000 kilohertz.
- 27. Appeal or request earnestly.
- 28. The blood group whose red cells carry both the A and B antigens.
- 30. Come out into view, as from concealment.
- 31. Used as a Hindi courtesy title. 34. Naked freshwater or marine or parasitic protozoa that form temporary pseudopods for feeding and locomotion.
- 35. Read anew. 37. A word that can be used to refer to a person or place or thing.
- 39. A radioactive element of the actinide series
- 41. Cause to feel relaxed.
- 43. An informal term for a father. 45. Title for the former hereditary
- monarch of Iran. 47. (astronomy) The angular distance of a
- celestial point measured westward along the celestial equator from the zenith crossing.
- 48. Australian shrubs and small trees with evergreen usually spiny leaves and dense clusters of showy flowers.
- 49. A flat wing-shaped process or winglike part of an organism.
- 51. A soft white precious univalent metallic element having the highest electrical and thermal conductivity of any metal. 55. United States labor organizer who ran
- for President as a socialist (1855-1926). 58. A light strong brittle gray toxic biva-
- lent metallic element.
- 59. Any of various plants of the genus Albuca having large clusters of pale yellow flowers.
- 61. Something (often something deceptively attractive) that catches you unawares.
- 62. A Chadic language spoken in northern Nigeria and closely related to Hausa. 63. Of or relating to or characteristic of
- Thailand of its people. 65. A member of a formerly tribal people
- now living in south central India. 67. The sixth month of the civil year.
- 68. Amino acid that is formed in the liver and converted into dopamine in the
- 70. A small cake leavened with yeast. 71. A Tibetan or Mongolian priest of Lamaism.
- 72. Very dark black.
- 73. A Chadic language spoken south of Lake Chad.
- 75. An agency of the United Nations affiliated with the World Bank.
- 76. Horny projecting mouth of a bird. 80. Angular distance above the horizon (especially of a celestial object).

Yesterday's Solution



STAR TRACK

Aries (March 21-April 19)

You may see some positive changes now that have come from some real personal work you have done recently. This may be clearing away some old projects or making the effort to make friends with co-workers. The young people that did not agree with your methods are beginning to see things your way. Your support system has vastly improved over past situations. Some of the changes could be that you have reversed some of your dreamy thinking and have begun to make realistic goals. You are also more patient than in the past, especially with young people-good for you! You may be called upon to teach today-you will gracefully accept the request because there are excellent rewards and future possibilities. You praise others this evening.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Now that your goals are within reach, it is time for some new plans to take form. You enjoy independent thinking and finding solutions with little help. Someone is influential in helping you find exactly what you want in your career or self-improvement program. People around you want to help you. Your mind performs better and more efficiently when you are calm and cool-it can lead you to sensible and unbiased solutions. Your mind controls your body and soul, so keep it looking upward and outward. A financial adviser is offering an economic update or review this evening in some form of lecture. This mini-class will feature an industry expert to help the public understand the stock market. It may sound dull, but it's not for even a moment.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Having the ability to get your message across to others is at a high just now. Your timing is perfect. Playing the role of the one who nurtures another, suits you quite well at this time. You may strongly feel the need to care for others. In this case, you are excellent with volunteer work. You value people that have disabilities and know they have a lot to offer society. You seek to help in matters of community gatherings. You may find a good way to help others become organized and to also help create some convenient timesaving ideas. Today, you may succeed in encouraging one or two families to adopt handicapped persons for a couple of hours to show them the lights of the season. Tomorrow, others will also want to be helpful.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

You are feeling upbeat, healthy and natural. Everything points to your taking the first step in a work project. You should enjoy a great deal of support from those around you. Anything taking precedence in your life now gets your full attention. It's really a great time to be with others and to work side by side. Someone in a superior position may ask your advice. The ability that you have to manage and direct others is not exactly secret. You should be feeling quite confident with your circumstances, very much at peace and stable on the emotional level. This evening, music may assume a more important role in your life than usual. Perhaps a good friend of yours is just getting started in a music career. Whatever the case, you enjoy and support your friend.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

Something may help you to appreciate and discover the beauty that is in your life this day. Perhaps you did not know that there are big owls nested near your walking path. Take your camera the next time you go out and if it is evening, try not to use the flash-what a treat! You are at your mental best with sharp ideas. You may find this an excellent time to put the finishing touch on any decisions or plans. You can be your creative self this afternoon with ideas on little munchies or souvenirs you could sell to hotels and party shops for new year's eve parties. This evening you are able to see the results of your good budgeting. You feel good about being able to spend or overspend now. You will have some intelligent help from a friend regarding finances.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Professional decisions are good but may take a little more time and patience on your part. You complete your tasks efficiently. Prepare to reorient your viewpoint and direction during the next six months. You will close the door on many of the issues that you have been dealing with for the last three years. You need specialized training and tools to do even minor maintenance on a car these days; this afternoon, you join the mainstream of the public to wait in line for a mechanical check of your car. It is always good to be as safe as possible in the winter weather. You may want to get all caught up in the social whirl but your timing would be better for this weekend. Possibly a good book or movie will take on that more than real dimension this evening.

Wordsearch Puzzle

Baby

Find and circle all of the words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining 50 letters spell a secret message

В	0	Т	Т	L	E	R	L	Н	J	L	Р	R	0	Т	1	Ν	0	Μ
Υ	D	D	Α	D	S	E	U	0	Т	U	Α	U	-1	L	L	Α	М	S
Н	E	Т	L	С	Μ	Н	L	0	0	1	Μ	U	С	S	W	1	Ν	G
Т	R	Α	R	Т	1	Т	L	D	L	R	S	Ρ	G	Υ	Е	S	С	Т
М	F	Ε	E	D	L	E	Α	-1	F	Υ	D	E	E	Н	Ρ	E	0	Т
0	Α	S	1	L	Е	Е	В	Е	D	L	W	0	В	R	K	Р	L	Μ
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М	Р	E	Т	Н	R	В	В	E	В	Т	R	G	U	Ν	1	S	С	S
Υ	0	Т	R	G	Р	Α	0	G	E	Α	E	D	-1	S	1	Т	S	Μ
Т	W	S	E	Т	Т	Α	С	Μ	Т	Υ	R	D	F	G	Р	R	0	-1
S	D	0	Ρ	Ν	R	0	R	Т	R	E	Т	Ρ	D	В	G	0	G	L
E	E	0	Α	E	E	Ρ	L	E	В	G	Α	D	L	Υ	R	L	0	Κ
Р	R	В	-1	С	L	E	S	В	Ν	С	1	Α	E	Ν	В	L	Е	Ν
1	Т	Α	D	0	Α	R	U	-1	-1	Т	Ν	С	Α	R	S	E	Α	Т
W	S	W	1	Ν	U	R	Υ	F	R	K	S	Ν	0	Υ	- 1	R	Α	С
Т	Ν	Α	F	Ν	1	R	-1	Α	E	-1	S	E	Ν	0	Α	Т	U	R
R	Н	K	E	1	С	E	S	Т	Α	R	F	0	R	Μ	U	L	Α	-1
_		_	_				_	_			_				_	_	_	_

LEEPRHTE RACNIKSS ALERT LULLABY RUBBER DUCK DADDY AWAKE SIPPY CUP SKIN CARE MOBILE BLANKET DROOL MOMMY MONITOR SLEEP BODYSUIT BOOSTER SEAT FORMULA SMALL BOTTLE GIGGLE NURSERY SMILE GRIN ONESIE BOWL SPOON CAR SEAT CARRIER HIGHCHAIR PACIFIER STROLLER HOODIE PARENTS SWING COLIC CREAM INFANT TEDDY BEAR INNOCENT POWDER TEETHER

JUMPER

LAUGH

CRIB CRYING

Libra (September 23-October 22)

This is a good time for clear speculation. You are in a serious frame of mind and find yourself dealing with matters of much concern and responsibility. This is a good time to reorganize. You may be feeling a bit on the introverted side this afternoon, however, and just want to spend more time with your lover or with close friends. It may not be a time to be outward or to try to make yourself known in the world. Your feelings are more reflective than expressive just now. To know that you are really wanted and needed helps you to maintain a comfortable feeling; the lack of these things can cause an instinctive feeling of uneasiness. It really is true that no man is an island. You should not have to go it



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

You communicate effectively, both professionally and personally. You should find that today is one of those super nice days when things just kind of flow along. You will do particularly well in activities that include children, young people and your home and surroundings. You could feel real rapport and assistance at this time for circumstances and those around you. You may not be expecting it but some kind of a little boost in the form of extra recognition or support will be coming from those around you. You should feel very much in touch with others, as the lines of communication are wide open. All of the support that you could possibly want or need should be there. This evening there is time for a phone conversation from someone far away.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

You are an active, imaginative charmer and make social contacts that could take you away from your childhood home. You may leave the nest, but you never let go of your heritage. You may be gullible, too easygoing or just assume that whatever you have and give away can be replenished with hard work. Your troubles are few and can be worked through quickly-especially with your good attitude. Lovers, business associates and friends involve you in situations that are productive. You are called on to speak, lecture or teach today. People expect great things from you. You are an original and have special qualities that help you to grow and help others. You enjoy the opportunity to celebrate tonight.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

Working with others can be quite successful today. You could gain information that a business or legal matter is near an end. You are most persuasive. Combined with your passion for your work and personal issues, you get most of what you want. You encourage your friends or co-workers to become involved in a 5k run to benefit police orphans or widows. They need volunteers and runners and your community could include the area where you work-you gain positive attention. There are t-shirts for first, second and third place winners. You are pleased to be a part of this effort. Time will come this evening to enjoy the company of a loved one. You create a most romantic setting for a loved one. Make plans to repeat this activity from time to time.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

Go ahead and allow your creative and intuitive sides to surface-there are rewards coming your way. Watch for new solutions to old problems or something very inventive to evolve as a result of all of this. If anyone has a project that needs to be completed by a certain time, you will be the one that he or she comes to for help. You just seem to instinctively know what others want and need and can take action with very little waste or haste. You will be greatly appreciated for your abilities to manage and direct others. There does not seem to be a problem with too many requests because you are good at saying no when there is no more room or energy for you to be expressive.

Do, however, notice if family members are neglected; take time to enjoy them often!



APPLE

BIRD MIGRATION

BLUSTERY DAY

CHESTNUTS

CHILLY

COLD

BLOWING LEAVES

FARMING

HALLOWEEN

HICKORY NUTS

LONGER NIGHTS

HARVEST

HAYSTACK

FEAST

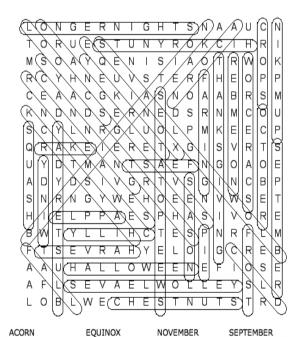
FROST

Pisces (February 19-March 20)

A feeling of peace and stability on the emotional level comes into play at this time. Being stable and permanent satisfies a deep emotional need. Music could also play a more important role for you than usual and you may find a short period of material acquisition satisfying a deep yearning to be free from want. There is a better than average chance that you will understand those around you and have a special time with someone you love. A great deal of support and harmony, along with the good feelings that you are having, makes this an exceptionally happy time. Someone younger than yourself comes to you for guidance. You teach the actions and things about which you believe. The best reward of a kindly deed . . . Is the knowledge of having done it.

Yesterday's Solution

Autumn



The hidden sentence is: AUTUMN IS A SECOND SPRING WHEN EVERY LEAF IS A FLOWER

Daily	Su	Do	ku

RASH

RATTLE

TIRED

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	9			3		8	1	
					9	3	5	
8					3			6
		9	6		7	2		
2			6 5 3					1
	8	2	3					
	7	3		2			8	
6		4						

Yesterday's Solution

OCTOBER

PUMPKIN

RED LEAVES

SCARECROW

SCHOOL

SEASON

ORANGE LEAVES

SHORTER DAYS

THANKSGIVING

YELLOW LEAVES

SWEET POTATOES

SQUASH

WINDY

8 2 5 3 2 5 6 9 8 4 3 9 4 6 2 8 3 9 8 6 4 2 3 8 6 5 9 4 6 9 5 8 9 3 6 5 8 2 5 9 4 3 6 5 3 6 8 9

INFORMATION

For labor-related inquiries and complaints: **Call MSAL hotline 128**

Hospitals

поѕрна	15
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

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 22456536 Salmiya 25746401 Jabriya 25316254 Maidan Hawally 2538462 Mishref 25381200 W Hawally 25388462 Mishref 25381200 W Hawally 22630786 Sabah 24810221 Jahra 24770319 New Jahra 24575755 West Jahra 24775966 North Jahra 24775992 North Jleeb 24311795	Kaizen center	25716707
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 2538462 Mishref 25381200 W Hawally 22630786 Sabah 24810221 Jahra 24770319 New Jahra 24575755 West Jahra 24775066 North Jahra 24775066 North Jleeb 24311795 Ardhiya 24884079 Firdous 24892674 Omariya 24719048 <t< td=""><td>Rawda</td><td>22517733</td></t<>	Rawda	22517733
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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 224565401 Salmiya 25746401 Jabriya 25316254 Maidan Hawally 25623444 Bayan 25388462 Mishref 25381200 W Hawally 22630786 Sabah 24810221 Jahra 24770319 New Jahra 2457555 West Jahra 24775066 North Jahra 24775992 North Jleeb 24311795 Ardhiya 24884079 Firdous 24892674 Omariya 24719048 N Khaitan 24710044	Khaldiya	24848075
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Abdullah Salem	Shamiya	24848913
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North Jahra 24775992 North Jleeb 24311795 Ardhiya 24884079 Firdous 24892674 Omariya 24719048 N Khaitan 24710044	West Jahra	24772608
North Jleeb 24311795 Ardhiya 24884079 Firdous 24892674 Omariya 24719048 N Khaitan 24710044	South Jahra	24775066
Ardhiya 24884079 Firdous 24892674 Omariya 24719048 N Khaitan 24710044	North Jahra	24775992
Firdous 24892674 Omariya 24719048 N Khaitan 24710044	North Jleeb	24311795
Omariya 24719048 N Khaitan 24710044	Ardhiya	24884079
N Khaitan 24710044	Firdous	24892674
	Omariya	24719048
Fintas 23900322	N Khaitan	24710044
	Fintas	23900322



PHARMACIES ON 24 HRS DUTY

GOVERNORATE	PHARMACY	ADDRESS	PHONE
Ahmadi	Sama Safwan	Fahaeel Makka St	23915883
	Abu Halaifa	Abu Halaifa-Coastal Rd	23715414
	Danat Al-Sultan	Mahboula Block 1, Coastal Rd	23726558
Jahra	Modern Jahra	Jahra-Block 3 Lot 1	24575518
	Madina Munawara	Jahra-Block 92	24566622
Capital	Ahlam	Fahad Al-Salem St	22436184
	Khaldiya Coop	Khaldiya Coop	24833967
Farwaniya	New Shifa	Farwaniya Block 40	24734000
	Ferdous Coop	Ferdous Coop	24881201
	Modern Safwan	Old Kheitan Block 11	24726638
Hawally	Tariq	Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St	25726265
	Hana	Salmiya-Amman St	25647075
	Ikhlas	Hawally-Beirut St	22625999
	Hawally & Rawdha	Hawally & Rawdha Coop	22564549
	Ghadeer	Jabriya-Block 1A	25340559
	Kindy	Jabriya-Block 3B	25326554
	Ibn Al-Nafis	Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St	25721264
	Mishrif Coop	Mishrif Coop	25380581
	Salwa Coop	Salwa Coop	25628241

STATE OF KUWAIT

DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT



Tel: (+965) 161 Ext: 2627 - 2630 Fax: (+965) 24348714 www.met.gov.kw

Kuwait Forecast

NUWAISIB

MANAGISH

WAFRA

SALMY

MUTRIBA



Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours Issued 21/12/2016-19:00 LT UTC +3hr

MIN Temperature 7 °C

By Night :Cold and clouds will increase gradually later on with light to moderate north westerly wind, with speed of 10 - 32 km/h $\,$

By Day: Partly cloudy to cloudy with light variable wind changing to light to moderate north westerly wind, with speed of 06 - 28 km/h



Four-Day F	orecast
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	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	*	*	*	*
Expected Weather	partly cloudy to cloudy	partly cloudy + scattered rain	partly cloudy + scattered rain	p cloudy to cloudy + rain, thundery at times
Min Temp °C	07	10	11	13
Max Temp °C	16	21	23	27
Wind Direction	variable wind changing to light to moderate north westerly	north westerly	variable wind changing to light to moderate south easterly later on	south easterly to southerly
Wind Speed km/h	06 - 28	08 - 30	08 - 30	20 - 45

no warnings or weather watches

Station	MIN °C EXP	Max °C
KUWAIT CITY	08	16
KUWAIT AIRPORT	07	15
ABDALY	05	15
BUBYAN	06	16
JAHRA	06	15
FAILAKA ISLAND	07	15
SALMIYAH	08	15
AHMADI	09	15
JAL ALIYAH	05	15
QAROH ISLAND	11	16
UMM AL-MARADEM	10	15

Recorded Yesterday at Kuw	ait Airport
Max Temp (°C)	17
Min Temp (°C)	09
Max Rel Hum (%)	72
Min Rel Hum (%)	46
Max Wind Speed (km/h) and Direction	46 N
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR	0 mm

06

05

16

14

13

14

1	Sunrise	06:38	
	Sunset	16:55	
-	Sunset	10.55	

Tomorrow Pray	yer Times	
Fajr	05:14	
Sunrise	06:38	
Zuhr	11:47	
Asr	14:36	
Sunset	16:55	
Isha	18:17	

PRIVATE CLINICS

All times are local time (GMT+3) unless otherwise stated

Ophthalmologis	its
Dr. Abidallah Al-Mansoor	25622444
Dr. Samy Al-Rabeea	25752222
Dr. Masoma Habeeb	25321171
Dr. Mubarak Al-Ajmy	25739999
Dr. Mohsen Abel	25757700
Dr Adnan Hasan Alwayl	25732223
Dr. Abdallah Al-Baghly	25732223
Ear, Nose & Throat ((ENT)
Dr. Ahmed Fouad Mouner	24555050 Ext 510
Dr. Abdallah Al-Ali	25644660
Dr. Abd Al-Hameed Al-Taweel	25646478
Dr. Sanad Al-Fathalah	25311996
Dr. Mohammad Al-Daaory	25731988
Dr. Ismail Al-Fodary	22620166
Dr. Mahmoud Al-Booz	25651426
General Practition	ners
Dr. Mohamme Y Majidi	24555050 Ext 123
Dr. Yousef Al-Omar	24719312
Dr. Tarek Al-Mikhazeem	23926920
Dr. Kathem Maarafi	25730465
Dr. Abdallah Ahmad Eyadah	25655528
Dr. Nabeel Al-Ayoobi	24577781
Dr. Dina Abidallah Al-Refae	25333501
Urologists	
	22641534
Dr. Ali Naser Al-Serfy	
Dr. Ali Naser Al-Serfy Dr. Fawzi Taher Abul	22639955
•	
Dr. Fawzi Taher Abul	i 22616660

Psychologists

/Psychotherapists

Plastic Surgeons				
Dr. Mohammad Al-Khalaf	22547272			
Dr. Abdal-Redha Lari	22617700			
Dr. Abdel Quttainah	25625030/60			
Family Doc	tor			
Dr Divya Damodar	23729596/23729581			
Psychiatris	sts			
Dr. Esam Al-Ansari	22635047			
Dr Eisa M. Al-Balhan	22613623/0			
Gynaecologists & O	bstetricians			
DrAdrian arbe	23729596/23729581			
Dr. Verginia s.Marin	2572-6666 ext 8321			
Dr. Fozeya Ali Al-Qatan	22655539			
Dr. Majeda Khalefa Aliytami	25343406			
Dr. Ahmad Al-Khooly	25739272			
Dr. Salem soso	22618787			
General Surg	eons			
Dr. Amer Zawaz Al-Amer	22610044			
Dr. Mohammad Yousef Bash	er 25327148			
Internists, Chest & Heart				
Dr. Adnan Ebil	22639939			
Dr. Mousa Khadada	22666300			
Dr. Latefa Al-Duweisan	25728004			
Dr. Nadem Al-Ghabra	25355515			
Dr. Mobarak Aldoub	24726446			
Dr Nasser Behbehani	25654300/3			

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25716707

Tel: 2290-1677

Fax: 2290 1688

Paediatricians		Endocrinologist
Dr. Khaled Hamadi	25665898	2 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4
Dr. Abd Al-Aziz Al-Rashed	25340300	Dr. Abd Al-Naser Al-Othman 25339330
Dr. Zahra Qabazard	25710444	Dr. Ahmad Al-Ansari 25658888
Dr. Sohail Qamar	22621099	Dr. Kamal Al-Shomr 25329924
Dr. Snaa Maaroof	25713514	
Dr. Pradip Gujare	23713100	Physiotherapists & VD
Dr. Zacharias Mathew	24334282	Dr. Deyaa Shehab 25722291
Dermatolog	у	Dr. Musaed Faraj Khamees 22666288
Dr. Mohammed Salam Bern University	23845955	Rheumatologists:
Dentists		Dr. Adel Al-Awadi 25330060
Dr Anil Thomas	3729596/3729581	
Dr. Shamah Al-Matar	22641071/2	Dr. Khaled Al-Jarallah 25722290
Dr. Anesah Al-Rasheed	22562226	Internist, Chest & Heart
Dr. Abidallah Al-Amer	22561444	DR.Mohammes Akkad 24555050 E
Dr. Faysal Al-Fozan	22619557	Diamonanines ration 2 1555050 E
Dr. Abdallateef Al-Katrash	22525888	Dr. Mohammad Zubaid MB, ChB, FRCPC, PACC
Dr. Abidallah Al-Duweisan	25653755	Assistant Professor Of Medicine
Dr. Bader Al-Ansari	25620111	Head, Division of Cardiology
Neurologis	ts	Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital 25339667
Dr. Sohal Najem Al-Shemeri	25633324	Consultant Cardiologist
Dr. Jasem Mola Hassan	25345875	Dr. Farida Al-Habib 2611555-26
Gastrologis	ts	MD, PH.D, FACC
Dr. Sami Aman	22636464	Inaya German Medical Center
Dr. Mohammad Al-Shamaly	25322030	Te: 2575077
Dr. Foad Abidallah Al-Ali	22633135	Fax: 25723123
Kaizen center	Noor Clinic	William Schuilenberg, RPC 2290-1677

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	Endocrinologis	t
	Dr. Abd Al-Naser Al-Othman	25339330
	Dr. Ahmad Al-Ansari 25658888	
	Dr. Kamal Al-Shomr 25329924	
	Physiotherapists 8	kVD
	Dr. Deyaa Shehab 25722291	
	Dr. Musaed Faraj Khamees	22666288
	Rheumatologis	ts:
	Dr. Adel Al-Awadi 25330060	
	Dr. Khaled Al-Jarallah	25722290
Internist, Chest & Heart		
	DR.Mohammes Akkad	24555050 Ext 210
	Dr. Mohammad Zubaid	
	MB, ChB, FRCPC, PACC Assistant Professor Of Medicin	e
	Head, Division of Cardiology	
	Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital	25339667
	Consultant Cardiol	ogist
	Dr. Farida Al-Habib MD, PH.D, FACC	2611555-2622555
	Inaya German Medical Center	
	Te: 2575077	
	Fax: 25723123	

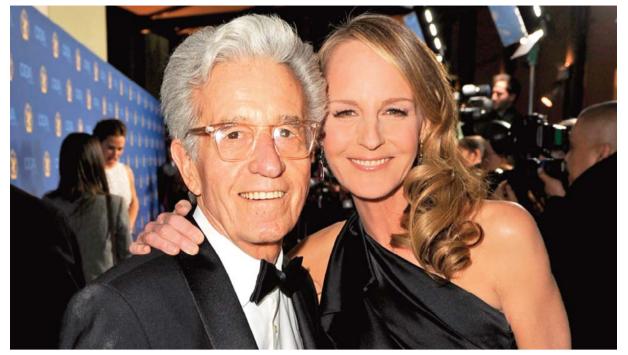
Zaina Al Zabin, M.Sc. 2290-1677

INTERNATIONAL CALLS



			Ш
Afghanistan	0093	Lithuania	00370
Albania	00355	Luxembourg	00352
Algeria	00213	Macau	00853
Andorra Angola	00376	Macedonia Madagascar	00389
Anguilla	001264	Majorca	0034
Antiga	001268	Malawi	00265
Argentina	0054	Malaysia	0060
Armenia Australia	00374	Maldives Mali	00960
Austria	0043	Malta	00356
Azerbaijan	00994	Marshall Islands	00692
Bahamas	001242	Martinique Mauritania	00596
Bahrain Bangladesh	00973	Mauritania	00222
Barbados	001246	Mayotte	00269
Belarus	00375	Mexico	0052
Belgium Belize	0032	Micronesia Moldova	00691
Benin	00501	Monaco	00373
Bermuda	001441	Mongolia	00976
Bhutan	00975	Montserrat	001664
Bolivia	00591	Morocco	00212 00258
Bosnia Botswana	00387	Mozambique Myanmar (Burma)	00256
Brazil	0055	Namibia	00264
Brunei	00673	Nepal	00977
Bulgaria	00359	Netherlands Netherlands Antilles	0031
Burkina Burundi	00226	New Caledonia	00599
Cambodia	00855	New Zealand	0064
Cameroon	00237	Nicaragua	00505
Canada	001	Nigar	00227
Cape Verde Cayman Islands	00238 001345	Nigeria Niue	00234 00683
Central African	001345	Norfolk Island	00672
Chad	00235	N. Ireland (UK)	0044
China	0056	North Korea	00850
China Colombia	0086 0057	Norway Oman	0047 00968
Comoros	00269	Pakistan	0092
Congo	00242	Palau	00680
Cook Islands	00682	Panama	00507
Costa Rica Croatia	00506	Papua New Guinea Paraguay	00675 00595
Cuba	0053	Peru	0051
Cyprus	00357	Philippines	0063
Cyprus (Northern)	0090392	Poland	0048
Czech Republic Denmark	00420 0045	Portugal Puerto Rico	00351 001787
Diego Garcia	00246	Qatar	00974
Djibouti	00253	Romania	0040
Dominica	001767	Russian Federation Rwanda	007 00250
Dominican Republic Ecuador	001809	Saint Helena	00290
Egypt	0020	Saint Kitts	001869
El Salvador	00503	Saint Lucia	001758
England (UK) Equatorial Guinea	0044 00240	Saint Pierre Saint Vincent	00508 001784
Eritrea	00240	Samoa US	00684
Estonia	00372	Samoa West	00685
Ethiopia	00251	San Marino	00378
Falkland Islands Faroe Islands	00500 00298	Sao Tome Saudi Arabia	00239
Fiji	00679	Scotland (UK)	0044
Finland	00358	Senegal	00221
France	0033	Seychelles	00284
French Guiana French Polynesia	00594 00689	Sierra Leone Singapore	00232
Gabon	00241	Slovakia	00421
Gambia	00220	Slovenia	00386
Georgia Germany	00995 0049	Solomon Islands Somalia	00677 00252
Ghana	0049	South Africa	00252
Gibraltar	00350	South Korea	0082
Greece	0030	Spain Sei Lanka	0034
Greenland Grenada	00299 001473	Sri Lanka Sudan	0094 00249
Guadeloupe	00590	Suriname	00597
Guam	001671	Swaziland	00268
Guatemala	00502	Sweden Switzerland	0046 0041
Guinea Guyana	00224 00592	Switzerland Syria	0041
Haiti	00509	Serbia	00381
Holland (Netherlands)		Taiwan	00886
Honduras	00504	Tanzania Thailand	00255
Hong Kong Hungary	00852	Thailand Togo	0066 00228
Ibiza (Spain)	0034	Tonga	00676
Iceland	00354	Tokelau	00690
India	0091	Trinidad Tunisia	001868
Indian Ocean Indonesia	00873 0062	Tunisia Turkey	00216 0090
Iran	0098	Tuvalu	00688
Iraq	00964	Uganda	00256
Ireland	00353	Ukraine	00380
Italy Ivory Coast	0039 00225	United Arab Emirates United Kingdom	00976 0044
Jamaica	00223	Uruguay	00598
Japan	0081	USA	001
Jordan	00962	Uzbekistan	00998
Kazakhstan Kenya	007 00254	Vanuatu Venezuela	00678 00582
Kiribati	00686	Vietnam	0084
Kuwait	00965	Virgin Islands UK	001284
Kyrgyzstan	00996	Virgin Islands US Wales (IJK)	001340
Laos Latvia	00856 00371	Wales (UK) Yemen	0044
Lebanon	00961	Yugoslavia	00381
Liberia	00231	Zambia	00260
Libya	00218	Zimbabwe	00263
Lesotho	00266		

GOSSIP



Helen Hunt's father Gordon, died aged 87

ordon Hunt, who directed animated productions such as 'The Jetsons', 'The Smurfs' and 'Scooby-Doo', passed away on Saturday at his home in Los Angeles as a result of complications from Parkinson's disease. Paying tribute to her dad, Helen told The Hollywood Reporter: "He was a master of reinvention, a journeyman artist. "He knew and taught that the work doesn't always find you. You need to create and re-create the work every day." Helen revealed Gordon had been teaching his decades-long acting class up until very recently. She added: "If you asked 100 people who knew him, 100 of them would say he was the kindest man they ever knew." Gordon also helmed several TV sitcoms, including episodes of 'Frasier' and long-running NBC show 'Mad About You', for which Helen won four Emmy Awards. He received a Directors Guild of America Award for Outstanding

Directorial Achievement in a Comedy Series for the 'Mad About You' episode 'The Alan Brady Show.' Gordon worked for a decade at Hanna-Barbera and was recording director on a number of shows, including 'Richie Rich' and 'The Flintstones', and he even lent his voice to roles at times, such as Wally on series 'Dilbert.' He taught acting for more than four decades and had several star pupils along the way, including Jimmy Fallon, Jonathan Banks, Robert Morse and Robert David Hall. What's more, he voice directed several video games, including 'God of War', 'Final Fantasy XIV', and the 'Uncharted' series. As well as Helen, Gordon is survived by his wife, voice actress B J Ward, who is the 'Twister' star's stepmother, his daughter Colleen, brothers George and Peter, and three grandchildren.

Christina Grimmie's family filed a lawsuit over her death

■he 22-year-old star's family are suing concert promoter AEGLive SE and the Orlando Philharmonic, which owns the Plaza Live Theatre, where Christina was gunned down by a crazed fan in June. According to Billboard, the lawsuit states: "The death of Christina was caused by the negligent and culpable conduct of the defendants who failed to provide adequate security measures to protect Christina at the Plaza Live Theatre on June 10, 2016." The security company, who were working the event, have also been named in the lawsuit, with the plaintiffs arguing that only "superficial bag checks" were carried out on the night Christina died. The gunman Kevin James Loibl entered the venue with two handguns, two full magazines and a large hunting knife before shooting Christina in the head and chest. Christina's brother Marcus tacked Loibl and was praised for preventing further injury or loss of life. Her family are seeking damages for their mental pain and suffering, along with compensation for Marcus' emotional and physical trauma. And Marcus and his parents Albert and Tina are also asking for compensation for the loss of future earnings from Christina, who "provided financial support to her parents", along with money for medical and funeral expenses. Previously, Christina's family paid tribute to her "joyful heart and beautiful voice." In a joint statement on a GoFundMe page, they said: "The outpouring of love and generosity that has been displayed to our family throughout these last few weeks has far exceeded anything we could have ever imagined. "As we have always known, Christina's life was so very special, not only to us, but to everyone she touched with her joyful heart, beautiful voice and love for life and the Lord. "Words cannot express what the many memorials, donations and tributes shared by Christina's fans and those in the media and entertainment industry mean to us. "She will live on in our hearts forever."



Chris Pratt will celebrate Christmas on the beach

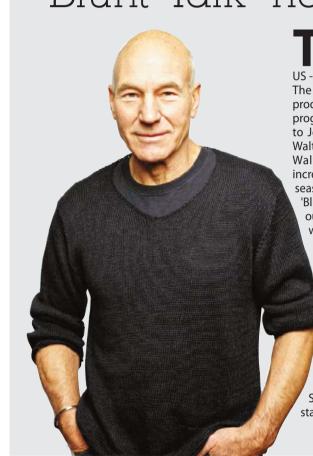
■he 37-year-old hunk and his wife Anna Faris are planning to spend the festive season in their bathing suits under the sun with their four-year-old son Jack in Los Angeles. He shared, "[We] will have a sandy, beautiful, tropical blue Christmas." And the 'Guardians of the Galaxy' actor is determined to make sure his son understands the true meaning of Christmas - like his own parents Kathy and Daniel Pratt did for him. Speaking to the Metro newspaper, he explained: "When I was a kid, we didn't have a whole lot. My parents really played the long game one Christmas, letting us know we just weren't going to be able to get anything for Christmas - we didn't have the money. We all knew that. We just got to the point, don't ask for things. And when we came down on Christmas morning, we got everything. I got a mountain bike, a bow and arrow, a microscope - all the things I had wanted. They had kept the presents from us and let us think for months we wouldn't be having a good Christmas. I think they just saved up, maybe they donated blood or something. It makes me choke up thinking about it." Chris is no doubt looking forward to spoiling his wife - whom he married in 2006 - this year as he's recently rediscovered all the things that made him fall in love with her. He said: "When I recently shot an episode of 'Mom' on CBS, which is my wife's sitcom, that was really fantastic. It's nice, you know, when you've been with someone for years, to see them in a different kind of working an social environment. "You get to see a side of someone you don't always see. I got to rediscover things about her that made me love her. We fell in love on a film set and it was nice to see her on a set and how much everyone loves her, how nice she is to everybody. On top of her talent, she'd very much a good person."

Kourtney Kardashian and her children decorate their own Christmas tree

■he 'Keeping Up With The Kardashians' star has revealed she bought four trees for her house this year so her children - Mason, seven, Penelope, four, and Reign, two - can design their own for their rooms. She told Vogue magazine: "We all go to a lot together and have the kids pick out their own trees for their bedrooms; they can decorate them however they want. It's a perfect spot for homemade decorations and allows them to be creative and have fun with it and do something all together as a family. "Christmas morning takes place at my house and my entire family comes here, so I also have the responsibility to make it special for all of them. And I love doing it! It's still very festive over here. Christmas music on from the second we wake up until bedtime." Meanwhile, the 37year-old television personality previously revealed she will be hosting the family's Christmas brunch, where she'll hold a big buffet for her relatives. In a post on her app, she said: "My dining room is one of my favorite rooms in my house. I use the space to entertain - it's perfect for when I have the whole family over ... I'll have a big buffet in the kitchen and set up the table for everyone." And Scott Disick is likely to be there for the festive celebrations as they have reportedly got back together. An insider shared: "Their love for each other never went away. He's been trying to win Kourtney over for a while now, but his constant partying was a huge issue. He's been spending a lot more time with Kourtney and the kids and proving himself to show that his family is the priority. He's doing his best to keep himself in check. Kourtney is definitely the reason for that. He still has his own place, but he loves her. He's always loved her and wanted his family back together.



Sir Patrick Stewart's sitcom 'Blunt Talk' has been axed



■he 76-year-old actor's show - which followed British newscaster Walter Blunt, who was portrayed by the 'X-Men' star, as he aims to take over cable news in the US - has been shelved by Starz following a 20-episode run. The show was created by Jonathan Ames and executive produced by Seth MacFarlane. Carmi Zlotnik, president of programming at Starz, said in a statement: "We are grateful to Jonathan and Patrick for the tirades and laughs that Walter Blunt delivered to fans with such aplomb. "While Walter may not be returning to the airwaves, we are incredibly proud of the work that was done these past two seasons by our wonderful partners and collaborators on 'Blunt Talk,' from Seth MacFarlane and our studio MRC, to our actors, writers and crew. "It was a very special show with a heartfelt message. It was an honor serving you, Major." While the reasons for the axing have not been confirmed, it is believed to be due to a struggle to find an audience. Starz initially ordered 20 episodes of the series which were divided into two series. The first season began in August 2015 and the second premiered on October 2, 2016 before concluding on December 11, 2016. Walter Blunt's name was taken from his namesake in William Shakespeare's 'Henry IV, Part 1', which was Patrick's first role with the Royal Shakespeare Company. Jacki Weaver, Adrian Scarborough, Dolly Wells and Timm Sharp also appeared in the sitcom, and Moby guest

Brad Pitt spent his 53rd birthday with old friends

he 'Moneyball' actor - who has kids Maddox, 15, Pax, 13, Zahara, 11, Shiloh, 10, and eightyear-old twins Knox and Vivienne with estranged wife Angelina Jolie, who he is divorcing celebrated the milestone on Sunday with a low-key meal. An insider said: "Brad Pitt spent his birthday enjoying a mellow dinner in with a few close, old friends. "Brad has been working hard on maintaining a low-profile and his plan is to stay out of the spotlight until his divorce and custody issues are finalised. "He was not interested in celebrating his birthday out at any hot restaurants." Brad has been granted supervised visits to his six kids since the brunette beauty filed for divorce in September, and he is not thought to have seen them on his birthday. The insider added to HollywoodLife.com: "Brad will not be doing anything that will interfere with his custody battle and does not want it to look like he is busy dating or partying. "His primary focus right now is working on himself and working on rebuilding his relationship with his kids." Earlier this month, it was claimed Brad's eldest sons, Maddox - who the 'Fury' actor was accused of striking during a row on board a private jet - and Pax were "refusing" to see him. LA Superior Court Judge Richard J. Burdge Jr. recently denied Brad's request to hold an emergency hearing to keep the details of the custody battle private. A source said: "The judge only denied the request for an emergency hearing and not the actual motion requesting that the case be sealed."A hearing will be held on January 17. In September, the former couple agreed to attend family therapy sessions as





ROB KARDASHIAN'S FAMILY WANT HIM TO LEAVE CHYNA

ome of the 'Keeping Up With The Kardashians' star's relatives want the 29-year-old star to wipe the slate clean and end his relationship with his fiance, with whom he has one-month-old daughter Dream. A source told People magazine: "They don't support the relationship. At least some of his family members want Rob to split up with Chyna so they can say, 'We told you so Rob. You deserve better.' But Rob won't listen to them. He wants to be with Chyna." It comes after a source claimed the Kardashians don't want "anything to do" with Rob's relationship with Chyna. They said: "The sisters don't want anything to do with this relationship. They see how fake it is. It's so unhealthy for their brother. They see how Chyna is using their family for fame and money and they aren't going to let it happen anymore. The family accepted her but since Chyna is now showing who she really is, they don't want anything to do with her. They have real-life problems going on and are trying to have a positive New Year and not this drama." And despite Chyna walking out on Rob over the weekend, the insider claims everything is alright between the couple now. They added: "Whatever people might think about the situation, the emotion during the weekend was 100 percent authentic. This argument got a lot of attention, but honestly, this was kind of like a normal tiff for them. They always have these up and downs. "Everything is fine between them now. Rob has promised to get some help for self-esteem and jealousy issues. They are both committed to making this work. Ultimately, they both love one another. As for whether they will last, who knows? But they're both going to try."

MOVIES



This file photo shows French actress Michele Morgan and French actor Jean Gabin playing in the film 'Quai des brumes' (Port of Shadows) directed by French film director Marcel Carne. — AFP Photos



This file photo shows French actress Michele Morgan waving to photographers as she arrives in Cannes, to attend the 49th edition of the Cannes International Film Festival.



This file photo shows French actress Michele Morgan posing during the 36th Cannes International Film Festival.

Morgan dies, aged 96 French actress Michele

rench screen legend Michele Morgan, who starred in some 70 movies and took home the best actress prize at the first-ever Cannes film festival, died on Tuesday, aged 96, her family said. An icon of glamour, Morgan was remembered for a regal azure gaze which she first turned on Jean Gabin as an 18-year-old ingenue in "Port of Shadows" ("Quai des Brumes"), a 1938 gangster movie. "You've got lovely eyes, you know," he told her, forever sealing Morgan's fate in French filmography as the "most beautiful pair of eyes in cinema." "It bothers me to hear that repeated so often", she was known to say much later-though she still gave her 1977 memoirs the title "With eyes like that..."

"Michele Morgan was more than just a gaze. She personified elegance and grace, and her legend left its mark on many generations," French President Francois Hollande said in a statement. Claude Lelouch, who directed her in the 1975 "Cat and Mouse," paid tribute to her as "the one we all wanted to hold in our arms." Morgan starred alongside Gabin, Jean Marais and Michel Simon, as well as Humphrey Bogart, and won her Cannes award in 1946 for her role as a blind woman in "La Symphonie Pastorale," Jean Delannoy's adaptation of an Andre Gide novel.

Nation's most popular

Her career flourished in the 1940s to 1960s, and faded with the arrival of New Wave cinema. Nevertheless, as late as 1975 a poll of French cinema-goers crowned her for the 10th time the "most popular French actress." Born Simone Roussel in the Parisian suburb of Neuilly on February 29, 1920 -- a leap-year date which allowed her to joke that they could "age four times more slowly than everyone else"-she spent most of her childhood in the Normandy port of Dieppe.

She left home at 15 in the hopes of reaching fame like American-Swedish actress Greta Garbo, entered drama school in Paris, and soon won a bit part in her first film, "Mademoiselle Mozart." Her first starring role under her adopt-

ed name of Michele Morgan was in Marc Allegret's "Gribouille" (1937). That was soon followed by her momentous encounter with Gabin, with whom she was to appear again in Jean Gremillon's "Remorque", released in 1942 during the German occupation of France.

Hollywood beckons

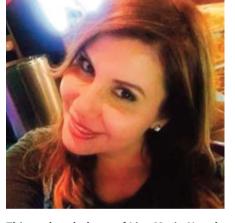
Later that year Morgan left for the United States after marrying the American actor Bill Marshall. There she made four films, playing opposite Frank Sinatra in "Higher and Higher" (1943) and Bogart in "Passage to Marseilles" (1944), director Michael Curtiz's unsuccessful attempt to repeat the Bogart-Bergman magic of "Casablanca." The war over, and having failed to make a breakthrough in Hollywood, she returned to France in 1946.

She also starred in an English movie, Carol Reed's "The Fallen Idol" (1948), based on a Graham Greene novel. One of the highlights of Morgan's late career as a stage actress was her role in Jean Cocteau's "Les Monstres Sacres" in 1992-93, in which she appeared once again alongside that other great veteran of French cinema, Jean Marais, then aged 79. Despite decades of work, Morgan never equaled her role as the slanteyed waif in beret and trench coat in the doomed, fatalist world of "Port of Shadows."

She married twice, first to Marshall, who died in 1959, then to Henri Vidal, whom she divorced. Her only child, Mike Marshall, from her first marriage, died of cancer in 2005, aged 60. Morgan was made a commander of the Legion of Honor in 1994 and given the highest rank of the Ordre National du Merite in 2004. In later years, Morgan was a talented painter, saying, "It calms me. At the heart of it, I have always liked being alone. I've never been happier than when I am with my painting."— AFP



Officials investigate a home in the Lennox area of Los Angeles as they search for Lisa Marie Naegle.



This undated photo of Lisa Marie Naegle was provided by her family to police and news media as they and authorities seek the public's help in locating her. — AP Photos

Body found believed to be of ex-reality show contestant

body found Tuesday in a backyard is believed to be that of a former reality TV show contestant who vanished over the weekend after attending a birthday party at a California beer hall. Police and coroner's officials searched at a home in unincorporated Lennox, near Los Angeles International Airport, after an acquaintance of Lisa Marie Naegle was arrested and indicated her body was there, police said. "We can confirm a body which we believe is Lisa Marie was discovered in a shallow grave at the suspect's home," police spokesman Sal Ramirez said Tuesday night. "The detectives strongly believe it is her." A motive for and cause of her death were not immediately disclosed.

Jackie Jerome Rogers, 34, was arrested Tuesday on suspicion of murder after being questioned about her disappearance. It wasn't immediately clear whether he had a lawyer. Naegle, 36, a nurse who lived in the San Pedro area of Los Angeles, was a losing contestant on the show "Bridalplasty" in 2010. She competed for a dream wedding and plastic surgery. She taught nursing classes at West Los Angeles College, and Rogers was one of her students, according to the Daily Breeze of Torrance. Naegle had gone to a birthday party on Saturday night at Alpine Village, a beer hall and restaurant in Torrance.

Naegle's husband, Derek Harryman, said he texted her around 2 am Sunday to see where she was. "Within a minute or two, she called me," Harryman told the Daily Breeze. "She sounded really, really drunk. She said, 'I'm going to get some food and then I'll be home.' "She never arrived and didn't show up to teach. Harryman and Naegle's sister filed a missing person's report and asked for help on social media in finding her. The family said they obtained photos showing Naegle leaving the beer hall with Rogers and video that showed her getting into his sport utility vehicle. "We went and we looked

at the film and she left with him," her brother, Rafael

Chavez, told the newspaper. "He told everybody he left without her." "We begged and pleaded that he'd come to our home to kind of give us details on what time, where were things, and when he left her, but while he was talking to us and telling us his story, multiple different times he said he absolutely did not go home with her, or did not take her home," Naegle's sister, Danielle Naegle-Kaimona, told KABC-TV. After being confronted with information that Naegle was seen getting into his car, Rogers altered his story to say that Naegle had gotten into his car but then got out moments later, the family said. They then contacted police. — AP

Martin Scorsese,

Cinema is gone'

artin Scorsese's Manhattan office, in a midtown building a few blocks northwest of the cordoned-off Trump Tower, may be the most concentrated bastion of reverence for cinema on the face of the earth. There's a small screening room where Scorsese screens early cuts of his films and classic movies for his daughter and his friends. There's his personal library of thousands of films, some he taped himself decades ago. Film posters line the walls. Bookshelves are stuffed with film histories. And there are editing suites, including the one where Scorsese and his longtime editor Thelma Schoonmaker regularly toil with a monitor dedicated to the continuous, muted playing of Turner Classic Movies.

"It's a temple of worship, really," says Schoonmaker. Scorsese's latest, "Silence," may be the film that most purely fuses the twin passions of his life: God and cinema. Scorsese, who briefly pursued becoming a priest before fervently dedicating himself to moviemaking, has sometimes seemed to conflate the two. "Silence" is a solemn, religious epic about Jesuit priests (Andrew Garfield, Adam Driver) in a violently anti-Catholic 17th century Japan. Scorsese has wanted to make it for nearly 30 years.

He was given the book it's based on, Shusaku Endo's 1966 novel, by a bishop after a screening of his famously controversial "The Last Temptation of Christ" in 1988. "Silence" is an examination of belief and doubt and mysterious acts of faith. But making the film was such an act in itself. "Acting it out, maybe that's what existence is all about," Scorsese says of his faith. "The documentary on George Harrison I made, 'Living in the Material World,' that says it better. He said if you want an old man in the sky with a beard, fine. I don't mean to be relativist about it.

'Silence'

I happen to feel more comfortable with Christianity. But what is Christianity? That's the issue and that's why I made this film." It wasn't easy. Scorsese, 74, may be among the most revered directors in Hollywood, but "Silence" is almost the antithesis of today's studio film. To make it Scorsese had to drum up foreign money in Cannes and ultimately made the film for about \$46 million. Everyone, including himself, worked for scale. Few today are making movies with the scope and ambition of "Silence" - a fact, he grants, that makes him feel like one of the last of a dying breed in today's film industry.

"Cinema is gone," Scorsese says. "The cinema I grew up with and that I'm making, it's gone." "The theater will always be there for that communal experience, there's no doubt. But what kind of experience is it going to be?" he continues. "Is it always going to be a theme-park movie? I sound like an old man, which I am. The big screen for us in the '50s, you go from Westerns to 'Lawrence of Arabia' to the special experience of '2001' in 1968. The experience of seeing 'Vertigo' and 'The Searchers' in

Scorsese points to the proliferation of images and the overreliance on superficial techniques as trends that have diminished the power of cinema to younger audiences. "It should matter to your life," he says. "Unfortunately the latest generations don't know that it mattered so much." Scorsese's comments echo a tender letter he wrote his daughter two years ago. The future of movies, he believes, is in the freedom that technology has yielded for anyone to make a movie. "TV, I don't think has taken that place. Not yet," adds Scorsese, whose "Boardwalk Empire" was lauded but whose high-priced



In this photo, producer and director Martin Scorsese poses for a portrait in New York. — AP

'Vinyl'

"I tried it. I had success to a certain extent. 'Vinyl' we tried but we found that the atmosphere for the type of picture we wanted to make - the nature of the language, the drugs, the sex, depicting the rock 'n' roll world of the '70s - we got a lot of resistance. So I don't know about that freedom." Since the election of Donald Trump, some have expressed hope for a return to the kind of '70s filmmaking Scorsese is synonymous with. "If the younger people have something to say and they find a way to say through visual means as well as literary, there's the new cinema," says Scorsese.

But the current climate reminds him more of the '50s of his youth. "I'm worried about doublethink or triple-think, which is make you believe you have the freedom, but they can make it very difficult to get the picture shown, to get it made, ruin reputations. It's happened before." "Silence," which Scorsese screened for Jesuits at the Vatican before meeting with the pope, remains a powerful exception in a changing Hollywood. "He wanted to make this film extremely differently from anything out there," says Schoonmaker, Scorsese's editor since "Raging Bull." —AP

JUSTICE LEAGUE: THE FLASH JOINS BATMAN, IN NEW IMAGE

■he upcoming "Justice League" is starting to feel almost like a family get-together. Ezra Miller, who plays the Flash, referred to Batman as a "Dad" and Aquaman as "Uncle Fish Curry," in an interview with Entertainment Weekly. So it's probably not a step too far to consider Wonder Woman as a stern mother and the Flash as perhaps a wise-cracking child?

In the interview, which was accompanied by a new still from the film of Batman (Ben Affleck), Wonder Woman (Gal Gadot), and the Flash all suited and booted, Miller described his character as the Ringo Starr of the Justice League crew, explaining that "he annoys everybody, but he doesn't have any specific beef with anyone."

The movie will also see Henry Cavill reprise his Superman role, while Jason Momoa and Ray Fisher will step into the roles of Aquaman and Cyborg, respectively. Back in October, the film's director, Zack Snyder, tweeted a behind-the-scenes video which showed the cast joking around on set. Meanwhile, Wonder Woman is set to get her own standalone adventure on June 2, 2017, before she teams up with the rest of the League. "Justice League" will hit theaters on Nov 17, 2017.— Reuters



MUSIC



A clothing vendor (L) pedals his bicycle past a billboard promoting a planned concert by US singer James Taylor in Manila yesterday.



In this file photo, musician James Taylor performs in Manchester, New Hampshire. — AP Photos

James Taylor cancels Manila show over drug war killings

rammy award-winning singer James Taylor said yesterday he has cancelled a February 2017 concert in the Philippines in protest at the alleged extrajudicial killings in President Rodrigo Duterte's brutal drug war. "I don't think of my music as being particularly political but sometimes one is called upon to make a political stand," the US star said in social media posts on Twitter as well as on his Facebook page. "For a sovereign nation to prosecute and punish, under the law, those responsible for the illegal trade in drugs is, of course, understandable, even commendable," he said, calling drug dependence a "scourge" and a "world-

wide problem". "But recent reports from the Philippines of summary executions of suspected offenders without trial or judicial process are deeply concerning and unacceptable to anyone who loves the rule of law." Duterte, a fiery populist provincial politician, was elected by a landslide earlier this year largely on a vow to 100,000 criminals. Police or suspected vigilantes have killed more than 5,300 people since July, but the government rejects the allegations of extrajudicial executions and insists those killed by police had resisted arrest and fought police.

Taylor, 68, rose to fame in the 1970s for writing and per-

forming sensitive songs such as "Fire and Rain" and "You've Got a Friend" and has won five Grammy Awards over his long career. In recent press interviews he has openly discussed his recovery from heroin addiction in his teens, just before he became globally famous. Taylor informed local promoter Ovation Productions about his decision late Tuesday and rejected last-minute appeals to reconsider, Ovation president and chief executive Renen de Guia told AFP.

De Guia said Taylor was the first foreign performer he is aware of to have cancelled a Philippine concert over the killings, and hoped he would be the last. "As far as we're concerned we're pushing through with the others," he said. Taylor was scheduled to have played in Manila on February 25 next year as part of a foreign tour. He said his Manila boycott would not affect the Hong Kong, Singapore, Australia and New Zealand legs of his tour. Asked to comment on Taylor's stand on the drug-related killings, de Guia said: "This is a very sensitive issue and I don't want to say anything more." — AFP

SONY CLASSIC CHIEF TO HEAD VIENNA STATE OPERA

ustria's government named Bogdan Roscic yesterday as director of the prestigious Vienna State Opera from 2020, replacing Frenchman Dominique Meyer. Roscic, 52, is currently president of Sony Music's classical music division and has never run an opera house. He was born in Serbia and grew up in Austria. "I believe we need to look to the future, although that isn't to criticize the status quo," Culture Minister Thomas Drozda said as he announced the appointment. He said he wanted to opera house "to ensure that it can attract the global stars of tomorrow... If you like, a State Opera 4.0." In the age of Broadway and Netflix, "the genre has lost meaning and... faces never-before-seen competition for the public's time and money," Drozda said. — AFP



Bogdan Roscic, designated director of the Vienna State Opera, gives a press conference yesterday Vienna. — AFP



People wearing Santa Claus hats play music outside the Opera House in Paris. — AFP



Danish pop band Lukas Graham discusses Grammy nominations

anish pop group Lukas Graham were surprised to write about what my life experiences and my life situation is, receive three Grammy nominations for their global hit "7 Years", says frontman Lukas Forchhammer. The group is competing for "Song of the Year," "Record of the Year" and "Best Pop Duo/Group Performance" at the Grammy Awards to be held in Los Angeles on Feb 12. "We hope for everything and we try to work harder than the people we meet on the road but we don't expect to be hon-

And the Grammys mean a lot especially because it is a peer to peer voting system," Forchhammer, 28, told Reuters Television. Forchhammer said he draws inspiration from his past growing up in Christiania, a celebrated hippy enclave within the Danish capital, Copenhagen. The recent birth of his daughter, Viola, added a new element to his writing, he said. "I

so of course there is going to be songs about becoming a father," he said.

"But I feel that having a baby has also opened this other dimension where it is easier for me to write songs where the stories are not necessarily about my life. It's something about what you are looking at," Forchammer said. "7 Years" went quadruple platinum, reaching No. 2 on the Billboard Hot 100 chart, and is the highest selling single from a debut artist this year. Lukas Graham consists of lead singer Forchhammer, bassist Magnus Larsson, drummer Mark "Lovestick" Falgren and Morten Ristorp on the keyboard. — Reuters

Kane Brown turned Facebook likes into a country music career

s a kid, Kane Brown and his mother used to sing together as pretend "American Idol" contestants. But when Brown actually tried out for the show years later, he kept getting rejected or stereotyped. "They told me they didn't need another Scotty McCreery," Brown said. "I tried out for 'X Factor' and they put me in a boy band and I ended up quitting." So the 23-year-old singer from the Tennessee-Georgia border near Chattanooga turned to Facebook to find an audience for iPhone videos of himself singing covers of songs like "Check Yes or No," by George Strait, a video that's been viewed 11

"I had like 3,000 friends on Facebook," Brown said. "I felt like if they thought I was good enough, they would at least help me share my videos a little bit. One day it went viral." Brown turned those popular Facebook videos into a dedicated fan base that propelled him to a No. 1 debut on Billboard Top Country Albums chart in December. He had the best country debut in two years in a genre where fans still primarily discover new artists through the radio. He's had three songs in the top 5 of Billboard's Country Digital Songs Sales, but he's only had one song crack the Top 40 for country airplay.

Learning

Showcasing his deep baritone voice, Brown's revealing self-titled album is mostly autobiographical with songs about his deep love for his grandparents, his struggles with racism and growing up without a

lot of money. One of the standout tracks on the album, "Learning," starts off with his experience of being beaten as a child by a stepdad. "I was honestly nervous about even putting it on the album, but it had such a personal message to me," Brown said. "I just want to help kids that are going through bullying or racism."

Like many social media stars, Brown is engaged with his fans online, often responding to fans' comments, or asking them to share videos and increasing his reach. But as a kid in middle school, he was too shy to sing in public until a close friend convinced him to show off his vocal skills in chorus. "I got him to stay after class one day, and I got him to sing "I Can Only Imagine," for me and our teacher," said Lauren Alaina, who later went on to take the runner-up spot on the 10th season of "American Idol." "And the whole rest of the year they had us sing together."

Alaina and Brown got to sing together again years later on the song "What Ifs" on Brown's new record. "I think it's cool because he got found through Facebook and online and I got found on 'American Idol,' and those aren't the traditional ways to get a record deal," Alaina said. Brown's DIY success led him to open for Florida Georgia Line, one of country's biggest tours, and now he's on his own headlining tour. And no one is prouder than his first duet partner. "My mom texted me and said, "I'm glad you won't have to struggle like we used to have to," Brown said. "And that meant a lot to me." — AP



This image taken from video shows Kane Brown during an interview in Nashville, Tennessee. — AP

FEATURES



This picture shows four year-old Sammi Smith carrying Fideo, a three-year-old male albino ferret in her house on the outskirts of Sydney — AFP Photos

EXOTIC TO MAINSTREAM: AUSTRALIANS WILD ABOUT UNUSUAL PETS

■he proud owner of dingo 'Kimba', James Bornstein, is part of the new wave of Australian exotic pet lovers whose unconventional companions are growing in popularity. In a country known for its unusual wildlife, Bornstein says having a sub-species of the grey wolf in his Sydney home is an opportunity to change people's negative perceptions about the native wild dog and apex predator. "Dingoes are so intelligent. We want people to see her (Kimba) and realize they are not vicious animals, they are just like normal dogs," he told AFP.

Dingoes are infamous thanks to the dramatic case of Azaria Chamberlain-a nine-week-old baby snatched by one of the animals during a camping trip in central Australia in 1980, which was made into a movie. Bornstein hopes his efforts will increase support for conservation, as dingo numbers decline amid habitat loss and cross-breeding with domestic dogs. His views are echoed by Ben Dessen, reptile manager at Kellyville Pets store in Sydney, who owned his first snake at just six.

"Now we see every six-year-old that we set up with their first reptile-hopefully they want to go on and protect animals and have an appreciation for how amazing these creatures are," he says. According to the Australian Veterinary Association, exotic pets are becoming "more and more popular", with residents owning millions of birds, fish, small mammals and reptiles.

Ernie Chan, a breeder who has kept up to 130 reptiles, says shrinking homes and urbanization has seen potential owners turn to smaller pets that require less maintenance. "You don't need to take a snake for a walk," Chan says. "Everybody's had dogs and cats for so many years and it's kind of reptiles' time to shine." Brooke Winters is another exotic pet convert in a nation famous for koalas, kangaroos and wombats.

"I grew up with Steve Irwin as my idol, so pretty much everything that he did I just wanted to mimic," Winters said at Macarthur Pets, a large pet store in Sydney that she manages. "I just feel like people don't appreciate (reptiles) enough and treat them very differently just because they don't have fur." "Crocodile Hunter" Irwin was a world-renowned conservationist whose stunts with dangerous animals drew attention to wildlife Down Under before his death a decade ago.

Despite their growing popularity, there are strict laws across Australia governing what exotic creatures can be kept as pets. Even so, welfare officials warn of backyard breeders or buying an animal that may have been grabbed from the wild. "Those animals can have really special needs and even if they have been bred in captivity, they are generally wild animals with long histories of living in particular environments," RSPCA Australia's Jane Speechley adds. "They don't necessarily adapt very well to being kept as companion animals." — AFP



This picture shows James Bornstein with his pet Dingo named 'Kimba' during her daily walk on a beach on the outskirts of Sydney.



scorpion, the biggest scorpion species in Australia, at a pet store in Sydney.



This picture shows reptile breeder Ben Dessen holding a Flinders Ranges This picture shows reptile breeder Ernie Chan holding 'Luna', an albino short-neck turtle at a pet store in Sydney.





This picture shows reptile breeder Ernie Chan with 'Malfoy', an albino Darwin carpet python, in Sydney.

French actress Michele Morgan dies, aged 96

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 $The setting sun casts light on lower Manhattan and One World Trade Center in New York City as seen from Hoboken, New Jersey. \\ -- AFP In the Setting Sun casts light on lower Manhattan and One World Trade Center in New York City as seen from Hoboken, New Jersey. \\ -- AFP In the Setting Sun casts light on lower Manhattan and One World Trade Center in New York City as seen from Hoboken, New Jersey. \\ -- AFP In the Setting Sun casts light on lower Manhattan and One World Trade Center in New York City as seen from Hoboken, New Jersey. \\ -- AFP In the Setting Sun casts light on lower Manhattan and One World Trade Center in New York City as seen from Hoboken, New Jersey. \\ -- AFP In the Setting Sun casts light on the Setting Sun casts ligh$

Generation X-Soviet: Young Russians conflicted over past

ust when Irina Chubkovets was coming into the world, the country her parents and grandparents had lived in was slipping out of it. Chubkovets was born in the provincial Russian city of Bryansk on December 25, 1991, the day the last leader of the Soviet Union, Mikhail Gorbachev, resigned and the hammer and sickle flag atop the Kremlin was replaced by the Russian tricolor. The iconic moment drove the final nail into the coffin of over 70 years of Soviet rule and opened a new era of uncertainty that left an indelible mark on the world map and the people of Russia.

"I received a Soviet birth certificate but it wasn't clear at all what country we were in that day," Chubkovets told AFP. In the 25 years since, Chubkovets and those of her generation have grown up side-by-side with their emerging nation. Together they took their unsteady first steps during the tumultuous 1990s, before finding their feet as Vladimir Putin became president in 2000 and coming of age during the increasingly assertive years of his rule. Chubkovets now is married to an army officer and the mother of a two-year-old son Viktor.

Grandmother's tales

For many of those who grew up after the demise of the

Soviet Union their views of the lost empire are shaped by the memories of the older generations who often paint a rosy picture of life under Communism. "My grandmother always loved to say that things were better in the Soviet Union: people were poor but equal," Chubkovets said. "Now there are all these differences." "I would want everything to be stable so people know what it will be like in five or ten years," she said. "The outlook is still worrisome." A recent survey by the independent pollster Levada Centre found that 19 percent of Russians between the ages of 18 and 24 regret the collapse of the USSR

One reason for that, experts say, is the resurgent nationalism under Putin that is thrust down the throats of the population by a slavish state media. This month prominent pro-Kremlin talk show host Dmitry Kiselyov praised the Soviet Union as a "grandiose social experiment." "The goal was to create paradise on Earth," he said. "We managed to accomplish a lot." From the annexation of Crimea from Ukraine to the worst standoff with the West since the Cold War, many say the Kremlin strongman is trying to revive the lost glory of Moscow's superpower status. Putin has called the collapse of the Soviet Union a "geopolitical catastrophe" and the Kremlin

turned the USSR's victory in World War II into Russia's defining

historical moment.

"The positive, nostalgic perception of the Soviet Union that is sometimes conveyed at the official level is adopted by the young generation," said sociologist Karina Pipiya of the Levada Centre. "This is not because they know about the Soviet Union but because they are loyal to the authorities. If the authorities say it's good, then they think it must be good too." Young Russians also grew up in cities where reminders of the Soviet Union are ubiquitous. Monuments to Soviet founding father Lenin and eponymous streets commemorating the leader of the 1917 October Revolution still dot cityscapes across the country, and his body still lies embalmed in the mausoleum on Moscow's Red Square.

Paternalism 2.0

One major change of attitude among the younger generation appears to be that they are once again relying on Russia's empowered state. While those who cut their teeth in the 1990s usually looked to private business to make a living, those beginning their careers now increasingly eye opportunities with the state. Vasily Koloskov, a recent Moscow gradu-

ate specialized in French literature, shares a birthday with Chubkovets. Currently in search for work, Koloskov says that many of his contemporaries are flocking to the public sector. "We can still feel the Soviet heritage because the state sector is strong and the private one is weaker," he said. Sociologist Pipiya says that Russians under the age of 25 are "very paternalistically oriented" and seek state support like the one found during the Soviet era.

"It's not the case that a significant portion of the young generation grew up with an individualistic orientation and focused on business opportunities," she said. When push comes to shove, however, few of those who have grown up in post-Soviet Russia seem like they actually want the return of the USSR. While a fifth say they regret the Soviet empire's collapse, only three percent wanted to live under Communism. "I like things the way they are now," job hunter Koloskov told AFP. "I wouldn't have wanted to live back then." — AFP



This file photo shows then US President Ronald Reagan speaking with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev during welcoming ceremonies at the White House on the first day of their disarmament summit.



This file photo shows Lithuanians crowding with the Lithuanian flag and a banner which reads "Bye, bye USSR" - in the center of Vilnius, during demonstration asking for the country's independence. — AFP photos