

THE FIRST DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2016

RABI AL-AWWAL 26, 1438 AH

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ISRAEL FUMES AFTER US LETS UN DENOUNCE SETTLEMENTS

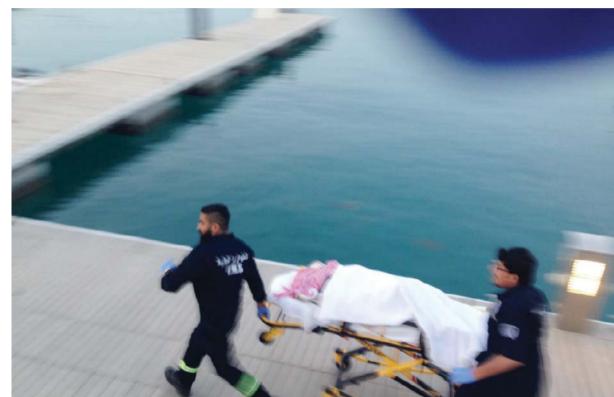
Max 27°

NETANYAHU SLAMS OBAMA • PALESTINIANS REJOICE • GHANEM HAILS VOTE

High Tide 11:07 & 21:52 **Low Tide**

04:42 & 15:55

FIVE KILLED IN DEADLY YACHT BLAZE



KUWALL: Paramedics rush a victim to nospital following a fire on a yacht off Khairan yesterday

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: Five people were killed and several others wounded in a yacht fire off the southern resort of Khairan

yesterday, the fire department said. Coastguards and firemen managed to control the fire, the department said in a statement, adding investigations are underway to determine the cause of the deadly blaze. Eleven ambulances

and two medevac choppers were dispatched to the scene. The deceased include three unidentified women, a man and a child. Another person was revived by paramedics and airlifted to hospital for further treatment.

JERUSALEM: Israel scrambled yesterday to contain the fallout from a UN Security Council vote to halt settlements in Palestinian territory after lashing out at US President Barack Obama over the "shameful" resolution. The council passed the measure Friday after the United States abstained, enabling the adoption of the first UN resolution since 1979 to condemn Israel over its settlement policy, calling settlements "a flagrant violation under international law".

By deciding not to veto the move, the US took a rare step that deeply angered Israel, which accused Obama of abandoning its closest Middle East ally in the waning days of his administration. The text was passed with support from all remaining members of the 15-member council, with applause breaking out in the chamber. The landmark vote came despite intense lobbying efforts by Israel and calls from US President-elect Donald Trump to block the text.

While the resolution contains no sanctions, Israeli officials are concerned it could widen the possibility of prosecution at the International Criminal Court. They are also worried it could encourage some countries to impose sanctions against Israeli settlers and products produced in the settlements.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu rejected the resolution and criticized Obama in especially harsh language. "Israel rejects this shameful anti-Israel resolution at the UN and will not abide by its terms," a statement from his office said. "The Obama administration not only failed to protect Israel against this gang-up at the UN, it colluded with it behind the scenes," it said. "Israel looks forward to working with President-elect Trump and with all our friends in Congress, Republicans and Democrats alike, to negate the harmful effects of this

absurd resolution." Michael Oren, the deputy minister for diplomacy in the premier's officer and a former Israeli envoy to Washington, said he saw the resolution as "a lot like

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Kuwait to float Zour

North One in mid-2017

DUBAI: Kuwait plans to sell shares in the Al-Zour North Independent Water and Power Project to the public in mid-2017, state news agency KUNA reported yesterday. The Al-Zour North One plant has a capacity of at least 1,500 MW and is structured as a public-private partnership (PPP). The project is 40 percent owned by three partners - France's Engie, Japan's Sumitomo Corporation and Kuwaiti firm AH Al Sagar & Brothers. Kuwait's sovereign wealth fund the Kuwait Investment Authority, the Public Institution for Social Security, and the PPP body Kuwait Authority for Partnership Projects (KAPP), together hold 60 percent. A public share sale was a condition for the project, once construction was finished. It was completed on Nov 26, according to Sumitomo's website. The government will offer 50 percent of Al-Zour to Kuwaiti citizens, KAPP General Manager Mutlaq Al-Sanei said.

Saudis to sell 49% of

Aramco within decade

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia plans to sell up to 49 percent of its oil giant Saudi Aramco within 10 years as the world's largest crude exporter tries to lower its deficit, local media said yesterday. The Al-Eqtisadiah daily quoted an unnamed official as saying the sale would raise funds to be spent "at home and abroad" in what is expected to form the world's largest state investment fund. The kingdom is looking to diversify its oil-dependent economy and has already announced cutbacks after its 2015 deficit snowballed to \$97 billion. The IPO for state-owned Aramco could take place in 2018 and an initial sale of a five percent share is expected to form the basis for the fund holding around \$2 trillion in assets. The firm will next year begin publishing quarterly results in a bid to attract potential investors, Aramco chief Amin Nasser has said.

Vacationing Jazeera

journalist arrested CAIRO: Egypt has arrested a journalist with the Qatarbased Al-Jazeera broadcaster, police officials said yesterday, in the latest move against the network it accuses of supporting Islamist opposition. Egyptian Mahmoud Hussein was arrested at his home on Friday, days after he returned to his country on vacation, the officials and Al-Jazeera said. He had been stopped and interrogated in Cairo airport when he arrived on Tuesday but was set free before police raided his house. Al-Jazeera denounced the arrest in a Facebook post. A prosecution official said Hussein is accused of incitement to violence and publishing false news and belonging to the banned Muslim

Brotherhood movement.

BETHLEHEM CELEBRATES, EUROPE FEARFUL



BETHLEHEM: Palestinians attend a performance by Christian scouts at Manger Square outside the Church of Nativity during Christmas celebrations in this city in

the Israeli-occupied West Bank yesterday.— AFP

BETHLEHEM: Pilgrims gathered in Bethlehem yesterday for Christmas Eve as Europeans worked up some holiday spirit despite tight security in the shadow of the Berlin market attack. Dozens of Palestinians and tourists flocked to Bethlehem's Manger Square near the Church of the Nativity, where celebrations culminated with a midnight mass at the site where Christians believe Jesus

(PBUH) was born. Some snapped selfies near the square's giant Christmas tree and watched the annual Scouts parade in the city, a short drive from Jerusalem in the Israeli-occupied West Bank. "This is Christ's land, the land of peace," said Ramzi Abu Khalil, who was wearing a red Santa hat. "We take pride in him. All Christians should come today to Bethlehem. This is a holy day for us and a day of pilgrimage."

Violence put a damper on celebrations in Bethlehem last year, as a wave of knife, gun and car-ramming attacks reduced sharply the number of Christmas visitors. The unrest has subsided in recent months and, with major Bethlehem hotels booked up, many in the city were optimistic this year's holiday season would bring more visitors.

In Europe, many preparing to celebrate were still reeling from this week's truck attack on the Berlin Christmas market. Hundreds of investigators were working through the holiday season hunting possible accomplices to Tunisian Anis Amri, who was killed Friday in a shootout with Italian police near Milan. Amri, 24, is believed to have hijacked a truck and used it to mow down holiday revelers at the market on Monday, killing 12 people in an attack claimed by the Islamic State (IS) group. Tunisia said yesterday it had arrested three men suspected of links with Amri, including his nephew.

Continued on Page 13

WOODS HITS GOLF LINKS WITH TRUMP

three years ago with Barack Obama, played 18 holes on Friday with Donald Trump at the real estate mogul's Trump International Golf Club in Palm Beach, Florida. Woods, who will celebrate his 41st birthday on Dec 30, returned to competition this month after a 15-month injury layoff. He joined the presidentelect in a foursome, a spokeswoman for Trump's transition team said, with Trump departing via motorcade after the round for his Mar-a-Lago estate.

He planned to go from there to the West Palm Beach Hilton, and had meetings with "high-level staffers" planned later in the day, press secretary Stephanie Grisham said. Trump's transition team didn't offer any immediate details on the round, or what the president-elect and former world number one Woods talked

MIAMI: Tiger Woods, who played golf about. In Feb 2013, 14-time major champion Woods played with Obama at a private golf resort in Florida.

Obama and Woods teamed up to defeat US trade representative Ron Kirk and Houston Astros owner Jim Crane. That golf outing was criticized after it came to light that it ended up costing US taxpayers nearly \$3.6 million, according to a US Government Accountability report published this year. The Trump Organization owns golf courses around the world, including historic Turnberry in Scotland, which has hosted the Open Championship four times.

However, Trump's controversial comments on issues such as immigration during the US presidential campaign strained his relationships with some in the golf world.

Continued on Page 13



KUWAIT: Kuwaiti priest Emmanuel Gharib, head of the National Evangelical Church, leads Christmas Mass at the church in Kuwait City yesterday. There are approximately 200 Christian Kuwaitis in the state, in addition to a large expatriate Christian community, mostly from southeast Asia. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat



In Brief

SPEAKER COMMENDS UNSC ANTI-SETTLEMENT RESOLUTION

KUWAIT: Kuwaiti parliament speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem praised a UN Security Council (UNSC) resolution Friday that urged Israel to immediately stop Jewish settlement expansion in occupied Palestinian territories. The resolution "is a step in the right direction," Ghanem said in a press statement, and was another tool to exercise pressure upon Israel to abide by UN resolutions related to the Arab-Israeli conflict. He added that the resolution should be followed by other steps in international conferences like the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU). — KUNA



KUWAIT CONDEMNS SOLDIERS' BURNING

KUWAIT: Kuwait strongly condemns the heinous terrorist crime of burning two Turkish soldiers by the so-called Islamic State terrorist group in Syria, a senior source at the Foreign Ministry stated Friday. This brutal crime reaffirms that barbarism of this terrorist group whose actions run counter to the teachings and tolerant values of Islam which calls for protection of every human soul, the source said. He emphasized Kuwait's solidarity with Turkey and support to all measures its government takes to maintain the country's security and stability. — KUNA



BOURSA LAUNCHES 'SPECIAL TRADES'

KUWAIT: In line with the company's diligence to address market needs, Boursa Kuwait announced yesterday the launch of 'Special Trades' transactions, after receiving final approval from the Capital Markets Authority (CMA). Boursa Kuwait Vice Chairman and CEO Khaled Abdulrazzaq Al-Khaled said in a release: "Boursa Kuwait seeks to introduce new tools and products that will first and foremost, facilitate the trading process for investors, and enhance the overall status of the exchange by providing long due solutions that will allow them to manage their investments more efficiently." — KUNA



Photo

of the day

KUWAIT: Boats cruise with Kuwait City's skyline in the background. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

OOREDOO SIGNS MEMORANDUM WITH KUWAIT INTERNATIONAL LAW SCHOOL



Ooredoo CEO and General Manager Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdullah Al Thani, and the Dean of Kuwait International Law School Dr Mohammed Al-Moqatei sign the agreement.

KUWAIT: Ooredoo, the fastest network in Kuwait in 2016, signed a memorandum of understanding with the Kuwait International Law School last week. The signing ceremony was attended by Ooredoo CEO and General Manager Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdullah Al Thani, and the Dean of Kuwait International Law School Dr Mohammed Al-Mogatei. The ceremony was also attended by Chief Corporate Legal and Regulatory Affairs Officer Dr Yousef Al-Sellili, Corporate Communications Senior Director Mijbil Alayoub, CSR, Sponsorship and Social Media Senior Manager Yousef Al-Shallal, Director of Legal Affairs Tamer Al-Shershaby, and Legal Advisor Othman Al-

Commenting on this joint initiative, Ooredoo CEO and General Manager Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdullah Al Thani said: "We're eager to join hands with a reputable organization such as the Kuwait International Law School. We at Ooredoo Kuwait are invested in youth and are proud to take part in their academic future. Through this program, we hope to expose students to the challenges of working in the dynamic private sector, especially in

the telecom industry which is one of the most fast-paced sectors. We believe in investing in youth, because the future of this country is built with their hands."

The Dean of Kuwait International Law School Dr Mohammed Al-Moqatei on his part lauded the initiative of Ooredoo, and commended their participation in supporting youth through their varied sponsorships and partnerships.

The memorandum of understanding between the two entities gives Kuwait International Law School students the opportunity to intern at Ooredoo Kuwait and get exposed to the various functions fulfilled by different departments across the organization. High-scoring students can also get an opportunity to intern in some of Ooredoo Group's operating companies outside Kuwait.

Empowering youth is among Ooredoo's top priorities through its CSR strategy. The company has recently signed a memorandum of understanding with the Ministry of State for Youth Affairs, to support youth projects and initiatives. Ooredoo is continuously working with the Ministry to enrich youth experience in a variety of fields, with a focus on volunteerism.



Sheikh Mohammed Al Thani and Dr Mohammed Al-Moqatei shake hands after signing the agreement.



Dean of Kuwait International Law School Dr Mohammed Al-Moqatei and Chief Corporate Legal and Regulatory Affairs Officer Dr Yousef Al-Sellili.



Ooredoo and Kuwait International Law School officials pose for a group photo.



The officials tour inside the Kuwait International Law School.



Woman killed in two-car collision

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: A woman was killed and another was injured in an accident early yesterday on King Fahd Road. Firefighters accompanied by paramedics and police responded to an emergency call made at 3:14 am that reported a two-car collision under the bridge between Jabriya and Surra. They discovered that one of the victims, a 22-year-old Kuwaiti woman, had succumbed to her injuries, while another Kuwaiti woman who was with her in the car was injured. Firemen helped the injured woman out of the vehicle and handed her over to paramedics, while the other woman's body was taken to the coroner. A number of people who were in the second car sustained minor injuries, and were treated on site. An investigation was opened to determine the circumstances that led to the accident.

An Afghani national was arrested on charges of child sexual abuse, said security sources, noting that the girl's father said the suspect allegedly molested his daughter on her

Child molester charged

Drug possession

An Asian arriving at Kuwait International Airport from his home country via a transit flight was arrested with 10,000 illicit pills he had hidden under a fruit basket.

Pedestrian mugged

A Filipino man reported that five unidentified people attacked him while he was walking to his house in Salmiya. They threatened him with a knife and stole his wallet with KD 60 in cash, his civil ID and passport, in addition to a



KUWAIT: The victims' vehicle is pictured following the accident.

mobile phone. Meanwhile, a Kuwaiti citizen reported that his mobile phone was stolen while he was on the Shaab seafront. He pressed no charges against anyone.

Kidnap

A Syrian woman filed a complaint accusing her husband of kidnapping their two boys, adding that the kids disappeared on the very day their father left the country. A case was filed and further investigations are in progress.

Prisoner assaulted

An Egyptian central prison inmate filed a complaint accusing two Kuwaiti inmates of assaulting him. A case was filed.

Slaughterhouses' report

Kuwait Municipality's public relation department announced that Ahmadi municipality food and markets control department inspected and supervised the slaughter of 28,201 heads of cattle including 27,071 sheep, cows, calves and camels for the public and 1,130 for butcheries and markets, said Ahmadi Municipality Manager Fahd Al-Shetaili. He added that 83 of the slaughtered heads weighing 220 kg were destroyed because they were unfit for consumption. Ahmadi municipality audit and follow-up manager Saad Al-Shaibah said 203 illegal ads were removed and 68,198 tons of imported foodstuff was examined.

Kuwait Fire Service Directorate's (KFSD) Public Relations mary school in Saad Al-Abdullah, where the scenario the Jahra fire team and the school's immediate intervention team was trained on evacuating and assembling

Fire drills

Office announced that Hilali fire center held a drill simulating fighting a fire in a 17-storey building using a 90-m fire ladder to rescue a man who was trapped and injured on the top floor. The drill also involved using a 90-m-long fire hose. Another drill was carried out by KFSD at a girls' priinvolved a fire in the school's storage area, with two injuries amongst the pupils. The drill was carried out by around 1,000 pupils and the school staff in the school yard within two minutes.

KUWAIT: Kuwaiti Minister of Oil Essam Al-Marzouq (center) meets with his Saudi and Qatari counterparts, in presence of other Kuwaiti oil officials. — KUNA

KUWAIT. SAUDI ARABIA QATAR EYE STABLE OIL MARKET

KUWAIT: Kuwaiti Minister of Oil Essam Al- Water, is head of the OPEC's production Marzouq met yesterday with the visiting Saudi and Qatari ministers of energy and industry Khaled Al-Faleh and Mohammad Al-Sada respectively on how to maintain world oil market stability. The meeting came on the occasion of the Saudi minister Faleh's takeover of OPEC presidency from its outgoing head Sada, Kuwait Petroleum Cooperation (KPC) said in a press release. Kuwaiti Minister of Oil Essam Al-Marzouq, who doubles as Minister of Electricity and

control committee.

The meeting is part of continuing fraternal consultations among the three Gulf ministers on ways of promoting trilateral cooperation, world oil market conditions and rebalance between global supply and demand, it said. It came following a recent OPEC agreement to cut production by 2.1 million barrels per day, followed by a decision by non-OPEC members to curb production by around 560,000 barrels per day. — KUNA

ONE MILLION **EXPATS OUT!**



By Muna Al-Fuzai

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Tuwait has an imbalance between the citizen and the expatriate populations. This is nothing new, as nearly all Gulf countries are also facing the same problem. Recently, Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Faisal Al-Hamoud Al-Sabah made a press statement stating that the greatest danger facing the country is marginal and illegal workers, adding that they constitute a burden on the society and its safety. He called for the deportation of one million expat marginal laborers who have no jobs or work contracts.

I agree he is very right, but how to do so? Who will be doing this - the interior ministry or the ministry of social affairs and labor? Will the campaign include areas like Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh? The minister of social affairs and labor confirmed in previous press statements that there will be a "connection between decisions related to expats and manpower, as well as the duration of their stay in the country - it will not be wide open as it was in the past".

In Kuwait, there are residents of approximately 116 nationalities, and addressing the demographic imbalance has economic, security and social consequences. I know some expats do not like such talk because they see it as a threat to their stay in the country, but this is not true. If you were brought to Kuwait by legal channels for a real job, then you have nothing to worry about. But I am, for example, against the growing number of Arab expatriates in sensitive jobs that can be replaced by citizens, such as at the National Assembly.

Can any sane person explain why typesetters at such a sensitive place are not citizens, considering that the typesetter profession can easily absorb thousands of citizens, especially in a place like the Assembly? The question will always remain over what can be done. How can we control the abnormal increase in expat numbers? Should we stop issuing visas to maids and household workers, or should we disbar a few nationalities that cause trouble in the country and affect its security? We can make real and fair studies and issue decisions that may not please everyone, but will this set things right?

We citizens must be role models. Why don't we accept reducing the number of maids in our houses? Why should every house have at least two or three maids, as decided by societal norms? Then we complain about the demographic imbalance, which we allowed to take place! So these claims of expulsions are fake, and the imbalance will remain for a long time, not because all these numbers of people are required, but because there are beneficiaries of this tampering in the demographics of the state. Kuwait, since its inception, welcomed with open arms all expats and provided them with essential services, comfort and safety. But the growing phenomenon of unemployment among expats, accompanied by an increase in crime in the Kuwaiti society, is an issue of concern. The Farwaniya governor knows this best as it is the governorate that has the highest concentration of expats. Figures by the General Authority for Civil Information show Kuwait's population increased in 2015 to more than 4 million people, including 1.3 million citizens and 2.7 million expats. Previous reports indicate that 56 percent of expatriate workers do menial jobs that Kuwaitis do not want, such as couriers, farmers, servants, drivers and other low-paid jobs.

The most important question is why don't we determine a percentage for expatriate numbers and classify the jobs we need? Why some companies are allowed, for example, to bring in a large number of workers, then throw them on the streets? These people are victims of trafficking. They do not have the power or the means to change the miserable situation they face after their arrival in Kuwait, and try to cope with the difficulties. So it is natural that some of them may beg or turn to theft, until they get arrested and imprisoned or deported.

The governor is right and made a great point. The issue is a simple one, but need immediate decisions..

HIGH QUALITY MATERIAL **USED IN ROAD MAINTENANCE**

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: The Ministry of Public Works (MPW) held a meeting with Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC) to discuss using the best quality material in roads' maintenance. MPW's Undersecretary Awatif Al-Ghonaim said a special team will examine the bitumen's temperature while manufacturing, loading onto trucks and on unloading it in asphalt reservoirs. "These measures came after a number of contractors complained that they received bitumen at temperatures that exceed MPW specifications, which makes it hard to make proper asphalt mixtures," she explained.

New campus

Kuwait University's acting secretary general Dr Adam Al-Mulla said the ed a school building in Hawally to be used as a campus of the General Health Faculty. Mulla added that many university buildings in Shuwaikh and Khaldiya were being refurbished and that 1,000 parking spots would be added at the Khaldiya campus.

Kuwait-Iraq meeting

The foreign ministry's assistant for Arab affairs Aziz Al-Daihani denied there are any unresolved matters between Kuwait and Iraq, and stressed that the supreme joint committee will meet this week to sign a number of agreements,

which indicates both countries' outstanding relations. Meanwhile, Iraqi Oil Minister Jabbar Ali Hussein Al-Luaibi is scheduled to visit Kuwait this week accompanied by a high-ranking delegation for a two-day visit during which both sides will discuss bilateral concerns including the northern oilfields, the possibility of providing Kuwait with Iraqi gas and inviting Kuwaiti companies to invest in projects in Iraq.

Multimillion-dinar deposits

Chairman of the parliament's public funds committee MP Shuaib Al-Muwaizri said that the committee agreed to reopen and restudy all the issues studied by its predecessor panel and accordingly report to the Assembly. Muwaizri explained that the issues would include priorities like the multimillion-dinar bank deposits' case. Responding to a question about his inquiry about funds paid by the Central Bank to current and previous ministers, he stressed that it is the right of MPs to query ministers and that his inquiry is constitutional.

Jaber Hospital

MP Saadoun Al-Otaibi filed an inquiry asking Health Minister Dr Jamal Al-Harbi whether the Jaber Hospital would be reserved only for Kuwaitis. Otaibi also asked about the Ministry of Health's plan and preparations to run the hospital, especially since 98 percent of it has been completed.



Nabila Al-Anjeri



Asaad Al-Romaih

NINE EXPERTS TO JUDGE HORECA **COOKING COMPETITION: ANJERI**

KUWAIT: Now that the list of participating companies in the Horeca 2016 exhibition is complete, Nabila Al-Anjeri, General Manager of the event's organizing company Leaders Group, released a statement announcing that exhibition is set to witness many activities including several cooking competitions with the participation of over 250 chefs from various local and Middle Eastern restaurants and hotels. She added that the jury panel would also comprise of nine international cooking experts selected from several world cuisines. Renowned Chef Samaan Hilal was selected to lead the jury; which also includes cooking expert and World Association of Chefs' Societies' Director Thomas Gugler.

Further, Anjeri added that the cooking competitions would be of great significance for all participants interested in creativity and seeking to explore their own potentials in order to ultimately maintain the high status of Kuwait's hos-

pitality sector. Meanwhile, the Automat Kitchens Company wrapped up the list of participants, after board chairman Asaad Rumaih Othman Al-Romaih announces that his company is participating in the event "because it is an ideal environment to boost cooperation among leading companies and help them open new markets."

Romaih added that Automat Kitchens is a leader in the line of hotel equipment, central kitchens and mega restaurants. He added that his company is also the exclusive agent of various brands including Foster And Hobart, MBM, Rational Show

Notably, Horeca 2017 has attracted over 70 participants from the world's leading hospitality, food industries and hotel equipment companies, in addition to several travel agencies and offices. The event is due to be held under auspices of Minister of Information Sheikh Salman Al-Humoud Al-Sabah. It takes place at Kuwait International Fairgrounds in Mishref in the period of January 16-18, 2017, and is organized by Leaders Group in collaboration with Hospitality Services Company.

KUWAITI, TURKISH PHILANTHROPISTS COORDINATE TO HELP SYRIANS

ANKARA: Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) is coordinating with its Turkish counterpart to organize delivery of relief aid to Syrians in need. Dr Musaed Al-Enezi, the head of the KRCS mission in Turkey, said yesterday that the society officials held a meeting with counterparts from the Turkish Red Crescent Society, discussing cooperation to secure urgent assistance for Syrians from the war-battered city of Aleppo.

The talks that involved Dr Mehmet Gulluoglu, the Director General of the Turkish Red Crescent Society, addressed prospects of dispatching the aid to the relocated and refugees despite current

hard weather conditions. The Turkish philanthropist briefed the Kuwaiti side about their conditions and pressing needs.

The meeting was attended by the KRCS head of public relations media Khaled Al-Zaid and the head of projects and external aid at Qatar Red Crescent Society, which has been also involved in the humanitarian operations in the Syrian-Turkish border regions.

Meanwhile, the Kuwaiti Al-Najat charity declared distribution of relief supplies to Syrians in the Turkish town of Shanly Urfa (officially named Sanliurfa), located close to the border line with neighboring Syria. Thamer Al-Shehaib, in charge of relief operations, said that the association has intensified its efforts due to mounting inflow of Syrians from Aleppo. Its aid to the Syrians include mattresses, heaters and financial support.

It will distribute coupons today to Syrian families to get food rations and clothes. Its representatives will also visit families without male supporters. On Monday, eight truckloads of relief materials will be dispatched to the town of Hatay, also situated in the border region.

'Relieving Aleppo'

The International Islamic Charity Organization (IICO) has pursued its humanitarian campaign 'for relieving Aleppo' through urging for donations and dispatching a team to the regions where the displaced Syrian have settled; following up on such programs with funding by His Highness Chief of the National Guards Sheikh Salem Al-Ali Al-Salem Al-Sabah, in coordination with Syrian and Turkish charities. Salah Al-Jassem, the head of the relief team and the media director at the IICO said that the association had launched the campaign to relieve the displaced and afflicted, following up on another campaign, titled "warmness and safety" for the refugees, with funding by His Highness Sheikh Salem Al-Ali. — KUNA

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Special Report



 ${\it KUWAIT: Female security personnel participate in a training course.} -- {\it KUNA}$



National Assembly's female guards on duty.

National Assembly's female security force, victory for women empowerment

Reaping the fruits of years of determination

KUWAIT: The inclusion of female security personnel in the National Assembly's Guard is considered as another victory for women empowerment in Kuwait. After reaching several key positions within the public and private domains, the ambition to be included in the state's security and armed forces took years to achieve.



Assistant Secretary for the National Assembly Guard General Khaled Al-Waqeet

With their determination and willingness to protect Kuwait, women finally attained their position alongside men in service of the country. Speaking in separate interviews, a number of female and male security personnel expressed their satisfaction with the current status quo, affirming that they were eager for more gains in the future.

Numerous pressures

Assistant Secretary for the National Assembly Guard General Khaled Al-Waqeet commended the performance of the female unit, saying that the work they have carried

'Tremendous work despite numerous pressures.'

out so far was tremendous despite numerous pressures. "There are five female personnel currently on duty at the National Assembly," said the General, revealing that 14 female cadets were being trained to join the current force.

The National Assembly is one of the most important sites in the country which required a huge amount of effort to secure, said General Waqeet, adding that female security officers carried out the same duties to inspect visitors, protect officials, and fend off any harm that might be inflicted on parliament. The parliamentary guards will cooperate with Kuwait National Guard (KNG), the Interior and Defense Ministries to further develop the security staff at the National Assembly, said General Waqeet.

Apprehensive at first

Meanwhile, Officer Entisar Al-Sahli said that the process of becoming a guard involved six months of training. "At first, our male colleagues felt a bit apprehensive, but with time, they began to accept us as their peers," said Sahli, affirming that she gained a lot of experience operating as a parliamentary guard.

'National Assembly requires a huge amount of effort to secure.'

Echoing similar sentiments, Officers Latifa Muftah, Sarah Al-Sarraf, Eman Al-Shaya, and Sherifah Al-Mkaimi said that being part of Kuwait's security apparatus was a life changing experience, revealing that they faced the same kind of uneasiness from their male counterparts when they become verying.

when they began working.

Sharing a common goal and purpose really breaks down social and gender barriers, the officers agreed, saying that both male and female personnel were now working side by side and shoulder to shoulder to serve Kuwait.



A National Assembly's female guard is honored for her efforts.

Smooth operation

On the flip side of the coin, National Assembly Officers Jarallah Al-Jarallah, Abdulkareem Nasser, and Abdullah Al-Faraj said that they felt anxious when they began to include female personnel, but all matters went smoothly when they began to cooperate in fulfilling security duties at parliament.

The male security personnel said they were glad to be working with their female colleagues, affirming that the men and women of the National Assembly Guard will stand as one in face of all dangers and adversaries. — KUNA

'At first, our male colleagues felt a bit apprehensive, but with time, they began to accept us'



National Assembly's female guards on duty.



A National Assembly's female guard oversees scanning material before they enter the building.



Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah



A scene from a performance held as part of the 'Kuwait Capital of Islamic Culture' activities. A performance held during the 'Kuwait Capital of Islamic Culture' activities.



CLOSING CEREMONY AFFIRMED KUWAIT'S CULTURAL MESSAGE: INFO MINISTER

KUWAIT DEPICTS 'BRIGHT IMAGE' AS ISLAMIC CULTURAL CAPITAL: ISESCO

patronization of the ceremony marking conclusion of the festivities for designating the State of Kuwait as the Capital of Islamic Culture affirms the higher leadership's ardent advocacy of culture and its role for the community's progress, the Minister of Information said.

Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah, the Minister of State for Youth Affairs, expressed in a statement deep congratulations to 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 His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Hamad Al-Sabah who doubled as chairman of the steering committee, for the ceremony's success that affirmed Kuwait's high-esteem cultural message. His Highness the Amir earlier this week patronized the culminating festivity, capping a string of activities, workshops, artistic and poetic events for celebrating the country's designation.

Elaborating, Minister Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem said "selecting Kuwait as the Capital of Islamic Culture 2016 was tantamount to international recognition of

KUWAIT/RABAT: His Highness the Amir's the significant Kuwaiti cultural message; such a message goes deep into history and crosses borders enlightening nations and communities.

Golden age

The Kuwaiti culture, nowadays, is in its golden age due to the unlimited support from the supreme Kuwaiti leadership, he said, lauding year-long creative and serious activities under chairmanship of His Highness the Premier.

He expressed satisfaction for hosting cultural ministers from other countries in the Amir-sponsored closing event, adding that the activities affirmed the Kuwaiti Arab and Islamic cultural identity as well as its interaction with nations of divergent civilizations and cultures. Such a visionary approach at this level had been affirmed by His Highness the Amir at the United Nations in 2008 during the civilizations and religions' summit.

Participation of a large number of personalities and delegations from the other nations in the closing festival boosted values of compassion, brotherhood, openness and co-existence among nations, as well as bolstered the approach to renounce extremism and terrorism, he continued.

during the year-long celebrations, he said, singling out as a distinguished achievement inauguration of Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Cultural Center. He also indicated at the honoring of Al-Azhar Sheikh Dr Ahmad Al-Tayeb by His Highness the Amir, and ISESCO's honoring of the General Supervisor Dar Al-Athar Al-Islamiyah Sheikha Hessa Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah.

Bright image

Meanwhile, ISESCO's Chief said that Kuwait has shown a 'bright image' of the Islamic Cultural Capital concept, which strengthened the organization's objectives. Kuwait carried out a number of cultural events "which have given the concept of Islamic Cultural Capitals a deep meaning and a bright image of the way a Islamic cultural capital should celebrate cultural achievements," Abdulaziz Al-Tuwaijri, ISESCO Director General, said.

Tuwaijri said ISESCO was following the cultural activities held by Kuwait throughout the year, which suprassed a record 800 events. ISESCO, he added, had also implemented a number of activities and programs, like an international seminar about

More than 800 activities had been held cultural heritage, the use of technology in cultural development. Kuwait, he went on to museums and a conference on antiquities.

the past six decades, and has seen tremendous and human life in general. —KUNA

say, contributed largely to education, culture, Tuwaijri said Kuwait City has flourished in science, literature, knowledge, art, publication



The daughter of Sheikha Hessa Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah, General Supervisor Dar Al-Athar Al-Islamiyah, receives ISESCO's honoring on behalf of her mother.



Kuwaiti jockey Ali Al-Kharafi



Kuwaiti jockey Marshoud Al-Marshoud

KUWAITI JOCKEY WINS GOLD AT QATAR SHOW DOHA: Kuwaiti jockey Ali Al-Kharafi won the gold medal

late Friday during his participation in Qatar's International Show Jumping Championship which began in the capital Doha on Thursday. Kharafi managed to beat 47 other jockeys to win the medal. There are about 170 jockeys from 12 countries, partaking in the tournament. Kharafi said that he was glad to have won the competi-

tion. He took the time to also commend the performances of his teammates Shaker Al-Khathmi and Marshoud Al-Marshoud who both won the gold and silver medals during Thursday's competition. Kharafi also won a silver medal during the course of the championship.

Unfortunately, the Kuwaiti Jockeys will not be able to record the wins under Kuwait's flag due to the ban imposed by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) on Kuwaiti sports. They competed under the banner of the International Federation for Equestrian Sports (FEI). The tournament concluded yesterday. — KUNA



Kuwaiti jockey Shaker Al-Khathmi

'LEAD THEM TO ZAIN' PROMOTION LAUNCHED FOR POSTPAID CUSTOMERS

KUWAIT: Zain, the leading telecommunications company in Kuwait, launched its latest promotional campaign for postpaid customers entitled 'Lead them to Zain'. The promotion offers exclusive and exciting benefits for two existing or new customers when they subscribe to the promotion together. Zain specially designed the new promotion for postpaid users to reward customers who invite their family and friends to be a part of the Zain family, considered the largest in Kuwait. The company is keen on meeting its customers' personal and professional needs on its most advanced nationwide network.

When existing or new customers subscribe to the promotion and invite a family member or friend to subscribe with them, both customers get to respectively choose from two different packages. Both customers will get the exclusive benefits that come with the first customer's package. The higher the first customer's package, the more benefits both customers get.

The first package of KD 35 monthly (with 24 months commitment) offers KD 100 of free credit if one or both subscribers were new customers, or KD 50 of free credit if both subscribers were non-committed existing customers. The free credit can be used to settle bills, buy smart devices, buy entertainment devices, or buy accessories. The second package of KD 40 monthly (with 24 months commitment) offers KD 150 of free credit if one or both subscribers were new customers, or KD 75 of free credit if both subscribers were non-committed existing customers. The free credit can be used to settle bills, buy smart devices, buy entertainment devices, or buy

Zain launched this exclusive campaign to show its commitment towards Kuwait's largest family of subscribers. The company will spare no efforts to meet customers' needs and aspirations on its most advanced network. By launching this exciting promotion, Zain continues to reinforce its leadership position and its pledge in offering the best services and offers to its customer base.





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By Mohammed Al-Weshaihi

CHRISTIANS IN KUWAIT,

PREPARE TO PAY JIZYA!

■hanks be to Almighty Allah that Islam now has

the courageous MP Osama Al-Shaheen, who led a historic battle that should be added to major

ernment and the Franks and hoist Islam's flag over

Co-op decided to set up a Christmas tree on the

God bless such a

that trembles with

fear at the smallest

of threats

Details of this blessed foray started when Dasma



MOTORIST KILLED IN FATAL ACCIDENT

KUWAIT: A Syrian man was killed after his vehicle flew off Riqqa flyover following a collision with another vehicle along Fahaheel Expressway. Security sources said the other driver, an Indian, was rushed to hospital for treatment. Separately, a citizen escaped death with very serious iniuries after he lost control over his vehicle, which turned over along the Fourth Ring Road.

Multiple arrests

Five expatriates were arrested by residency detectives for violating residency laws, said security sources, noting that the suspects were referred to relevant authorities pending deportation. Meanwhile, two citizens were arrested in Ahmadi with meth and two hashish joints.

Children saved

Seven children playing in an elevator in Mahboula were trapped for half an hour after the lift broke down. Firemen rushed to the scene and rescued them.

Drug possession

A Syrian truck driver was arrested on arrival from Iraq at Abdaly land border exit after custom inspectors found four kilograms of hashish hidden in a secret compartment in the truck.

Missing girl found

A Kuwaiti girl who had been reported missing in 2011, when she was 23 years old, was found at a checkpoint in Fintas.

Man stabbed in fight

A citizen in his 30s was rushed to Jahra Hospital after he was stabbed in the face during a fight in Qasr.

Neighbors' row

An Iranian woman filed a complaint against her Syrian neighbor in a Hawally building. Further investigations are in progress. —Al-Rai and Al-Anbaa



KUWAIT: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) distributed winter clothes to cleaning workers as part of its charity campaign to help outdoor workers cope with harsh weather conditions throughout the year.



الحريدة

the way for new projects.

■he first interpellation ever filed in the National

Assembly was in the 1960s, when late lawmaker

Mohammed Ahmed Al-Rasheed grilled the late

minister of social affairs and labor Abdullah Meshari Al-

Roudhan. The motion was over cancelling the term 'first

category' used to describe houses within Kuwait City's

boundaries, which were bought by the government. The

grilling also inquired about allocating these houses to

those who needed temporary accommodation until all

the houses were bought and then demolished to pave

about the reasons why the applications filed to get

these houses by those with limited income outnum-

bered the ones that were already available. The session

was held in the minister's office instead of the Assembly

hall and it was attended by the housing minister, myself

and Rasheed, and the matter was settled within an hour.

What is wrong with grilling motions filed now? Have

Translated by Kuwait Times

they become void of good intentions?

The third inquiry on the grilling motion's list was

GRILLING MOTIONS IN THE PAST

By Dr Saleh Al-Ojairi

What is wrong with grilling motions filed now? Have they become void of good

Islam and humiliate Muslims. This triggered the chivalry in the head of knights - Osama Al-Shaheen - who decided to wage war, and thus dug trenches, bid his folks farewell and got ready to sacrifice his soul. He addressed the minister of social affairs and labor, apparently in an angry manner, which made her, her government, the Christians in Kuwait and the co-op's officials tremble, and they all yielded to his demands and removed the tree from the land of Muslims. This 'trembling' foray will be long recorded in history.

We will soon besiege Christians in Kuwait and Dasma Co-op. We will probably attack it with catapults and cut food and water supplies till we get its keys and enter with cries of Allahu Akbar, carrying Islamic flags. We may also live to see the day when Christians in Kuwait start paying jizya (tax on non-Muslims) in cash or through K-Net.

God bless you, oh courageous knight, tree remover and oyster splitter. And God bless such a fragile government that trembles with fear at the smallest of threats. May God also bless all those who supported this foray on this blessed land!

— Translated by Kuwait Times



KUWAIT: Jahra Governor and KFH Group CEO Mazin Al-Nahedh cut the ribbon to mark the opening of the branch.

JAHRA GOVERNOR OPENS KFH BRANCH IN SAAD AL-ABDULLAH

Praises bank's role in supporting economy

KUWAIT: Governor of Al-Jahra, the retired Lieutenant tinuation of its well-being and distinctiveness. For his General, Fahd Ahmed Al-Amir lauded the significant and important role exerted by Kuwait Finance House (KFH) in supporting and developing the national economy along with the distinctive banking services offered by KFH to its customers. Al-Amir added that such services are distinguished with being competitive, diverse and popular for wide segments of the community.

During his participation in opening the KFH's branch in Saad Al-Abdullah City, Block 2, the Governor congratulated all the staff and officials for opening the branch noting that it will represent an added civilized and service value to the people of the area and meets the needs of a large number

Al-Jahra Governor expressed, after he cut the ribbon of opening the branch officially with the attendance of large prominent officials from KFH led by the Group CEO Mazin Al-Nahedh, Group Chief Strategy Officer Fahad Khalid Al-Mukhaizeem, Group GM Retail Banking Fadi Chalouhi and his Deputy Khaled Al-Sebaiei, his sincere wishes for success to KFH Board in its projects and future development plans that will ensure the conpart, Al-Nahedh said that the opening of KFH's branch in Saad Al-Abdullah City comes within KFH's policy aiming at expanding the network of KFH local branches so as to provide the best services to its customers in the nearest place to their presence, noting that KFH is continuously keen on providing the best services and products to its customers as per the international standards. Al-Nahedh added that KFH is extensively focusing on upgrading the performance style of its branches and staff to match with the growth in customers' size and meet their needs and demands.

Al-Nahedh stressed the great importance allocated by KFH to its customers, either by providing the best service through the finest professional approaches and methods, or by listening to their views, perceptions and suggestions. Therefore, we are looking forward to a greater role of banking branches.

It is worth noting that KFH branch in Saad Al-Abdullah City is the 65th branch of the Bank. It is situated near the Central Co-Operative Society, Block 2. It opens for customers from Sunday through Thursday 8:30 am-3:00 pm.



KUWAIT: The Commercial Bank of Kuwait (CBK) sponsored a four-month campaign organized by the Capital Governorate to clean the Sulaibikhat, Doha and Ushairej beaches. Capital Governor Lieutenant General Thabet Al-Muhanna honored CBK during a ceremony held recently at the conclusion of the campaign.

CUTTING EXPATS NUMBERS BY ONE MILLION 'INAPPLICABLE'

KUWAIT: A proposal made by MP Khalil Abul to reduce the number of expatriates in Kuwait and make it even with Kuwaitis' numbers is basically inapplicable, government sources said, adding that governmental studies to address the demographic imbalance problem never discussed the possibility of a solution in that format.

intentions?

"Reducing the number of expats to be equal to the who spoke to Al-Rai on the condition of anonymity. frame of five to ten years. — Al-Rai

Abul had suggested deporting marginal labor, victims of visa trafficking and expats with criminal records, which, according to him, could help cut expats' numbers by around one million.

The sources reiterated that the government studies every proposal made by the parliament "and after that it makes an announcement about it". They noted at the same time that Abul's proposal is inapplicable in prinnumber of Kuwaitis cannot be made," said the sources ciple 'for several considerations,' even within a time-



AHLI UNITED BANK'S PARTICIPATION AT ELITE PROPERTY SHOW HAILED AS A MAJOR SUCCESS

Providing added value service to customers

KUWAIT: Ahli United Bank (AUB) successfully concluded its participation at the recent Kuwait international property show. The Bank's booth witnessed a significant number of attendees, where representatives from AUB provided the latest updates on a wide range of financial solutions, in accordance with Islamic sharia and values that have been tailored to meet customers' real estate needs. The event, which took place from Dec 12th-17th, was held at the Mishref fairground.

Real estate finance is considered amongst the premier services offered across AUB's portfolio. The growth of the Bank's real estate finance capabilities, which provides a broad array of benefits, is attributed to customers' trust and confidence. The Bank also offers personal funding that amounts to KD 70,000 to salaried account holders, with a flexible repayment period of up to 10 years.

AUB continues to develop its diverse product and service portfolio to accommodate its customers' banking needs. The Bank is a keen supporter of such trade show events that aim to reinforce strong partnerships with customers and to provide an in depth view of the services on offer.

The Bank, as a leading sharia compliant financial institution, provides strong real estate financing capabilities. This has been attributed to its robust ability to provide an integrated range of sharia compliant financial products and services that are tailored to different real estate needs, and which provide an opportunity for customers to acquire the investment property of their choice. Ahli United Bank provides first class service for our customers across a network of 38 branches covering all areas of Kuwait plus over 90 ATM's providing a 24/7 service including cash withdrawal and cheque deposits, mobile and internet banking. Ahli United Bank also provides the Al-Hassad Islamic Saving program which offers the largest prize amount to the greatest number of winners and has succeeded in becoming the first prize account in Kuwait compliant with Islamic

Sharia'a principles. For further information on the Bank's services, customers may visit any of AUB's branches, call 'Hayakom', the Bank's telebanking service at 1812000 or visit the Bank's website www.ahliunited.com.kw.

As Obama fulfilled policy goals, party floundered

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OFFICIALS HUNT SUPPLY NETWORK OF ATTACKER

MILAN: Investigators yesterday sought to hunt down where the Berlin Christmas market attacker got possible logistical support to cross at least two European borders and evade capture for days before being killed in a police shootout during a routine stop in a Milan suburb.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2016

Tunisian fugitive Anis Amri's fingerprints and wallet were found in a truck that plowed into a Christmas market in Berlin on Monday night, killing 12 people and injuring 56 others. Despite an intense, Europe-wide manhunt, Amri fled across Germany, into France and then into Italy, traveling at least part of the way by train, before being shot early Friday on foot outside a deserted train station.

The Islamic State group has claimed responsibility for the Berlin attack, but so far little is known about any possible logistical network backing the 24-year-old fugitive. Italian investigators were working to see if the Tunisian had any connections in the Milan area. Italy was his port of entry into Europe in 2011 and he spent more than three years in Italian jails on

Sicily. But an anti-terrorism official said there was no evidence that he had ever been in or around Milan before Friday's shootout. In Tunisia, the Interior Ministry announced the arrest Friday of Amri's nephew and two others suspected of belonging to the same extremist network. The ministry said in a statement that Amri, through an alias, had sent his 18-year-old nephew Fedi some money through the post office to join him in Europe and join the Abou Walaa network. Amir claimed to be the network's emir.

IS allegiance

It is unclear whether those suspects were in any position to help Amri flee Berlin. The ministry said during questioning, the nephew said he was in contact with Amri via Telegram's encrypted communications to avoid detection. He told police that Amri had recruited him to jihad and asked him to pledge allegiance to IS. The nephew recorded such a pledge and sent it to Amri via Telegram.

The Tunisian prosecutor's office ordered all three held in pre-trial detention pending further investigation. In Spain, police were investigating whether Amri was in contact with another possible extremist in Spain, on a tip from German authorities. "We are studying all possible connections (between Amri) and our country, above all with one specific person," Interior Minister Juan Ignacio Zoido told Spanish radio.

Italy has found itself at the center of the Berlin attack investigation after the dramatic shootout that ended the manhunt. The deserted train station and the late hour prompted Italian officers to check the North African man's identity, officials said. Instead of pulling out an identity card, Amri produced a loaded .22 caliber gun, shooting a senior officer in the shoulder before a rookie officer killed him with a single shot to the chest.

Amri had arrived in the southern island of Lampedusa illegally in 2011, claiming to be a minor, and quickly landed in jail after setting fire to a migrant center. After he was freed, efforts to deport him failed for bureaucratic reasons. He reached Germany, where authorities were concerned enough about him to put him under covert surveillance for six months earlier this year, ending the operation in September. His request for asylum was refused by Germany in the summer, but the paperwork from Tunisia that was needed to deport him was delayed for months. Tunisian officials say that's because Amri used at least six different names and three different nationalities in travels around Europe, and they had to check each one. — AFP









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IRAN' SIX POWERS MAKE PUBLIC RESTRICTED NUKE DEAL DOCUMENTS

powers on Friday released previously restricted documents about their nuclear deal to enforce their view that Tehran is not circumventing limits on its limit of enriched uranium, which could be used to make nuclear weapons. Some of the documents are dated Jan6, 2016, shortly before the pact was implemented. But they were not made public until Friday, when they were posted on the public website of the International Atomic Energy Agency. The IAEA is monitoring the nuclear deal, which Iran reached with Germany and the five permanent UN Security Council members - the

VIENNA: In an unusual move, Iran and six world United States, Russia, China, France and Britain. The agreement stipulates that Iran can possess only low-enriched uranium, which is not suitable for weapons, and it is limited to possessing no more than 300 kilograms (660 pounds) at any time. That is far less than would be needed to make a nuclear weapon even if it were further enriched to weapons-grade levels used for the core of nuclear warheads.

When the nuclear deal was agreed on, Iran had more than 100 kilograms of liquid or solid waste containing low-enriched uranium as part of its enrichment activities. Some of the material remains

and the documents posted Friday declare the lowenriched uranium it contains as "unrecoverable" and thereby not part of the 300-kilogram limit.

A letter on behalf of the European Union's foreign policy chief, Federica Mogherini, authorizing publication of the documents was also posted on the IAEA website. It did not specify why they were made public nearly a year after they were agreed on by the nations negotiating the deal. But it comes at a time that the incoming US administration has served notice it might seek to pull out of the agreement. Two officials from one of the five permanent Security Council member nations at the table with

Iran suggested it was meant to show unity on the issue among criticism from experts that US lawmakers critical of the deal have seized on as an example of allowing Iran to undercut the pact.

Publication of the document comes shortly after the IAEA warned Iran to curb its production of low-enriched uranium or face the possibility of exceeding its allotted limit. The two officials said, however, that the two issues were not related, and Iran for now remained within its obligations. They agreed to discuss the matter only if they were not quoted by name because they are not authorized to talk about the confidential issue. — AP



ADEN: In this Sunday, Dec 18, 2016 file photo, soldiers gather the site of a suicide bomb at a base in the southern city. — AP

YEMEN WOULD-BE MODEL ADEN PLAGUED BY BOMBS, INSTABILITY

IT HAS BECOME A SIGN OF YEMEN'S WOES

SANAA: On a rocky hill overlooking the Arabian Sea in the city of Aden sits the palace of Yemen's internationally recognized president. It's one of the few safe places in the country for him and his government, protected by troops at the gates, artillery and truck-mounted machine guns in the surrounding mountains and ships at sea.

The rest of the southern city remains unstable. Only a 10 minute drive from the palace, a suicide bomber struck days ago at the Sawlaban military base, killing 52 soldiers. It was the fourth time militants have hit the base in the past six months. The last strike was only about a week earlier. All told, the attacks have killed more than 180 people.

The bombings underscore how President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi and his main backer, the Saudi-led coalition, have failed to bring stability to the southern territories that his government controls in the civil war with Shiite Houthi rebels. Yemen's second largest city and once its commercial hub. Aden was intended to be a model of Hadi's legitimacy.

Instead it has become a sign of Yemen's woes. Multiple armed groups compete for influence, chief among them a force known as the Security Belt, created and funded by the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia and their allies. Commanded mainly by Muslim ultraconservatives, it has been accused by critics of heavyhanded methods, abusing opponents and resisting Hadi's authority. On Friday, the governor of a neighboring province said fighters from the groups fired on his car as he tried to visit Hadi's palace for prayers.

'We live in fear'

Aden was where Hadi's government made its

last stand after the Houthis and allied troops loyal to a former president overran the capital Sanaa in 2014, took over much of the north and stormed south. Hadi was forced to flee the country, and a military coalition led by Saudi Arabia launched its intervention in March 2015, preventing Aden from falling. By July of that year, coalition-backed southern fighters pushed the rebels out of much of the south.

Hadi's government hoped the restoration of Aden would mark the beginning of the end for the Houthis. But 18 months later, the rebels still control Sanaa and much of the north, while security remains elusive in the south. Hadi moves back and forth between Aden and the Saudi capital Riyadh, most recently arriving in the Yemeni city in late November.

Suicide bombings and assassinations, mostly by Al-Qaeda and the Islamic State group's local affiliate, regularly target top military and government officials, army recruits and senior Muslim clerics. Aden's governor and security chief were assassinated last year. In October 2015, the thenprime minister and his entire Cabinet came under attack by suicide bombers at a five-star hotel in the heart of the city.

Aden residents have burned tires and blocked roads in protests against fuel shortages, power cuts, delayed salaries and a lack of services. Others hold demonstrations demanding that southern Yemen, which was independent until 1990, secede again. "The general scene is foggy and we live in fear," said Shakeb Rageh, a reporter at Aden's radio station. "The explosions are terrifying people here."

Hadi relocated the Central Bank to Aden in September, enabling his government to pay salaries for the first time in nearly four months.

But remnants of the army, police, and intelligence agencies under his Interior Ministry remain poorly equipped and trained. Courts, judges, prosecutors, and policemen have not returned to work out of fear for their safety. The groups of local fighters known as Hirak, who fought off the Houthis, have fragmented after Hadi's promises to integrate them into the army failed to materialize.

The Security Belt force, created by the Saudiled coalition, presents itself as the new powerhouse to bring security in the absence of state institutions. The force is made up of some 15,000 southern fighters deployed across four provinces and mainly commanded by hard-line Muslims known as Salafis.

Nabil Al-Washoush, the Belt's top commander, told the Associated Press that his force receives funds directly from the Saudi-led coalition. Still, he said it answers to "our guardian president," Hadi, and his Interior Ministry. He said eventually the force will be integrated into the ministry, but for now its mission is to provide "support" to the security apparatus.

Our own people

The head of the force's operations room, Hussein Saleh, said the fragmentation of official security bodies created lawlessness that made the Belt necessary. "The state institutions are not back, there is no budget, and Islamic militants are from within our own people, not outsiders," he said. Security officials close to the interior minister said the government has been trying to get all the armed groups under its command but is facing resistance from the Security Belt. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to the press. — AP

NIGERIAN ARMY 'DESTROYS' **BOKO HARAM STRONGHOLD**

ABUJA: Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari yesterday claimed the military had routed Boko Haram in a key northeastern stronghold, a year after saying the Islamist militants had been "technically" defeated. A campaign lasting for months in the 1,300 square-kilometer forest in northeastern Borno state led to the "final crushing of Boko Haram terrorists in their last enclave in Sambisa Forest" on Thursday, Buhari said in a statement. The government in Abuja and the military have frequently claimed victories against the Islamic State group affiliate but access to the epi-centre of the conflict in Borno state is strictly controlled.

That has made independent verification of official statements about victories virtually impossible. Attacks have meanwhile continued, making claims of defeating Boko Haram questionable despite undoubted progress in pushing back the group. "The terrorists are on the run, and no longer have a place to hide. I urge you to maintain the tempo by pursuing them and bringing them to justice," Buhari said. The announcement came after Nigeria launched a barrage of land and air assaults in Borno state at the heart of the insurgency that has spread to three neighboring countries-Chad, Cameroon and Niger.

While the counter-insurgency has clawed back some territory, Boko Haram has responded by stepping up guerrilla tactics, ambushing troops when it can and terrorizing civilians when it cannot. Buhari's statement made no mention of the whereabouts of Abubakar Shekau, the leader of the Boko Haram faction based in the forest.

Boko Haram, which last year pledged allegiance to IS, has been in the grips of a power struggle since late last year. Shekau led Boko Haram for several years, until the IS command said in August that he had been replaced as leader by Abu Musab al-Barnawi, the 22-year-old son of the group's founder Mohammed Yusuf. Shekau says he is still in charge, however, as rival factions vie for control.

Chibok girls still missing

On Wednesday, a military commander said Nigerian troops had rescued 1,880 civilians from a Roko Haram redoubt in the

restive northeast over the past week and arrested hundreds of insurgents. Buhari also said yesterday that "further efforts should be intensified to locate and free our remaining Chibok girls still in captivity", referring to more than 200 schoolgirls kidnapped in April 2014. To date only a few of them have been freed.

Boko Haram seeks to create a hardline Islamic state in northeast Nigeria. The army's claim of recapturing Sambisa Forest brought a rare glimmer of hope for millions of people caught up in the devastating conflict. But Buhari has been keen to announce any positive news, with his government increasingly under fire for its handling of the economy, which is officially in recession.

The humanitarian fallout from the conflict is also huge and aid agencies say it is too big for the country to handle on its own, heaping pressure on already overstretched resources. Buhari has previously claimed that Boko Haram had already been "technically defeated". His government has however struggled to stop attacks on soft targets such as markets, including the use of women and child suicide bombers. At least 20,000 people have been killed since the insurgency erupted in 2009. The fighting has also displaced some 2.6 million people, sparking a humanitarian crisis in the region.

'Africa's largest crisis'

The United Nations said earlier this month a billion dollars are needed to help victims of Boko Haram and called the conflict "the largest crisis in Africa." It estimates that 14 million people will need outside help in 2017, particularly in Borno state, where villagers under siege have typically been forced to abandon their crops.

"A projected 5.1 million people will face serious food shortages as the conflict and risk of unexploded improvised devices prevented farmers planting for a third year in a row, causing a major food crisis," the UN said on December 2. People freed from Boko Haram's grip by the army have generally been taken to camps where basic supplies are also scarce. The Nigerian presidency has since accused aid groups of exaggerating the food crisis - AFP



GWOZA: In this Wednesday April 8, 2015 file photo, Nigerian soldiers man a checkpoint. — AP

RUSSIA DOUBTS US 'GRIP ON REALITY'

MOSCOW: Russia's foreign ministry yesterday lashed out at the US for slapping sanctions on Syrian ministers and a Russian bank, saying Washington had "completely lost its grip on reality". The United States on Friday added several senior Syrian officials including the ministers of oil and of finance and the leadership of a Russian bank to its sanctions blacklist.

"This widening of American sanctions against Russia ... at a time when the bloody attacks in Ankara and Berlin should bring reasonable people together to fight the terrorist threat shows that Washington has completely lost its grip on reality," the ministry said in a statement. The US was trying to "punish' us for our support to the Syrian government in the fight against terrorism which is a threat not only to that country but to the whole world", it said.

Washington's "desire for regime change in Syria is so strong that it is ready to help any destructive force", the ministry said. "We will not give in to sanctions," it said, adding that targeted Russian companies were "functioning normally". Syria has been locked in war for more than five years, leaving more than 310,000 people

dead and millions more displaced. The conflict began as a pro-democracy revolt but later morphed into an all-out civil war after President Bashar Al-Assad's troops unleashed a brutal crackdown against dissent. It has since become a complex, multi-front conflict, drawing in global powers as well as militias and jihadists. While Western powers and some regional states have backed the rebellion, Russia and Iran have thrown their full weight behind Assad's regime.

Brutal war

In announcing the blacklist additions, Washington also imposed sanctions on Syrian airline Cham Wings, accused of transporting foreign militiamen to fight in the country's brutal civil war. US officials also targeted two companies allegedly owned or operated by a Assad's cousin Rami Makhluf, which they said had handled oil drilled in areas controlled by the Islamic State group.

The east of Syria has fallen to IS and. while the regime and its allies have fought the extremists, officials have been accused of trading oil from jihadist-held territory. The fresh sanctions came as the government recaptured the rebel-held east of Aleppo, the country's second city, after a fierce month-long offensive that saw thousands of civilians and rebels evacuat-

ed in recent days. "The daily attacks on civilian centers by the government of Syria led by Bashar Al-Assad are reprehensible, and both the Government and its enablers must be isolated and held accountable for their barbarism," said Adam Szubin, acting under secretary for terrorism and financial intelligence. On Tuesday, the US Treasury had already announced new sanctions against Russia for its role in the Ukraine conflict, targeting Russian businessmen, bankers and transport companies. — AFP

IRAQIS MARK CHRISTMAS IN RECAPTURED JIHADIST TOWN

service in a town near Mosul yesterday for the first time since its recapture from the jihadists. The Islamic State group destroyed crosses at the Mar Shimoni church in the town of Bartalla and set it alight, but volunteers worked for days to

BARTALLA: Iraqi Christians held a Christmas Eve ready it for the service, the first held here in more than two and a half years.

> "We want to deliver the message that we are staying in this country and that these are our roots and our origins," Father Yaqub Saadi, the church's priest, told AFP. IS seized Bartalla and



BARTALLA: Iraqis take photos with a Christmas tree after attending a Christmas Eve service at the Mar Shimoni church. — AFP

swathes of other territory north and west of Baghdad in the summer of 2014, leaving Christians with the grim choices of conversion, paying a tax, fleeing or death.

The town was recaptured as part of the massive military operation to retake Mosul, the last IS-held Iraqi city, which was launched on October 17. Worshippers travelled in buses from Iraqi Kurdish regional capital Arbil to Bartalla for the service, which was held with security forces deployed around the church in a town still marred by smashed buildings and IS graffiti. For Christians from Bartalla, the service was a deeply emotional experience.

"I can never describe... our happiness and everything. We feel like life returned to us," said Nada Yaqub. "We felt that our cross is still around our necks. No one could take it from us," she said. Staff Lieutenant General Abdulghani Al-Assadi, a senior commander in the elite Counter-Terrorism Service, attended the service, as did Nawfal Hammadi, the governor of Nineveh province, where Bartalla is located. A group of American soldiers also came, but faced some difficulties when one of their heavy armored vehicles became stuck in a muddy section of a street near the church.

While Bartalla and other Christian areas around Mosul have been recaptured from IS, return is still a long way off, with bombs planted by the jihadists still a threat and basic services needing to be restored. Yaqub said that even though her house in Bartalla was destroyed, she still hopes to come back. "God willing, I will return," she said. — AFP

A FIRST LADY WHO FOLLOWED HER OWN PATH MORE THAN PRECEDENT

WASHINGTON: When Michelle Obama considered the daunting prospect of becoming first lady, she avoided turning to books by her predecessors for guidance. Instead, she turned inward. "I didn't want to be influenced by how they defined the role," Mrs Obama once said. That meant doing it her way: shaping the role around her family, specifically her two young daughters, and not letting her new responsibilities consume her.

Mrs Obama has been a powerful, if somewhat enigmatic, force in her husband's White House. She chose her moments in the often unforgiving spotlight with great care and resisted pressure to become more engaged in the mudslinging of partisan politics. As she navigated her way through, the woman who grew up on the South Side of Chicago discovered a talent for television and a comfort with Hollywood A-listers, haute couture and social media. And she used all of those elements to promote her causes: childhood obesity, support for military families, girls' education.

Friends say she charted that path largely on her own. "What she did was she sort of listened to herself and allowed her own inner voice and strength and direction to lead her in the way that felt most authentic to her. And I think watching somebody makes you want to do that for yourself," Oprah Winfrey told The Associated Press.

'Food police'

Mrs Obama grappled with the childhood obesity issue before becoming first lady after a doctor warned about her daughters' weight. At the White House, she decided to share her experience and started by planting a vegetable garden. That led the following year, in 2010, to the launch of her antichildhood obesity initiative, "Let's Move."

The first lady appealed to elected officials, food makers, sellers, restaurant chains and others to try to make healthy food more accessible. She lobbied lawmakers to add more fruit, vegetables and whole grains, and limit fat, sugar and sodium in

the federal school lunch program.

That led to the first update to the program in decades and, for Mrs Obama, the process was akin to a crash course in Washington sausage-making. The effort was not universally welcomed.

Republicans in Congress wanted to reverse the rules. Others said Mrs Obama was acting like the "food police." Even the kids she wanted to help added to the backlash. Some students posted photos of lunches they found unappealing on Twitter with the hashtag #ThanksMichelleObama, or tossed the food into the trash.

Mrs Obama would never again try to work closely with Congress, opting instead to use her platform to press industry to change its ways. It's too early to know how Mrs. Obama's efforts may affect childhood obesity rates long term, but advocates believe she helped change the debate around healthy eating. They worry about the fate of Mrs Obama's effort under a White House and Congress that will be controlled by the GOP.

Mrs Obama said some people initially wondered why she would bother with such a "softball issue" but "now, all those challenges and criticisms are off the table." She told talk-show host Rachael Ray that "at least we've become very aware as a society that this is one of our most important health issues." She's said that when she leaves the White House next month, a few days after her 53rd birthday, she'll continue to work on the issues that engaged her as first lady.

'Mom in chief'

Being first lady was never something Mrs Obama imagined, given her modest upbringing, her distaste for politics and having never seen her skin color on a US president and first lady. Her early aversion to politics developed while watching her father navigate Chicago politics for his job with the city water department, and was reinforced by her husband's pursuit of a political career. Both Obamas have said his political ambition had strained their marriage and family.

Once in the White House, Mrs Obama vowed to protect her then 10- and 7-year-old daughters' right to a normal childhood. She declared being "mom in chief" to Malia and Sasha as her priority, irking women who hoped the first lady might not allow herself to be constrained by stereotypes. Mrs Obama was an enthusiastic White House hostess. She rarely spoke about issues that were outside of her portfolio. — AP



WASHINGTON: In this May 3, 2011, file photo, first lady Michelle Obama dances with students at Alice Deal Middle School in northwest Washington during a surprise visit for the school's Let's Move! event. — AP



BOSTON: In this July 27, 2004, file photo, Barack Obama, then-candidate for the Senate from Illinois, speaks to delegates during the Democratic National Convention at the FleetCenter. — AP

AS OBAMA FULFILLED POLICY GOALS, PARTY FLOUNDERED

AN UNEXPECTED TWIST OF THE OBAMA YEARS

WASHINGTON: In boasting about his tenure in the White House, President Barack Obama often cites numbers like these: 15 million new jobs, a 4.9 percent unemployment rate and 74 months of consecutive job growth. There's one number you will almost never hear: More than 1,030 seats. That's the number of spots in state legislatures, governor's mansions and Congress lost by Democrats during Obama's presidency.

It's a statistic that reveals an unexpected twist of the Obama years: The leadership of the one-time community organizer and champion of ground-up politics was rough on the grassroots of his own party. When Obama exits the White House, he'll leave behind a Democratic Party that languished in his shadow for years and is searching for itself.

"What's happened on the ground is that voters have been punishing Democrats for eight solid years - it's been exhausting," said South Carolina state Sen. Vincent Sheheen. "If I was talking about a local or state issue, voters would always lapse back into a national topic: Barack Obama." When Obama won the presidency, his election was heralded as a moment of Democratic dominance - the crashing of a conservative wave that had swept the country since the dawn of the Reagan era.

Democrats believed that the coalition of young, minority and female voters who swept Obama into the White House would usher in something new: an ascendant Democratic majority that would ensure party gains for decades to come. The coalition, it turns out, was Obama's alone. After this year's elections, Democrats hold the governor's office and both legislative chambers in just five coastal states: Oregon, California, Connecticut, Rhode Island and Delaware. Republicans have the trifecta in 25, giving them control of a broad swath of the middle of the country.

Important action

The defeats have all but wiped out a generation of young Democrats, leaving the party with limited power in statehouses and a thin bench to challenge an ascendant GOP majority eager to undo many of the president's policies. To be

sure, the president's party almost always loses seats in midterm elections. But, say experts, Obama's tenure has marked the greatest number of losses under any president in decades.

"Obama just figured his important actions on policies like immigration and health care would solidify support, but that hasn't really materialized," said Daniel Galvin, a political science professor at Northwestern University and the author of a book on presidential party building. "He's done basically the minimal amount of party building, and it's been insufficient to help the party."

It's a political reality that Obama has only been willing to acknowledge publicly after his party's devastating November losses. He's admitted he failed to create "a sustaining organization" around the political force that twice elected him to office. "That's something I would have liked to have done more of, but it's kind of hard to do when you're also dealing with a whole bunch of issues here in the White House," he said at his year-end press conference.

It is perhaps not surprising that Obama - a politician who promised a post-party eraturned out not to be a party stalwart. Obama and his aides came into office neither beholden to his party's establishment, nor particularly interested in reinforcing his party's weak spots. He electrified the 2004 Democratic National Convention with a speech seeking common cause over party differences. Four years later, he defeated Hillary Clinton, the pick of the party insiders, to win the Democratic presidential nomination.

In the White House, Obama's failure to do the typical Washington schmoozing was a constant source of complaint among congressional Democrats, as was his reluctance to endorse down-ballot candidates and inability to parlay Organizing for Action, his grassroots organization, into a significant force. State parties languished and the Democratic National Committee struggled with dysfunction and debt.

"We built this beautiful house, but the foundation is rotten," said South Carolina Democratic Chairman Jaime Harrison, a candidate to lead the Democratic National Committee. "In hind-

sight we should have looked at this and said, 'Maybe the state parties should be strong." Toward the end of his presidency, Obama began doing more, stepping in to assist more than 150 state legislative candidates in October and campaigning across the country for Clinton.

Strategic mistake

He's indicated he intends to make partisan politics a bigger piece of his post-presidential life. Aides say Obama will be closely involved in an effort to focus on drawing district lines more in the favor of Democrats. The president's advisers blame the losses on such structural trends. They point to a flood of Republican super PAC dollars and a resurgence of Republican political power in statehouses. That state-level dominance has given Republicans the ability to redraw district lines and created voting rules that could benefit their party for years to come.

The refusal by many Democrats to accept help from Obama in the 2010 and 2014 midterms was also a strategic mistake, they argue. "Frankly, when people have asked, the president has been more than willing to engage," said David Simas, Obama's political director. Some Democrats blame Obama for an executive agenda that highlighted social issues such as transgender rights and access to birth control - over the economic anxiety still felt by many voters.

"The backlash to the Obama presidency was perhaps bigger than any of us really realized," said Simon Rosenberg, president of the New Democratic Network, a Democratic think tank. "A lot of the story of this election was people feeling like the culture was evolving in a way that made it feel like they were no longer living in the country they grew up in."

Others are focusing on the one clear truth of the November defeats: What worked for Obama just did not work for this party. Perhaps the most remarkable twist of a shocking political season? Even as voters chose to elect a successor who vows to undo most of Obama's legacy, his approval rating remains the highest it's been since the spring of 2009. — AP

REPUBLICANS TO TARGET UNIONS, EXPAND STATE'S SCHOOL CHOICE

JEFFERSON CITY: Republicans are poised to use their newly attained capitol dominance to make Missouri the 27th right-to-work state prohibiting mandatory union fees. That is unless Kentucky's recently crowned GOP majorities can beat them to it. The race to expand right-to-work laws is just one of several ways that Republicans, who strengthened their grip on power in the November elections, are preparing to reshape state laws affecting workplaces, classrooms, courtrooms and more during 2017.

As President-elect Donald Trump leads an attempted makeover in Washington, Republican governors and state lawmakers will be simultaneously pushing an aggressive agenda that limits abortion, lawsuits and unions, cuts business taxes and regulations, and expands gun rights and school choice. Republicans will hold 33 governors' offices, have majorities in 33 legislatures and control both the governor's office and legislature in 25 states - their most since 1952. Democrats will control both the governor's office and legislature in only about a half-dozen states; the rest will have politically divided governments.

"Really, the sky's kind of the limit," said Sean Lansing, chief operating officer at Americans for Prosperity, the conservative group bankrolled partly by billionaire industrialists Charles and David

Koch. "It's really the best opportunity in quite some time to accomplish a lot of big ticket items - not just in one or two states, but in five, 10 or 15." Democrats did make some gains in the recent elections, most notably by defeating Republican North Carolina Gov Pat McCrory and winning both chambers of the Nevada and New Mexico legislatures. But in all three of those states, Republicans still control at least one branch of government.

Resigned to get steamrolled

While officials in Democratic strongholds such as California and New York pledge a vigorous fight against Trump's agenda, some Democrats elsewhere seem resigned to get steamrolled on policies they long have opposed, such as right-to-work laws that undercut the financial strength of unions, a traditional Democratic ally.

In Missouri, term-limited Democratic Gov Jay Nixon previously vetoed a right-to-work measure passed by the Republican-led Legislature. But he's being replaced Jan. 9 by Republican Gov.-elect Eric Greitens, who promised to sign a right-to-work law. GOP legislative leaders have placed it atop their agenda. And their ranks are strengthened following a campaign season in which businessman David Humphreys poured more than \$12 million into Missouri candidates and political committees that backed right-to-work. "Oh, it's going to happen," said Senate Minority Leader Gina Walsh, a retired union laborer who is

president of the Missouri State Building and Construction Trades Council. She added: "I'm not willing to lay down on it yet, but I'm also a realist."

Assuming right-to-work will become law, Missouri AFL-CIO President Mike Louis already is preparing for the next battle. He has filed several versions of a proposed initiative petition that would ask voters in 2018 to approve a constitutional amendment reversing right-to-work by ensuring that unions can negotiate contracts requiring that employees pay fees for their representation.

Republican Kentucky Gov Matt Bevin also hopes to sign a statewide right-to-work law in 2017, now that Republicans who already hold the Senate also have won control of the House for the first time in nearly a century. A dozen Kentucky counties already have passed local right-to-work laws. Right-to-work supporters also are targeting New Hampshire, where Republican Gov.-elect Chris Sununu will be paired with a GOP-led Legislature. And collective bargaining restrictions for public employees could be on the agenda in lowa, where the Republican governor will work with a Legislature that will be under full GOP control when lawmakers reconvene in January. — AP

NINE PINOCHET AGENTS SORRY FOR CHILE CRIMES

SANTIAGO: Nine former agents of late Chilean dictator Augusto Pinochet's regime asked forgiveness for their crimes Friday-a first for Chile-but victims' families rejected the gesture as a ploy. The apology came in the form of a private religious ceremony at the Punta Peuco prison, where some 100 former regime agents are serving sentences for the kidnappings, killings and torture perpetrated during Pinochet's rule from 1973 to 1990. The nine convicts included Raul Iturriaga, a highranking official in Pinochet's political police.

"God is doing something extraordinary in this country. This would not have been possible until recently," Anglican priest Pablo Alvarez told journalists after the ceremony, which was closed to the press. But dozens of victims' family members protested outside the prison, rejecting the ceremony as a hollow bid to obtain a pardon or early release. "We have the right and the moral duty to be here to prevent this media show," said Alicia Lira, head of a rights group for victims' families. Family members emphasized that none of the convicts have provided information on the fate of nearly 1,000 people missing and presumed killed by the regime. — AFP



Looking for the ultimate after-sales service in Kuwait? Visit Huawei's newly opened Customer Service Center

Huawei Consumer Business Group Kuwait today announced their newly opened Customer Service Center in Salmiya. Located on the ground floor of Al Wataniya Complex, the service center offers maintenance and repair services for all Huawei devices, including the latest flagship smartphone, the Huawei Mate 9.

From a two-hour turnaround time to an easy to use hotline, Huawei customers will experience fast, efficient and high-quality service. The center, which also sells Huawei devices can arrange for pickup of devices that require repair and even arrange for a drop off within three days or upon completion of maintenance. The center puts the convenience of the customers first to ensure the Huawei experience is positive and hassle-free. In addition



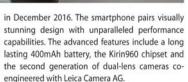
to high quality maintenance, parts and warranty services for all Huawei devices. the newly opened Huawei Service Center also features a smartphone experience corner where customers can test a smartphone before making a purchase. The Center also includes a dedicated call center and multiple collection points operated by Huawei's partner in Kuwait, the Future Communications Company.

Those who purchase a Huawei smartphone benefit from a -1year warranty. VIP customers can get additional perks such as a free replacement of a damaged screen or a broken handset. To customize a device, a new Phone Engraving Service is also available at the Service Center for all Huawei customers who wish to add that personalized touch to their device. Just in time for the holiday season,



the Phone Engraving Service can be especially helpful when purchasing a device for a friend or family member and comes at no added cost.

Huawei Consumer Business Group, Kuwait Country Manager, Mr. Jim Zhu, commented on opening of the center saying. "As demand for Huawei devices grows and the Mate 9 continues to pique the interest of consumers around Kuwait, we knew we had to take our customer service to the next level. The introduction of this VIP service is only one of many initiatives we are implementing for our customers. Our commitment to the after sales experience comes as part of our larger commitment to Kuwait, a key market for Huawei in the Middle East." Huawei Consumer Business Group Kuwait launched the Mate 9 flagship smartphone.



The Huawei Consumer Business Group in Kuwait is part of "Huawei Technologies – Kuwait" which was established in 2015 with a vision to build a better-connected Kuwait. Locally, Huawei provides services and consultancy in the fields of communications networks, information technology solutions to enterprises and offers consumer devices ranging from routers to mobile phones.

The Huawei Customer Service Center is open from 9am to 9pm on weekdays and 5pm to 9pm on Fridays. The bilingual call Center staff are available to take enquiries from 8am to 8pm daily and from 1pm to 8pm on Fridays. Visit Huawei Customer Service Center for a wonderful new world of benefits or contact the hotline, 22288063 for more information and inquiries.



FEARS OVER GERMANY'S GROWING JIHADIST SCENE

BERLIN: Berlin's Christmas market truck police officer in Milan. An illegal rampage was the deadly jihadist attack Germany had long feared, as security services have warned of the growth of a shadowy Islamist scene. Rarely a week has gone by in past years without the arrest of a radical preacher, an extremist backing the Islamic State or other extremist groups with money, arms or propaganda, or of a fighter returning from Syria or Iraq.

Germany's domestic security chief, Hans-Georg Maassen, has likened the rise in IS followers to a dangerous "youth subculture". He said that while it has drawn some home-grown converts and many female recruits, the main target group has shared the "four Ms" profile-male, Muslim, with a migrant background and a history of personal misad-

It is a profile that fits 24-year-old Tunisian Anis Amri, the Berlin attack suspect shot dead Friday by an Italian migrant, drug dealer and ex-convict, he is seen in a video message pledging allegiance to IS chief Abu Bakr Al-Baghdadi before he mowed a stolen truck through a Christmas market in an attack that left 12 dead. It was the deadliest IS assault on German soil, but the country has already produced its share of extremist killers. Perhaps Germany's most notorious IS fighter is Denis Cuspert, a German-Ghanaian former Berlin rapper known as Deso Dogg, who has appeared in an IS video with a man's severed head.

Hate preachers

In Germany, a leading alleged IS recruiter is Iraqi Ahmad Abdulaziz Abdullah A, also known as Abu Walaa or "the faceless preacher" for propaganda videos that showed him from behind. Police in November arrested him and four others in Hildesheim-a northern

bastion, along with the capital and the industrial region of North Rhine-

After Monday's Berlin attack, it emerged that Amri had also been in contact with the "hate preacher", one of the leading voices of a movement that has grown sharply in recent years. The domestic security service estimates that the number of radical Islamists in Germany rose above 9,000 this year, from some 3,800 in 2011.

About 550 are considered capable of a violent attack-a list that included Amri. This year, Germany has been shocked by a spate of attacks committed by young followers-including some who were among the more than one million migrants and refugees who have arrived in the past two years. In February, 15year-old German-Moroccan girl Safia S, previously known for singing religious songs on YouTube, stabbed a police offi-

town with a reputation as an Islamist cer in the neck with a kitchen knife, wounding him badly.

> In April, three 16-year-olds set off a bomb in Essen that left three people injured at a Sikh community wedding. In July, a 17-year-old Afghan refugee wounded five people in an axe rampage on a train before police shot him dead. Days later a 27-year-old rejected Syrian asylum seeker blew himself up outside a music festival, wounding 15 people. Both July attacks were claimed by IS. The youngest plotter known so far is a 12-year-old German-Iraqi boy who tried to set off a home-made nailbomb in Ludwigshafen this month.

'Powerless' parents

Peter Neumann, head of the International Centre for the Study of Radicalization at King's College, London, said that for some very marginalized and troubled youths, IS represents "a kind of protest ideology, a counterculture". Many small-time criminals are drawn to-and share their skills with-the IS "super gang", he told Berlin public radio, in the belief that it promises "might, weapons, adrenaline, adventure... and on top of that, salvation."

The parent of one of the youths in the Sikh temple attack, Turkish-born Neriman Yama, wrote about her son's radicalization in the book "My Son, the Salafist", referring to a fundamentalist branch of Islam. In it she describes how she watched her son Yusuf start watching Arabic preachers online at age 14, speak in verses, marry a teenage girl wearing a burga, and eventually turn to violent jihadism. She said that she sought help from mosques, police and security services, even getting Yusuf enrolled in an official de-radicalization program, but could not prevent the attack. "As parents, we were powerless," Yama told journalists. "The other side was stronger than us."—AFP

WHAT WAS BERLIN ATTACK SUSPECT DOING IN MILAN?

SESTO SAN GIOVANNI: Nobody comes to Sesto San Giovanni by chance, say the residents of this dreary working-class Milan suburb where police caught up with Berlin market attack suspect Anis Amri. So why, Italy wonders, did Europe's most wanted man end up here? Amri, a 24-year-old Tunisian, was shot dead by police on Friday during a routine check at the local train station, after opening fire first.

Sesto San Giovanni, with its 80,000 inhabitants, is where Amri caught the officers' attention in the small hours. It's a hub for transport, the last stop on a metro line, and has a busy bus terminal where buses leave for Spain, Morocco, Albania and southern Italy. Many foreigners come through here, and police controls are particularly thorough.

"I get checked by police every day getting off the bus," said Aziz, a young Moroccan worker. "At night this place is deserted, which would explain why somebody alone here would be immediately spotted by a police patrol," he told AFP. According to Italian daily La Stampa, police believe that Amri arrived in Italy by train from Chambery, southeastern France.

They think he stopped for three hours in Turin, where police are now checking video surveillance footage for clues as to any contact with accomplices. But none of the images they have seen so far show him using a phone, and according to Milan police chief Antonio De Iesu, he did not have one with him when he was shot dead.

'Italy's Stalingrad'

He then travelled to Milan, where he arrived at 1 am Friday, before going on to Sesto San Giovanni. Was he hoping to hook up with members of a network? Was he looking for new ID to get him out of Europe? Or was he planning some kind of revenge against Italy, where he spent four years in prison for torching a school

Police are short on answers. But they do point out, according to Italian media, that Sesto San Giovanni, once known as "Italy's Stalingrad" because of the powerful local Communist party, has become a multicultural town with a large Muslim community. Police chief De Iesu told journalists that Amri had "no links with the Sesto mosque", but some locals wonder if he had contacts nearby. "Some people are worried," said Tommaso Trivolo, who lives in a high-rise building opposite the train station from where he saw the ambulances arriving with screaming sirens just after the shooting. Italy does its bit investigating jihadist sympathizer networks, but only a few dozen Italians have actually gone off to join Islamic State fighters in Iraq or Syria. And despite the occasional threatening militant video, Italy has never been the target of any jihadist attack.

'They got lucky'

Still, many Italians are startled that the man tracked by the combined power of the continent's police forces could slip into their country unnoticed. "He could have committed more attacks," acknowledged De lesu, calling Amri "a very dangerous fugitive". Populists have seized the opportunity to further their agenda, including Beppo Grillo, head of the Five Star Movement.

"Italy is becoming a crossroads for terrorists. We can't detect or identify them, and thanks to Schengen they can cross borders without trouble," he said on his blog, referring to the EU's passport-free travel system. Many other Italians declare themselves to be fatalistic, like Francesco Micali, another resident of Sesto San Giovanni. "There could easily be an attack in Italy, just like in France, Germany and Spain," said. As for the two policeman who stopped the suspect, who are being celebrated as heroes in Italy: "They just got lucky," said Micali. — AFP



MILAN: The body of Anis Amri lies on the pavement on the outskirts of Milan after a shootout with the Italian Police, early Friday. — AP

POLISH LAWMAKERS IN HOLIDAY PROTEST

WARSAW: Polish lawmaker Michal Stasinski arrived at parliament pulling a suitcase and carrying a bag filled with his mother's homemade cabbage-and-mushroom stuffed dumplings. While most lawmakers were home for Christmas, Stasinski on Friday was joining a group of opposition lawmakers hunkering down in the dimly lit and chilly building to protest what they consider backsliding on democracy by a populist government whose anti-establishment and nationalistic views echo those of US President-elect Donald Trump.

The protesting lawmakers have vowed to stay in the main assembly where laws are voted on, taking turns in shifts, until parliament returns on Jan 11. In its 13 months in power, the ruling Law and Justice party has moved to weaken the Constitutional Tribunal - the country's highest legislative court - tried to limit certain press freedoms, supported criminalizing abortion and approved some restrictions on public gatherings. Opponents fear that the constitution and free elections might be next. "What they are doing is building a kind of velvet dictatorship, step by step," Stasinski, a member of Modern, a pro-business party involved in the protest, told The Associated Press. "I cannot agree to what they are doing and this is why I have decided to spend Christmas here.

The way the ruling party is cementing power has unleashed off-and-on street protests in Warsaw and other cities. However, the party's support remains strong in small towns, boosted by cash bonuses paid monthly to families with at least two children and poorer families that have only one child. The party also lowered the retirement age to 60 for women and 65 for men, a popular change but one economists say the aging society

Stasinski's family in Bydgoszcz were sorry he wouldn't be home for Christmas, but even his ailing 86-year-old father supports his decision to protest. The 48-year-old lawmaker planned to get through the holiday on his mother's pierogi, along with food from his fellow lawmakers and supporters, and some warm clothing. Anti-government activists were planning to organize a meal outside the parliament for the protesting lawmakers on Christmas Eve, the most important moment in three days of Christmas celebrations in Poland. Poland has been in a state of tension since Law and Justice swept to power, winning first the presidency and then a majority in parliament - the most power any party has had in the democratic era. Party leaders argue they have a mandate to rebuild Poland in line with their traditional, Catholic and patriotic worldview. — AP



BERLIN: People walk at the Christmas market near the Kaiser-Wilhelm-Gedaechtniskirche (Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church). — AFP

AFTER ATTACK, EU WEIGHING FREEDOM AGAINST SECURITY

Extremist violence is too high a price to pay

PARIS: Europe's open borders symbolize liberty and forward thinking - but they increasingly look like the continent's Achilles' heel. Europe's No 1 terrorism suspect crossed at least two borders this week despite an international manhunt, and was felled only by chance, in a random ID check. The bungled chase for Berlin attack suspect Anis Amri is just one example of recent cross-border security failures that are emboldening nationalists fed up with European unity. Extremist violence, they argue, is too high a price to pay for the freedom to travel.

Defenders of the EU's border-free zone say the security failures show the need for more cooperation among European governments, even shared militaries - not new barriers Hidebound habits of hoarding intelligence within centuries-old borders, they contend, are part of the problem. But their arguments are easily drowned out by the likes of far right leader Marine Le Pen, hoping to win France's presidency in May.

"The myth of total free movement in Europe, which my rivals are clinging to in this presidential election, should be definitively buried. Our security depends on it," she said in a statement Friday, calling the free-travel zone a "total security catastrophe." That poses a dilemma for EU devotees like German Chancellor Angela Merkel, facing a re-election battle next year.

Her defense of the EU, and the open hand she extended to Syrian war refugees, were once seen as assets, signs of her moral authority. Today, with anti-immigrant, anti-establishment sentiment rising across Europe, they are threatening to become liabilities.

Millions cross borders in the 26-country Schengen travel zone every day, thanks to a 31year-old system encompassing nearly 400 million people that has dramatically boosted trade and job prospects across the world's largest collective economy.

Growing strain

It's a pillar of a system designed to prevent new world wars - a system that's under growing strain. While EU countries debated over how to manage an influx of migrants last year, eastern nations rebuilt fences and exposed EU weaknesses. The German far right is insisting on closing the borders. Merkel's conservatives are suggesting "transit zones" to hold migrants at the borders while their identity is confirmed, and making it easier to hold people in pre-deportation detention.

Berlin attacker Amri is a painful example of how Islamic extremists have used Europe's open borders to attack the principles of tolerance they're meant to epitomize. After migrating illegally from Tunisia in 2011, he was imprisoned for burning down a migrant detention center in Italy. When freed, attempts to deport him to Tunisia failed for bureaucratic reasons. He subsequently traveled to Switzerland and then Germany, where he apparently fell under the influence of a radical network accused of recruiting for the Islamic State group.

Though his asylum application was rejected and he was flagged as a potential terror threat, Germany obediently waited for Tunisia to produce his paperwork before deporting him. And just as the deportation was being finalized Monday, Amri is believed to have hijacked a truck and rammed it into holiday crowds at a Berlin Christmas market, killing 12 and wounding dozens.

He evaded an international manhunt for more than three days, slipping apparently into France - possibly with a pistol in his pocket - and then Italy before stumbling into a standard ID check in suburban Milan, where he died in a police shootout. Germany, France and Italy have failed to explain how he escaped the dragnet.

"Movement from one country to another in Europe is easy, especially for someone like Anis Amri, who had lived in Europe for several years" and knew which borders were easier to cross, said Tunisian Foreign Ministry spokesman Bouraoui Limam. France is especially embarrassed. It's been under high security as part of a state of emergency since last year. It's acutely aware of the risks of violence on trains, after American passengers thwarted an attack on a

Paris-Amsterdam train in 2015.

Yet French President Francois Hollande visited the Alpine town of Chambery on the same day that Amri is believed to have passed through its train station en route to Italy, unnoticed by border guards or the president's security detail. The next morning, as Italian police were identifying Amri's body, France's interior minister visited a Paris train station to talk about vigorous transport security in place for the holidays.

France's far right and the conservative opposition assailed the Socialist government as lax. "It's a veritable kitchen strainer," said Eric Ciotti, lawmaker for the Republicans. "How could this person enter in Europe without being monitored? How could we let him settle in Europe?" What's worse, it's not the first time.

Central issues

Last year, hours after IS extremists killed 130 people at multiple targets in Paris, key suspect Salah Abdeslam fled to Belgium despite increased checks on both the French and Belgian borders. It took authorities four months to find him. Further, Abdeslam, a French national, had traveled through the Italian port of Bari on a roundtrip journey to Greece in August, months before the attack.—AP

UKRAINE REBELS AGREE TO INDEFINITE TRUCE

KIEV: A top Ukrainian insurgent said Friday the rebels had agreed to an indefinite ceasefire negotiated by Moscow and Kiev that would go into effect this weekend. The latest truce was hammered out with the help of European monitors and came after a surge in fighting that claimed the lives of eight Ukrainian soldiers this week.

Russia denies backing the rebels but the West and Kiev view them as Moscow proxies who initiated a 31-month conflict in Ukraine's industrial east to throw Kiev's pro-Western government off balance. The armistice is meant to come into force at midnight yesterday and last through at least the holiday season. "The indefinite truce will go into effect at midnight," the separatists' main news site quoted rebel negotiator Denis Pushilin as saying. His comment was quickly hailed by Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko as a sign that his bloodied nation was on the road to lasting peace. "I expect that thanks to these measures, which come on the eve of the New Year and Christmas holidays, this ceasefire in eastern Ukraine will be a lasting one," Poroshenko said in a statement.

Orthodox Christmas in former Soviet

republics is observed on January 7. Ukraine has seen as a series of periodic truces that always ended up being broken during a fighting that has claimed nearly 10,000 lives in the European Union's backyard. Russia denies playing a part in the war and calls its troops killed or captured in the war zone volunteers. But its seat at the negotiating table underscores the sway it holds over the insurgents from the mostly Russian-speaking industrial regions of Lugansk and Donetsk.

The truce will come into force after Alexander Hug of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) warned Thursday of a "massive upsurge in violence" in a country that has turned into a broken bridge between Russia and the West. Hug said his organization in recent weeks had recorded a 75-percent increase in violations of a ceasefire agreed in February 2014 to little effect. The deputy chief of the OSCE's Special Monitoring Mission for Ukraine added that the use of heavy weapons banned by a tattered February 2015 peace agreement had risen by 300 percent. Ukraine and its pro-Russian foes agreed a similar holiday truce last year. It lasted for several weeks before fighting slowly resumed and led to a series of bloody battles over the summer. The last truce between the two sworn foes was agreed on September 1 and largely held until this month. — AFP

India official meets Trump national security adviser

WASHINGTON: India's national security adviser made a low-key visit to Washington earlier this week to meet with a senior aide to President-elect Donald Trump, Indian diplomats said Friday, in a sign of New Delhi's desire to forge close ties with the incoming US administration.

India's Ajit Doval met for more than one hour with Michael Flynn, Trump's national security adviser, and they discussed their respective security priorities, including counterterrorism. The diplomats spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to publicly discuss the unannounced meeting. Doval then met Tuesday with current US National Security Adviser Susan Rice and Secretary of State John Kerry.

New Delhi hopes a Trump administration will take a tougher line against Islamist militancy by India's historical

rival, Pakistan, but likely has concerns over a Nov. 30 phone call between Trump and Pakistan's prime minister. In its readout of that call, Pakistan said that Trump described the country as "amazing" and expressed a desire to visit something that President Barack Obama has not done during his eight years in office, although his predecessor George W Bush did.

Under Obama, there have been peri-

odic strains between the US and India, but relations have picked up since Modi was elected in 2014. When Modi addressed Congress this June, he described the US as an "indispensable partner" and said together they could anchor stability and prosperity from the Indian Ocean to the Pacific.

The world's two largest democracies share strategic concerns about the rise of China. While India steers clear of a formal

alliance with Washington, the two militaries conduct frequent joint drills and India has turned to US suppliers to help modernize its armed forces. During the election campaign, when Trump often used negative rhetoric against foreign nations, he was largely positive about India. He praised Indian nationalist Prime Minister Narendra Modi for championing bureaucratic reform and economic growth. — AP

BANGLADESH POLICE JAIL LABOR UNREST REPORTER

DHAKA: A local television journalist in Bangladesh has been arrested for inciting unrest in one of the country's biggest garment manufacturing zones, police said yesterday. Nazmul Huda has been accused of "inaccurate reporting" on almost daily protests in Ashulia-home to Bangladesh's biggest garment plants that make clothing for top Western brands like GAP, Zara and H&M-according to a senior officer. "He is accused of inciting illegal protests, holding secret meetings with seven labor leaders whom we've arrested, and trying to destabilize the government," head of Dhaka district police SM Shafiur Rahman told AFP.

He added that police have charged Huda under controversial information and technology laws, which have been widely used in Bangladesh to crack down on dissent. Huda's arrest comes after mass protests by thousands of workers prompted the closure of 55 garment factories in Ashulia, on the outskirts of capital Dhaka. Bangladesh's \$30 billion garment industry has a woeful history of poor conditions for its four million workers, who are also among the lowest paid in the world's textile sector.

Those in Ashulia launched a strike two weeks ago to protest the firing of 121 colleagues, and subsequently demanded their salaries be tripled from 5,300 taka (\$67) — the current monthly minimum wage-to 16,000 taka. Several hundred policemen have been deployed in the industrial zone since the strike began and at least seven people who were leading the strike have been arrested.

Garment manufacturing makes up 80 percent of Bangladesh's exports and a prolonged interruption could have a cascading impact on the impoverished country's economy.

Huda, a correspondent for the private ETV network, was the first journalist to report on the shoddy structure of the Rana Plaza factory, just a day before it collapsed on April 24, 2013 and killed more than 1,100 people in one of the world's worst industrial disasters.

He shot video footage of the cracks that had developed at the Rana Plaza, which was later used as evidence in court. He had also reported on how the owner of the rickety nine-storey garment complex forced thousands of workers to enter the building for their shifts despite cracks in its pillars, less than an hour before it caved in. The tragedy triggered international outrage, forcing US and European clothing brands to improve deplorable safety conditions at the factories that supply them. — AFP



KINSHASA: This file photo taken on December 20, 2016 shows a child staring at the marks of burnt tyres following a protest in the Lingwala neighborhood. — AFP

ALL-NIGHT TALKS FAIL TO REACH DR CONGO DEAL

President Joseph Kabila refusing to Quit Power

KINSHASA: Hopes of a deal to end DR Congo's dangerous political crisis before Christmas were faltering yesterday after fruitless all-night talks over President Joseph Kabila's refusal to quit power. Kabila's second and final five-year term ended on December 20, but he has shown no intention of leaving office soon, sparking violent protests that have left at least 40 people dead this week, according to the United Nations.

The influential Catholic Church has been brokering talks between the government and opposition and hopes rose this week of an imminent deal, with a draft seen by AFP outlining plans for fresh elections at the end of next year, when Kabila would step down. But that optimism has been slipping, and negotiators from the two camps left church offices in Kinshasa just before 5:30 am (0430 GMT) without a deal to prevent a fresh descent into conflict in a country that has suffered two horrific wars since 1996.

"The work is practically finished-the final touches are all that is left to do before the deal is signed," insisted Marcel Utembi, president of the Congo National Episcopal Conference (CENCO), who had pushed for a deal before

Christmas. But others indicated there was still a long way to go. "Everything is still blocked on how (public affairs) will be managed during the transition period," said opposition delegate Francois Muamba. Two opposition delegates said the squabbling sides could return to the table yesterday morning, but there was no confirmation from CENCO. Negotiators from Kabila's political alliance were remaining tight-lipped.

'Serious mediocrity'

A frustrated CENCO official, speaking on condition of anonymity, blasted DR Congo's political class for "serious mediocrity" in their inability to reach a deal. "They have called into question everything we arranged the day before," the official said as talks stretched into the night. Time is pressing as the bishops overseeing the talks are due to quit the capital yesterday afternoon to return to their congregations in time for Christmas Eve mass.

Tensions are still running high, with security forces spraying live ammunition at a string of anti-Kabila protests in Kinshasa and other towns this week, killing at least 40 civilians, according to the UN. Congolese police put the toll at 20

dead, saying they had largely been killed in "looting" or by "stray bullets". Other sources say somewhere between 56 and 125 people have been killed in a week of clashes, not counting the unknown toll from fighting between security forces and an anti-government militia in the central town of Kananga.

Kabila, 45, has been in power since the 2001 assassination of his father Laurent at the height of the Second Congo War. He was confirmed as leader of the mineral-rich nation in 2006 during the first free elections since independence from Belgium in 1960, and re-elected for a second term in 2011 in a vote marred by allegations of

Constitutionally banned from seeking a third term, he obtained a controversial court ruling in May stating that he could remain in power until a successor was chosen. DR Congo has never seen a democratic transfer of power following polls since independence from Belgium in 1960. Two decades ago, the country collapsed into the deadliest conflict in modern African history. Its two wars in the late 1990s and early 2000s pulled in at least six African armies and left more than three million dead. — AFP

2 DEAD IN DHAKA RAID ON MILITANT HIDEOUT

DHAKA: Bangladesh police officials stand alert as bystanders gather at the scene of

an operation to storm an alleged militant hideout yesterday, as a team from the

counterterrorism unit of Dhaka Metropolitan Police cordoned off a two-storey build-

NEW DELHI: A woman and a teenager believed to be linked to a banned Islamist militant group blew themselves up during a police raid on a two-storey house in Bangladesh's capital yesterday, a government minister said. The woman died after detonating explosives attached to her body during the raid, while the teenage boy's bloodied body was found inside an apartment on the ground floor of the building in Dhaka's Ashkona area, Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan said. Both were tied to the Jumatul Mujahedeen Bangladesh group, or JMB, he said.

ing in the capital. —AFP

A 7-year-old girl sustained splinter injuries when the woman blew herself up and was being treated at a hospital in Dhaka, Khan said. Two other women and two children surrendered in the operation earlier yesterday, he said. Bangladesh, a Muslim-majority country, has been experi-

encing threats recently from radical groups targeting atheists, bloggers, writers, foreigners and minority religious groups.

Masudur Rahman, a spokesman for the Dhaka Metropolitan Police, told reporters that one of the surrendered women was the wife of a slain JMB military commander who was killed in a police raid in Dhaka in September. He said the women were taken into police custody and would be questioned. The secular government of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has blamed JMB for several recent attacks.

In a major attack on July 1, young militants belonging to the group killed 20 hostages, including 17 foreigners, in a restaurant in Dhaka. Since July, police have conducted several raids like yesterday's and killed at least 40 suspects amid a massive manhunt for those responsible for the recent attacks. — AP

SRI LANKA CLEARS SPIES OF KILLING TAMIL MP

COLOMBO: A Sri Lankan court yesterday acquitted five men, including three navy intelligence officers, charged with assassinating an opposition Tamil legislator whose party immediately raised concerns about judicial integrity. Nadaraja Raviraj, who represented the Tamil National Alliance (TNA), was shot dead in 2006 along with his bodyguard as they drove out of his home in Colombo, two and a half years before the end of the country's Tamil separatist war.

Raviraj had been a staunch critic of then-president Mahinda Rajapakse's no-holds-barred offensive that crushed Tamil rebels and prompted allegations that up to 40,000 Tamil civilians were killed by troops. The court heard testimony that a navy intelligence unit, which operated near Rajapakse's official residence,

had carried out the assassination.

The Colombo High Court discharged the suspects, three of whom were tried in absentia, in a judgment delivered past midnight on Friday after a month-long trial. One of those tried in absentia-a police officer-has reportedly fled the country and is said to be living in Australia. "The jury's decision was that the accused cannot be convicted based solely on the fact that they were identified (by) several

witnesses in the case," the state-run Daily News said.

TNA spokesman and fellow member of parliament MA Sumanthiran said the acquittal confirmed their fears that the victim could not expect a fair trail by a jury consisting only of those belonging to the majority Sinhala-speaking community. "It became an us (majority Sinhalese) versus them (minority Tamils) issue and shows we were right to object to this jury, but our position was rejected by the judge,"

He said the court verdict underscored the need for independent international judicial experts to

Sumanthiran told AFP.

investigate allegations of war crimes during the 37-year-long Tamil separatist war which ended in May 2009. He added that the five men were charged with executing the assassination, but those who had ordered it were still at large. Human rights organizations have accused government forces of killing political opponents and suspected Tamil rebel sympathizers during Rajapakse's rule. Sri Lanka's new government, which came to power in January last year promising accountability for wartime atrocities and ethnic reconciliation, has so far refused to allow international judges in any war



AMRITSAR: An Indian schoolboy wearing a 'Santa Claus' outfit is mobbed by classmates as he gives out sweets during Christmas celebrations at a school in Amritsar yesterday. Although Indian Christians make up a mere two percent of the country's billion plus population, Christmas has become a popular festival in the Indian calendar. — AFP

PM MODI LAYS FOUNDATION OF HUGE STATUE AMID CRITICISM

NEW DELHI: Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi yesterday laid the foundation stone for a massive memorial of a medieval warrior king that's expected to cost billions of rupees and has come under criticism from environmental activists and others. The memorial, which includes a proposed 192-meter (630-foot) -tall statue of Shivaji, a 16th century ruler from western India, will be built off the coast of Mumbai on land reclaimed

from the Arabian Sea. The project is expected to be completed by 2019. The government of Maharashtra state, of which Mumbai is the capital, is expected to spend about 36 billion rupees (\$530 million) on the statue. By midday yesterday, some 25,900 people had signed a Change.org petition asking that the government spend the money on infrastructure and development instead. "Apart from a waste of money, this statue is going to be terrible for the environment, for the traffic situation in South Bombay and a security nightmare," the petition says. Once complete, the statue will be more than twice the height of the Statue of Liberty.

Yesterday, Modi also performed a Hindu religious ritual called "Bhoomipujan," or worshipping the land. The ritual is performed by devout Hindus before the start of any construction project. This isn't the first time that a dizzying amount of taxpayer money has been set aside to build a massive statue or memorial to a popular leader in India.

crimes probe. — AFP

In 2014, shortly after Modi became prime minister, the national budget set aside about 2 billion rupees (\$34 million) to build a massive structure to honor independence leader Vallabbhai Patel. That project is underway in Modi's home state of Gujarat and once complete is expected to cost about 10 times the amount set aside in the budget. The rest is expected to be filled by private and corporate donations.

Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party isn't alone in its love of statues. Mayawati, a leader from the populous northern Indian state of Uttar Pradesh who goes by one name, had dozens of statues erected honoring her and political mentors during her time as that state's leader. — AP

PHILIPPINES VACATES THOUSANDS AHEAD OF CHRISTMAS TYPHOON

evacuating thousands of people and shut down dozens of ports yesterday as a strong typhoon threatened to wallop the country's east coast on Christmas Day. Nock-Ten is expected to be packing winds of between 203-250 kilometers per hour when it crosses over Catanduanes, a remote island of 250,000 people in the Bicol region, late Sunday, the US Joint Typhoon Warning Center said. It is then expected to hit the country's main island of Luzon, including the capital Manila, tomorrow.

TABACO: Philippine authorities began ing" in Catanduanes and two nearby provinces, Rachel Miranda, spokeswoman for the civil defense office in the Bicol region, told AFP. She said she did not have the total number of people who have been transferred to higher ground or to safer structures. The evacuations came as another civil defense official in the area said that hundreds of thousands of residents were under threat from the approaching typhoon.

Deadly waves

The Philippine weather service warned "The preemptive evacuation is ongo- of potentially deadly two-meter waves

along the coast, as well as landslides and at other Bicol ports. The poor, mainly flash floods from heavy rains. Seafaring vessels in the area were ordered to stay at port, while one airline cancelled 18 Christmas-Day flights to and from Bicol airports. "It's sad that I could not join my parents for Christmas," technician Reagan Sumukit told AFP as the coastguard shut down the port of Tabaco.

The 27-year-old was among some 500 ferry passengers stranded at the tiny terminal that was crammed with bags and other luggage. Local broadcaster ABS-CBN showed footage yesterday of long lines of trucks, cars and vehicles stranded

agricultural region of 5.5 million people is often the first area to be hit by the 20 or so storms and typhoons that pound the archipelago each year. Cedric Daep, civil defence chief for the province of Albay, told AFP at least 400,000 people in that area alone needed to be evacuated.

"Our evacuation centres will not be able to accommodate all of them," he said. Others were being asked to stay with relatives or friends. "We are requesting vehicle support" from other government agencies to move people to safety, Daep added. In Manila, the civil defence office ordered huge roadside advertising billboards to be pulled down in case they were toppled by strong winds and hurt people on the ground, spokeswoman Romina Marasigan told a news conference.

Nock-Ten, named after a bird found in Laos, is arriving later than the usual typhoon season in the Philippines. The most powerful and deadliest typhoon to hit the country was Haiyan, which left 7,350 people dead or missing and destroyed entire towns in heavily populated areas of the central Philippines in November 2013. — AFP

KOREA PROTESTERS PUSH FOR PRESIDENT'S OUSTER

'Gifts to children and handcuffs to Park'

Santa Claus outfits, marched through the streets of Seoul yesterday calling for the immediate ouster of impeached President Park Geun-Hye. Parliament voted to impeach Park earlier this month over a corruption scandal in which she allegedly colluded with her friend, Choi Soon-Sil, to strong-arm donations from large conglomerates to two dubious foundations.

Park is also accused of ordering aides to leak confidential 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. Police figures were unavailable but organizers estimated the crowd at more than 550,000. Protesters walked in three columns towards the presidential Blue House,

SEOUL: Tens of thousands of people, many in the prime minister's office and the Artists drew a large baby Jesus holding a candle Constitutional Court

"Arrest Park immediately", they chanted, while also urging the Constitutional Court to approve the impeachment. Despite sub-zero temperatures, protesters waved banners and balloons, and sang along to Christmas songs with new lyrics heaping ridicule on Park and calling for her immediate removal. "This is a special Chrismas eve as it gives me a chance to show my children what democracy is all about", Yoon Ki-Seung told AFP as his son and daughter held banners.

Some 300 young people wearing Santa Claus outfits were seen handing out books and Christmas cards to children who accompanied their parents to the demonstration. "Gifts to children and handcuffs to Park", they chanted.

with the slogan "Oust Park in the name of the people" on the pavement.

Massive demonstrations have been taking place in Seoul and other cities every Saturday for the past two months, with protesters calling for Park's immediate departure from office. But Park, who has been suspended from her duties since the impeachment vote on December 9, has remained defiant, declaring she will "calmly" wait until the Constitutional Court, which is due to rule on the case within 180 days, arrives at a decision.

Bribery allegations

The demonstration came as investigators were expanding a probe into the scandal to determine whether Park and Choi took bribes from conglomerates such as Samsung in addition to soliciting "donations" to the two foundations. Samsung has been a main target of the investigation. It allegedly bribed Choi to win state approval for a controversial merger of two of its units in order to bolster its founding family's control over the management.

Prosecutors are also investigating new allegations that Choi sent dubious assets worth hundreds of millions of dollars overseas. Choi, who has been in custody since October, was brought to a special prosecutors' office yesterday in a prison bus. Television footage showed the 60-year-old handcuffed and wearing an ivory prison outfit with a serial number on the chest as she was taken off the bus and led into the court building.

Choi, dubbed South Korea's "female Rasputin" for the influence she wielded over Park, faces trial on charges of embezzlement and abuse of power. "We will question her to confirm her earlier statements and investigate other allegations," a spokesman for the special prosecutor told reporters. Choi's appearance came on the heels of the first hearing into Park's impeachment earlier this week. If the justices confirm impeachment, Park will be permanently removed and



In this undated file photo released by China's Xinhua News Agency, China's aircraft carrier Liaoning berths in a port of China. — AP

CHINA CARRIER CARRIES DRILLS ON OPEN SEAS

BEIJING: China's military says its first aircraft carrier group has carried out a series of fighter launch, recovery and air combat exercises in the Yellow Sea ahead of a scheduled voyage farther afield. The Defense Ministry announced late Friday that the Liaoning carrier group conducted the drills in the Yellow Sea in recent days, adding that the group "as a next step will conduct scheduled cross-sea training and tests." The ministry did not specify its destination, but its "cross-sea" wording has prompted speculation in the Chinese media that the warships could soon sail to the contested South China Sea.

The state-run Global Times newspaper quoted a well-known military analyst yesterday as saying that the South China Sea would be an "ideal" next location because joint exercises could involve with troops on reefs controlled by China. The growing capabilities of the carrier group and its movements have been closely watched since the Liaoning was declared combatready last month.

Tensions have mounted in the South China Sea, where the US and China accuse each other of engaging in a dangerous military buildup. China claims nearly all of the sea and is pitted against smaller neighbors in multiple disputes over islands, coral reefs and lagoons. The US-based Asia Maritime Transparency Initiative think tank said this South China Sea. — AP

month that satellite imagery showed China building large anti-aircraft guns on artificial islands in the contested waters, where China has also laid airstrips, built communications facilities and deployed suspected

China has characterized its moves as defensive in nature and accused US warships of making provocative passes through the region. The Liaoning, commissioned by the Chinese navy in 2012, first sailed to the South China Sea in 2013, when it docked at a navy base near the Chinese holiday resort of Sanya. The vessel at the time was not outfitted with a full aircraft complement.

The Liaoning carried out its first live-fire exercise last week, with the military releasing video footage that showed Chinese J-15 fighters launching missiles and hitting targets. State broadcaster China Central Television yesterday showed footage of the Liaoning launching a large contingent of J-15 fighters. The navy's top commander, Adm. Wu Shengli, was shown onboard watching the exercises. Beijing has said the carrier, built from an incomplete hull from Ukraine, would be used mostly for training and research as it prepares to deploy its first home-grown carrier, but it is widely viewed by analysts as a strategic piece in



SEOUL: Protesters wearing Santa Claus costumes attend a rally calling for the immediate

CAMBODIA'S EXPLANATION FOR ACTIVIST KILLING DRAWS DOUBT

PHNOM PENH: Kem Ley, a poor rice farmer's son turned champion of Cambodia's have-nots, was sipping his usual iced latte in the same chair he had occupied most mornings for years. Eyewitnesses say a former soldier walked into the Caltex gas station cafe, fired a semi-automatic Glock pistol into his chest and head and casually walked away.

Two weeks later, tens of thousands of mourners thronged Phnom Penh's streets to trail the glass casket bearing Kem Ley's body in the largest public rally Cambodia has witnessed in recent times. The funeral march reflected not only grief for the popular government critic, but also anger at a government that this year has decimated opponents through imprisonment, intimidation and, many believe, the still-unresolved killing of Kem Ley.

Harshest crackdown

Many view the Southeast Asian country's harshest crackdown in years as an attempt by Prime Minister Hun Sen to sustain his more than 30-year-long grip on power in 2018 elections. The opposition came unexpectedly close to winning the last election, in 2013.

Cambodian authorities deny any involvement in Kem Ley's death in Phnom Penh, the capital. They arrested ex-soldier and migrant worker Oeut Ang from a distant province on allegations that he

killed Kem Ley in July because the activist failed to repay a \$3,000 loan. Hun Sen has promised a "vigorous investigation." Phnom Penh Municipal Court spokesman Ly Sophana told reporters the investigation is still underway. He did not say when it will be completed or the trial set.

"At the moment, the court is making an investigation into the case and the government can't comment while it is in the hands of the court," Information Minister Khieu Kanharith said. Interviews with Oeut Ang's wife, Kem Lay's family and others raise doubts about the government's assertions that a loan was the motive, heightening suspicions that the killing may have been politically motivated.

Hoeum Huot said she and her husband "lived from hand to mouth" and that he could never have had \$3,000 in his pocket to lend. She said her husband, whose nickname Chuob Samlap means "meet and kill," was prone to drunkenness, out of a job and sold his motorbike before the killing to pay off a gambling debt. She never heard him mention Kem Ley. Kem Ley's mother, Pov Se, and sister Kem Thavy said the 45-yearold doctor-turned-activist lived simply and never incurred debts, and had never met Oeut Ang as far as they knew.

Shortly before his death, Kem Ley spoke on radio about a report issued by the Londonbased research and advocacy group Global Witness that alleged the prime minister and his family had accumulated massive wealth and retained power through corruption and brute force. Earlier he had crisscrossed the country to query villagers about their problems. Since Kem Ley's death, his wife and five sons left in fear for Thailand, where they have applied for asylum in

"I have no idea why my brother was killed, but friends and neighbors often told me that he should not talk about Hun Sen and his family," Kem Thavy said. "I argued with him: 'You cannot hold up the earth all by yourself." Keo Remy, president of the government's Cambodian Human Rights Committee, refused to be interviewed or answer written questions about Kem

Ley and human rights. Activists say the killing has come to symbolize the manifold ills of Cambodian society under Hun Sen's 31-year rule. "The death of Kem Ley is the death of human rights in Cambodia. It is the silencing of civil society actors. They are now mute," said But Buntenh, a prominent Buddhist monk and friend of Kem Ley's who is among the few public figures still openly criticizing the regime. But he said the incident has also backfired on Hun Sen and his Cambodia People's Party, having sparked a strong, albeit incohesive, pro-democracy surge among large segments of the population. Meanwhile, Kem Ley has been elevated to a legendary status, perhaps greater than his actual accomplishments. "With his death we have gained a great deal," said But Buntenh. "It has been five months but people are still weeping." Mourners come to his simple grave every day, including more than 100 who paid their respects on the November day his family was interviewed in Kem Ley's native village of Ang Takok, southwest of Phnom Penh.

"He was crucial to us because of the issues that he tackled. He was a great model for Cambodian people," said mourner Chan Sy. Kem Thavy, often wiping away tears, described her brother as gentle but independent and unwilling to compromise his ideals. "He told me that if someone offered him 1 or 2 million dollars he would not sell out, that if someone offered him a job with a big salary in order to stop talking about Cambodia he would not take it," she said.

Silence critics

Kem Ley dropped his medical practice to improve life for Cambodians, But Buntenh said. "As a doctor he could only cure one patient at a time, so he became a national doctor to treat Cambodia's many 'diseases' and help thousands," he said. While denying any role in Kem Ley's death, the government has taken steps to silence other critics. — AP



MUAR: This handout from the Malaysia Fire and Rescue Department taken yesterday shows the wreckage of a bus after it crashed. — AFP

'HORRIFIC' BUS CRASH IN MALAYSIA KILLS 14

KUALA LUMPUR: An interstate bus in Malaysia carrying passengers from Singapore and Myanmar careered off a highway early yesterday, killing 14 people and injuring 16 others, officials said. The bus, heading from southern Johor state to the capital Kuala Lumpur, went off the road in the wet before rolling over and ending up in a deep ditch, said Mohammad Yusof Mohammad Gunnos, deputy director of the fire and rescue department. The incident happened in the early hours in Johor state. Details of those killed were not immediately known, he said, adding that the injured were being treated in the Muar district public hospital. "This pre-Christmas tragedy is so far the most horrific accident in Johor state for 2016," he told AFP. Deadly road accidents are common in Malaysia despite efforts to crack down on poor driving, especially during festive seasons when people return to their home towns. — AFP

New Zealand Defends vote

WELLINGTON: New Zealand said yesterday the UN Security Council resolution condemning Israeli settlements should have come as no surprise to the Jewish State, after Israel retaliated by recalling its ambassador to Wellington. New Zealand co-sponsored the resolution which described the settlements in the occupied territories as a major stumbling block to Middle East peace efforts, as they are built on land the Palestinians

consider part of their future state. There was applause in the UN chamber when the first resolution by the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) in more than 38 years to condemn Israel over its settlement policy was passed 14-0, with the country's key ally the United States abstaining, Israel

refused to recognize the resolution with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's spokesman Ofir Gendelman tweeting that their ambassadors to New Zealand and Senegal, who co-sponsored the resolution, were to return to Israel immediately.

"These steps are taken against countries that have tabled the draft resolution to the UNSC and have diplomatic relations with Israel," he said. New Zealand Foreign Minister Murray McCully said the decision should have been no surprise to Israel which knew Wellington's position long before the UN vote. "Israel has informed us of their decision to recall their ambassador to New Zealand for consultations," McCully told AFP in a statement. — AFP



PHNOM PENH: In this July 10, 2016, file photo, the body of Kem Ley, a prominent Cambodian political analyst, lays on the floor with evidence markers after he was shot inside a shop. — AP





A Palestinian man walks on the beach as the sun sets over Gaza City yesterday.— AP

ISRAEL FUMES AFTER US LETS UN DENOUNCE...

Continued from Page 1

"Of all the conflicts in the world, just one party's being singled out, and that's the Jewish party," said Oren. Trump reacted after the vote by promising change at the UN. "As to the UN, things will be different after Jan 20th," he tweeted referring to the date of his inauguration.

It would be virtually impossible, however, for Trump to overturn the resolution. It would require a new resolution with support from at least nine members in the 15-member Security Council and no veto by one of the other permanent members - Russia, China, Britain or France, all of whom supported Friday's resolution.

A spokesman for Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas called the resolution a "big blow for Israeli policies". The move was "an international and unanimous condemnation of settlements and strong support for the two-state solution," said Nabil Abu Rudeina. Hamas, the Islamist movement that runs the Gaza Strip, also welcomed the vote. Chief Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat hailed the result as a "victory for the justice of the Palestinian cause". He said Trump's choice was now between "international legitimacy" or siding with "settlers and extremists". Riyad Mansour, the Palestinian UN ambassador, urged the Security Council to "stand firm by this decision" and "not be cowed by negative threats or spin".

Kuwait's National Assembly Speaker Marzoug Al-Ghanem praised the vote. The resolution "is a step in the right direction," Ghanem said in a press statement, and was another tool to exercise pressure on Israel to abide by UN resolutions related to the Arab-Israeli conflict. Ghanem said the resolution should be followed by other steps at international conferences like the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU). He hoped IPU members move to prove how Israel was violating the IPU charter, thus triggering penalties. Ghanem however said these diplomatic moves might not be enough, "but they should be encouraged and supported by forces to expose Israel's practices, which violate all international human rights norms".

The US has traditionally served as Israel's diplomatic shield, protecting it from resolutions it opposes. It is Israel's most important ally, providing it with more than \$3 billion each year in defense aid. That number will soon rise to \$3.8 billion per year under a new decadelong pact, the biggest pledge of US military aid in history. But the Obama administration has grown increasingly frustrated with settlement building in the West Bank, which Israel has occupied for nearly 50 years.

There have been growing warnings that settlement expansion is fast eroding the possibility of a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the basis of years of negotiations. Settlements are built on land the Palestinians view as part of their future state and seen as illegal under international law. "We cannot stand in the way of this resolution as we seek to preserve a chance of attaining our longstanding objective of two states living side by side in peace and security," said Samantha Power, the US ambassador to the UN. "The settlement problem has gotten so much worse that it is now putting at risk the very viability of that two-

Obama adviser Ben Rhodes said "we cannot simply have a two-state solution be a slogan", but added that "we did not draft this resolution". "We took the position that we did when it was put to a vote," he said. Trump has signaled he is likely to be far more favorable to Israel. David Friedman, his nominee for ambassador to Israel, favors moving the US embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem and has voiced support for settlement building.

Some 430,000 Israeli settlers currently live in the West Bank and a further 200,000 Israelis live in annexed east Jerusalem, which Palestinians see as the capital of their future state. The resolution demands "Israel immediately and completely cease all settlement activities in the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem." It says settlements have "no legal validity" and are "dangerously imperiling the viability of the two-

Friday's vote was scheduled at the request of New Zealand, Malaysia, Senegal and Venezuela - each representing a different region and reflecting the wide support for the measure - which stepped in after Egypt put the draft resolution on hold. After the resolution passed, Israel recalled its ambassadors to Senegal and New Zealand for consultations. He also canceled a planned January visit to Israel by Senegal's foreign minister and ended Israeli aid programs to the West African nation. Israel has no diplomatic relations with Venezuela or Malaysia. — Agencies

Woods hits golf links with Trump

Continued from Page 1

The PGA of America stripped its 2015 Grand Slam of Golf from Trump National Los Angeles after Trump's comments on Mexican immigrants, and the event was later discontinued. Activist Martha Burk is among those who have called for the US Golf Association to move the 2017 US Women's Open from Trump National in New Jersey, a demand the USGA has rejected.

The US PGA Tour moved its longstanding tournament at Trump National Doral in the Miami area to Mexico City for the 2016-17 season, although tour commissioner Tim Finchem said in June that the move of the World Golf Championships event was not a "political exercise". However, Finchem acknowledged that having the Trump brand on the host course of the event made it harder to find a sponsor to replace outgoing Cadillac, since Trump would share the limelight with any other corporate backer.

Although Trump blasted Obama during the campaign for playing too much golf, Golf Digest magazine recently listed the president-elect as among the best golfers in Washington with a 2.8 handicap. — AFP

BETHLEHEM CELEBRATES, EUROPE FEARFUL

Continued from Page 1

Locals and tourists in Berlin visited the Christmas market targeted in the attack, and many took a moment to quietly light a candle or lay flowers for the victims. "It's really nice there are so many people here and it's still open," said Marianne Weile, 56, from Copenhagen. "So even though you are really sad about what happened you can still keep Christmas. It's not like this crazy guy ruined it for everybody."

Security was tight elsewhere in Europe for the holidays, including at Milan's cathedral, where police were out in force and concrete barricades had been erected around the Piazza del Duomo, where a Christmas market is held. In France, 91,000 police, gendarmes and soldiers had been deployed to guard public spaces including churches and markets. In the northern city of Lille, concrete blocks had been laid in areas around the city to prevent vehicle attacks, prompting 62-yearold Michelle to ask: "How far are we going to go?"

Despite the security fears, many were braving winter temperatures to take part in traditional markets and other festivities. Among them some 30 hardy Slovaks participated in a winter swim at Bratislava's Zlate Piesky lake, some drinking beer in the nearly freezing water. In London, meat-lovers converged on Smithfield Market for the traditional Christmas Eve auction at butcher Harts, waving banknotes in the air as they bid on turkeys, pork cuts and rump steaks.

Prime Minister Theresa May used her first Christmas message to urge Britain to come together in 2017 after a year of bitter divisions exposed by the Brexit referendum. As families gathered for Christmas, May said "coming together is also important for us as a country." Christians in Syria's Aleppo were looking forward to celebrations after President Bashar AlAssad's forces retook full control of the city following a rebel withdrawal this week.

Members of Aleppo's Catholic minority have been preparing for the first Christmas mass in five years at the Saint Elias Cathedral in the Old City. The famed cathedral's roof collapsed years ago under a salvo of rocket fire, but this week members of the community were clearing out debris to prepare for the service. "All our memories are here - this is where we celebrated all our feast days, our joys," said Bashir Badawi, rummaging through rubble for wood and scrap metal to make a crude Nativity scene. "We want to transform all this destruction into something beautiful."

In Bartalla near the Iragi city of Mosul, Christians were also holding a service for the first time since their town was recaptured from IS. The jihadists destroyed crosses at the Mar Shimoni church in Bartalla and set it alight, but volunteers worked for days to ready it for the first service in more than two and a half years. "We want to deliver the message that we are staying in this country and that these are our roots and our origins," Father Yaqub Saadi, the church's priest, told AFP.

In the mostly Catholic Philippines, authorities began evacuating thousands of people and shut down dozens of ports as a strong typhoon threatened to wallop the country's east coast on Christmas Day. Seafaring vessels in the area were ordered to stay at port, while one airline cancelled 18 Christmas Day flights. "It's sad that I could not join my parents for Christmas," technician Reagan Sumukit told AFP as the coastguard shut down the port of Tabaco. Pope Francis, the leader of the of the world's 1.2 billion Catholics, was to deliver his traditional "Urbi et Orbi" (To the City and The World) Christmas message from the balcony of Saint Peter's Basilica today. — AFP





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Kuwait Times

THE LEADING INDEPENDENT DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF ESTABLISHED 1961

Founder and Publisher **YOUSUF S. AL-ALYAN**

Editor-in-Chief

ABD AL-RAHMAN AL-ALYAN

PRIAL : 24833199-24833358-24833432

EDITORIAL : 24833199-24833358 ADVERTISING : 24835616/7 FAX : 24835620/1 CIRCULATION : 24833199 Extn. 163 ACCOUNTS : 24835619

COMMERCIAL: 24835618
P.O.Box 1301 Safat,13014 Kuwait.
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Focus

OPPONENTS, FAMILY FEUD TAKE SHINE OFF LE PEN HOPES

or two years, disaffection with mainstream politics and disarray among her opponents have played to Marine Le Pen's agenda. But as the days tick down to election year in France, events may have started to dim her presidential prospects. Since late November, the anti-immigrant, anti-globalization farright National Front candidate's showing in opinion polls has slipped from about three out of 10 voters to one in four.

Her niece, the National Front member of parliament Marion Marechal-Le Pen, has re-opened old faultlines within the party. And the policies and personalities of those emerging as Marine Le Pen's main opponents look set to make campaigning tricky for her in the months ahead. The election rules are simple: The two candidates who win the most votes in an April first-round vote go through to a run-off round on May 7. By polling so well for so long, Le Pen's presence in that run-off had been seen as one of the few certainties in

Not any longer. "Le Pen not reaching round two would have been a wild bet even four months ago," the historian Justin Vaisse, director of the French foreign ministry's center of analysis, forecasting and strategy, tweeted this week. "(That's) now credible - even though many unknowns remain." The choice on Nov 27 of Francois Fillon as Le Pen's main conservative challenger in the Republicans party primary was among the first signs of trouble.

She put a brave face on the victory for the former prime minister, whose socially conservative views on abortion and gay marriage are attractive to many Le Pen supporters and helped land him the ticket ahead of the more centrist Alain Juppe. She focused instead on Fillon's aggressive plans to slash public sector spending, calling it an attack on the French workers she and her second-in-command, Florian Philippot, have promised to protect.

But the impact in the polls was immediate. A Harris Interactive survey after the Nov 27 primary put her on 24 percent of voting intentions, behind Fillon on 26 her lowest score in months, and one that has not improved since. Then her niece Marechal-Le Pen twisted the knife, giving a Dec 10 interview in the Journal de Dimanche Sunday newspaper. The 27-year-old is ideologically much closer to her grandfather Jean-Marie, the party's now ostracized founder, than to her aunt Marine and party's modernizers led by Philippot.

From her Vaucluse constituency in the south of France, part of Marechal-Le Pen's line is a form of social conservatism not very different in voters' eyes to that of Fillon - with both expressing clear reservations on abortion and gay marriage. "I am neither in a minority nor am I isolated," she told the newspaper, standing firm on proposals that the state should no longer pay for pregnancy terminations. Just days earlier, party leader Marine Le Pen had made clear that she would not change France's abortion laws.

Marechal-Le Pen has also attacked Phillipot, who is gay, over his support for government-funded safe-sex posters depicting gay couples. She called the poster campaign "an embarrassment for children and for homosexuals," and said: "The majority, in the FN, do not share that choice at all." Fillon, a Catholic like Marechal-Le Pen, has said he would not change France's abortion laws, but has said he is personally opposed. He also wants to limit adoption rights of gay couples.

By stepping onto her traditionalist turf, Fillon leaves the Le Pen campaign more dependent on her proworker agenda, which includes a lowering of the retirement age, hiking minimum wages and preserving a generous welfare safety net. In that area, she already faces fierce competition from the opposite end of the political spectrum - Jean-Luc Melenchon of The Left Party, a hardliner and former Socialist who is running for president with the backing of the French Communist Party.

Melenchon is much more credible in this area than Le Pen, according to the political commentator Thomas Guenole. "Le Pen is trapped between Francois Fillon and Jean-Luc Melenchon," said Guenole in an editorial for Le Figaro newspaper. Melenchon was eliminated in the 2012 presidential contest but scored a sizeable 11 percent of first-round votes. He is doing at least that well or better in regular polls of voting intentions in 2017.

Macron Factor

Another hurdle for Le Pen is the youthful Emmanuel Macron's announcement on Nov 16 that he too is running for president, as an independent candidate who rejects the traditional politics of Left versus Right. Opinion polls since then show the 38 year-old former economy minister consistently in third place. He is still well behind Le Pen and Fillon, but even before he launched officially, some of her worst scores were in scenarios where he stood against her. — Reuters

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ALEPPO SEALS WIN FOR AUTHORITARIAN ALLIANCE

he fall of Aleppo marks the victory of an authoritarian alliance stretching from Tehran to Moscow, analysts say - and the biggest win yet for President Bashar Al-Assad since civil war erupted in 2011. His regime's total control over east Aleppo, declared Thursday, was obtained with pitiless brute force that has reduced much of the country's former economic heart to rubble, in a war that has killed more than 310,000 people nationwide.

"The first lesson this teaches is that brute force pays off, and that abstention has a price," said Bruno Tertrais from France's Foundation for Strategic Research. The force, he said, comes from "the massive involvement of Russia and Iran, who have changed the course of the war" by ploughing air power, weapons, money and might into destroying the rebels. The abstention, he added, was "American non-intervention in 2013", when President Barack Obama failed to follow through on his threat to act if Assad crossed a "red line" by using chemical weapons.

It was in 2013, too, two years after the start of the uprising, that Iran and Lebanon's Hezbollah militia, its ally, announced their entry into the conflict on the side of the regime. Russia threw itself into the fight two years after that, turning the tide for Assad. "The Russian involvement was when it really ended, when we knew nothing could be done", one French diplomatic source said bitterly. Analysts say the fall of Aleppo has brought Turkey - which for years backed the opposition against Assad but then helped Russia to organize the final evacuation of the city's rebel zone - into the authoritarian alliance.

Now Ankara sits alongside Moscow, Tehran and Damascus in being able to dictate the terms of a political settlement in Syria in "negotiations between friends", as one European diplomat put it. Each sees its own interests in Syria's future: for Turkey, a stable neighbor on its border, a diplomatic ally for Iran and as a "useful" tool for Russia, notably against US influence.

Pyrrhic victory

Assad, meanwhile, has a long way to go to regain others parts of Syria in the hands of opposition forces, Kurdish fighters, and Islamic State jihadists. Aleppo has suffered such huge devastation because of sustained fighting and massive aerial bombardment that it will take years for the city to recover. "This is a Pyrrhic victory", warns researcher Karim Bitar at the French Institute for International and Strategic Affairs. "On the one hand, it has accentuated the

frustration and humiliation felt by Syrians. On the other, the Russians are already starting to feel the consequences", he said, referring to the assassination of Moscow's ambassador to Turkey Monday by a man seeking to avenge Aleppo.

Foreign powers which have backed the Syrian opposition, including Saudi Arabia, Qatar and some Western states, come out after the Aleppo defeat weakened, analysts said, consigned to an observer status. Tertrais underscores that Aleppo's fall, and the resurgence of Assad, was

not an "inevitable" outcome of the war but a consequence of inaction by Washington and its allies. "This is not a question of Western powerlessness. It is a question of a lack of willpower," he said. As Elliot Abrams noted in a recent Council of Foreign Relations brief, US policy of non-intervention looks set to continue in the administration of President-elect Donald Trump, which is more likely to see action supporting democracy as a luxury the West cannot afford in the face of Islamist threats. — AFP

IS SCORES 'OPPORTUNISTIC' WINS

he Syrian regime's all-out offensive to recapture Aleppo enabled the Islamic State group to regain territory elsewhere, including the historic city of Palmyra, and has dimmed prospects of defeating the jihadists, experts say. "The resources deployed (by Damascus and its allies) to retake Aleppo have allowed IS to claim a series of opportunistic victories" in Syria, said Charles Lister of the US think-tank Middle East Institute.

During the assault by Syrian, Russian and Iranian forces on rebels in eastern Aleppo, IS jihadists recaptured the historic city of Palmyra on Dec 11 after losing it in March. "Russia and Syria prioritized the defeat of the opposition in Aleppo city over the defense of Palmyra from IS, ultimately enhancing the threat posed by Salafijihadist groups in both northern and eastern Syria," Jonathan Mautner of the Institute for the Study of War (ISW) wrote on the Washington-based think-tank's blog.

He said the recapture of Palmyra highlighted "the inability of pro-regime forces to establish security across the entire country without sustained support from Russia and Iran, notwithstanding their recent success in Aleppo city".

IS 'the Big Winner'

IS "appears the big winner from the fall of Aleppo," said Jean-Pierre Filiu, a professor at the Paris School of International Affairs. Not only did the group recapture Palmyra, its propaganda benefitted from "international passivity in the face of Aleppo's suffering", which encouraged the group's followers to launch attacks one after

the other in Jordan and Germany, he said. A shooting rampage in the Jordanian city of Karak left 10 dead on Sunday, the day before 12 people were killed in the truck attack on a Christmas market in Berlin. The main suspect, Anis Amri, was shot dead in Italy on Friday.

Still, IS controls only half the territory it seized in 2014 in Iraq and Syria, with its heaviest defeats coming this year at the hands of coalition forces. In northern Syria, IS lost Kobane and Minbej, as well as Dabiq, a town of major symbolic importance to the jihadists because according to a Sunni prophecy, it will be the site of an apocalyptic battle between Muslim and Christian armies.

Al-Bab, its stronghold north of Aleppo, is under attack by Turkey, which launched an offensive four months ago to chase IS from its southern border. But the jihadists still control Raga, the Syrian capital of their self-proclaimed "caliphate". They also control the banks of the Euphrates river all the way to the border with Iraq. After the battle of Aleppo, "there is a de-facto division of Syria in two, with the Russians in the west and the Americans in the east," a European diplomat said. Moscow is expected to continue supporting the regime of President Bashar Al-Assad to recapture territory from the Syrian rebels, while Washington continues its fight against IS. "The Russians want to recapture 'useful' Syria and leave the 'IS-land' quagmire to the West," the diplomat said. On Dec 14, US Lieutenant General Stephen Townsend, who commands the air campaign of the anti-IS coalition, said that if the Russians do not try to retake Palmyra, the US-led coalition would "do what we need to do". — AFP

OBAMA LETS ISRAEL FRUSTRATION SHOW

t was only an abstention, but it was a long time coming. With just weeks left in office, Barack Obama finally gave vent to his frustration with Israel. The White House said Obama had decided to allow the UN Security Council to pass a motion condemning Israeli settlement building just hours before the vote. But officials confirmed they had been watching draft resolutions in circulation for a least a year and were ready to take a stand when one made it to the table.

Critics of Obama's Middle East policy allege that he has long been maneuvering to engineer an opportunity to isolate Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. White House aides, however, insist they had simply run out of ways to convince Israel that its building on Palestinian land is sabotaging hopes for peace. Either way, Friday's UN vote ordering a halt to Israel's settlement building will stand as the final word from Obama before Donald Trump takes power.

"Prime Minister Netanyahu had the opportunity to pursue policies that would have led to a different outcome today," Obama adviser Ben Rhodes said. "The fact that this is happening towards the end of our eighth year indicates that it is not our preferred course of action. "If it was an outcome that we sought, then we would have done it long ago."

For months, Washington has been warning in increasingly strident tones that Israel's accelerating settlement program is destroying hopes for a two-state peace deal. This month, Secretary of State John Kerry told a US-Israeli forum in Washington that right-wing members of Netanyahu's government are deliberately working to that end. After Friday's UN vote, the US special envoy to the peace process, Frank Lowenstein, said Kerry would in the coming days make a speech laying out ideas to revive it.

'Grudge match'

The White House insists the UN resolution, which Israel wasted no time in rejecting, simply reflects the consensus view of the international community on Israeli settlements. But Obama's abstention came under withering

criticism from across Washington - with both Democrats and Republicans accusing the outgoing president of colluding with a biased world body to betray an ally. President-elect Trump, who had earlier convinced Egypt to postpone the vote from Thursday, implied in a Tweet that he would punish the United Nations.

Democratic senator Chuck Schumer, who had lobbied the administration until the last minute, called the decision to let the vote pass "extremely frustrating, disappointing and confounding". And AIPAC, the largest pro-Israel lobby group in Washington, said: "By adopting this resolution, the United Nations has once again served as an open forum to isolate and delegitimize Israel." And

many suggested Obama's decision, made while the president was on a Christmas break in Hawaii, had as much to do with his bad blood with Netanyahu as with diplomacy.

Jonathan Schanzer, vice president of Washington think tank the Foundation for Defense of Democracies, dubbed the relationship a "grudge match". Netanyahu made no secret of his friendship with Obama's 2012 election opponent Mitt Romney, and last year broke protocol to go behind the US president's back and address Congress to oppose the Iran nuclear deal. The two men have never hit it off, and the White House has never hidden its frustration with the bellicose rhetoric of Israel's rightwing coalition. — AFP







FIFA LOOKING AT PLAYER BEHAVIOUR: VAN BASTEN

LONDON: FIFA is thinking about introducing new measures to improve player behaviour towards match officials, chief officer for technical development Marco van Basten revealed yesterday. The former Netherlands striker and manager says football's world governing body could follow the lead of rugby union,

> in which only team captains are allowed to speak to referees. "There are a lot of players now who are complaining during a game," Van Basten told the BBC. "I am sure the behaviour of the players can be better. We are thinking about putting it back in the right direction." Asked if football could learn from rugby, Van Basten said: "I think we can learn from every sport and they can learn from us, but we have to confront the problem." He added: "This is what we have to do to help the referees. We try to make a good product-

dynamic, exciting-but in the end also honest. "There's a lot of emotion in the game and that's what's good, but we have to control it also." — AFP

KUWAIT BEAT OMAN IN GCC WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL

ABU DHABIL: Kuwait beat Oman 55-42 on Friday, the third straight win in the 8th GCC Wheelchair Basketball Championship, held at New York University in Abu Dhabi. Kuwait was quick in their offense and made most of the field goal shots. The Kuwaiti team was also good in transition back to the defense and made a good use of the turnovers committed by the Omanis. Saudi Arabia beat the home team, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), 45-38. Saudi Arabia and Kuwait have six points each. Their clash is today and the winner will win the championship. Shafi Al-Hajri, president of Kuwait Disabled Sport Club, commended the players for their performance against Oman. He told KUNA that Saudi Arabia's game would be a tough one, but voiced confidence in ability of the players to make a good game. — KUNA

WEST BROM KEEPER SIGNS NEW DEAL

LONDON: West Bromwich Albion's former England goalkeeper Ben Foster has signed a new 2-1/2 year deal through to 2019, the Premier League club announced yesterday. The 33-year-old Foster, who recently made his 150th league appearance for Albion, has been ever-present this season, helping Tony Pulis' side to eighth place in the table. "We're delighted we've extended Ben's contract," Pulis said on the club website (www.wba.co.uk). "His form this season has been there for all to see and he continues to set the standards at the club all the goalkeepers have to aspire to." Former Manchester United keeper Foster joined Albion on loan from Birmingham City in 2011 before making the move permanent 12 months later. He has made 161 appearances in all competitions, with 41 clean sheets. West Brom visit Arsenal on Boxing Day. —Reuters



CLERMONT-FERRAND: Stade Francais players join a scrum during the French Union Rugby match ASM Clermont vs Stade Frankais at the Michelin stadium in Clermont-Ferrand, central France, on Friday.— AFP

LEADERS CLERMENT ROMP PAST STADE FRANCAIS

PARIS: Clerment Ferrand thumped Stade Français 46-10 and scored six tries on the way as the Top 14 leaders enjoyed a rousing performance on Friday.

They now have 46 points from their 14 games ahead of La Rochelle on 41. The big game of the week sees Montpellier host mega-rich Toulon in Friday's late game in an encounter rendered all the more important by each side's European struggles. Clerment's tries were scored by Adrien Plante on 22 and 32, Patricio Fernandez on 43, Noa Nakaitaci on 58, Damien Chouly on 73 and Sitaleki Timani two minute from time. "I'm happy to have done my bit," Plante said after the game. "I'm getting back to my best form." Clerment coach Franck AzÈma said his players had been very focussed. "I was also happy to see them enjoying themselves so much too," he said.

There was also a big scoring comeback win for La Rochelle, who eventually overran bottom side Bayonne 42-17 after they had been led 17-0. The win makes La Rochelle, provisionally in second, a serious contender for the play-offs. Racing 92 also bounced back from their European disappointment with a 23-10 win over Castres, although a late try for Castres meant they missed a bonus point. Wenceslas Lauret had a hand in all three tries for Racing and the win, a first in four games, lifted them back to fourth place.

"It's a relief, people were starting to worry

about us and so was I," said Racing backs coach Laurent Labit. Brive breezed past Lyon 22-6 leaving the losers hovering near the relegation zone in the early match.

Gaetan Germain took 17 points for Brive hitting the target six times out of six, while former French international Frederik Michalak opened the scores for Lyon, who have now lost three games in a row.

Thibaud Daubanga and Jale Vatuba grabbed second half tries as confident Pau

beat Bordeaux 18-16 away. The home side got the first try of the game to give Bordeaux a 10-0 lead through Luke Braid but Raphael Ibanez's men had a dreadful second-half. Grenoble climbed off the foot of the table on Thursday with a rousing 26-22 win over a Toulouse still getting over their European exertions. The win ignites vague hopes of escaping relegation for the Alpine hosts and leaves Toulouse rooted outside the end-ofseason play-off places. —AFP

JUSTIN TURNER, DODGERS FINALIZE \$64M CONTRACT

LOS ANGELES: Third baseman Justin Turner and the Los Angeles Dodgers have finalized their \$64 million, fouryear contract. Turner gets a \$4 million signing bonus, payable Dec. 31, under the agreement completed Friday, and salaries of \$12 million next year, \$11 million in 2018, \$18 million in 2019 and \$19 million in 2020.

He would get a \$1 million assignment bonus each time he is traded. Los Angeles also has a pending \$80 million, five-year agreement with closer Kenley Jansen. The deals raise the Dodgers' projected luxury tax payroll to \$230 million next year, in line for a tax of about \$19 million.

The 32-year-old Turner spent two sea-

sons with Baltimore and four with the New York Mets, then became a free agent when the Mets failed to offer a 2014 contract. He signed a \$1 million, one-year deal with the Dodgers, hit .340 in 109 games, and took over as the starting third baseman. Turner hit .275 with 27 homers and 90 RBIs this year, batted .400 with five RBIs in the Division Series against Washington, then .200 with three RBIs in the League Championship Series loss to the Chicago Cubs. He failed to accept the Dodgers' \$17.2 million qualifying offer. At the winter meetings, the Dodgers announced a \$48 million, threeyear contract with left-hander Rich Hill, acquired from Oakland at the trade deadline Aug. 1. —AP



LOS ANGELES: In this Sept. 5, 2016, file photo, Los Angeles Dodgers' Justin Turner watches his solo home run during the fifth inning of a baseball game against the Arizona Diamondbacks in Los Angeles. Turner and the Dodgers have finalized their \$64 million, four-year contract. — AP



MONTPELLIER: RC Toulon's Australian flanker Liam Gill scores a try during the French Top 14 rugby Union match Montpellier vs Toulon, on Friday, at the Altrad stadium, in the French southern city of Montpellier. — AFP

MONTPELLIER EDGE TOULON

PARIS: Shalva Mamukashvilli scored two tries for Montpellier as they led from start to finish to edge a depleted Toulon 33-29 in the big game in France's Top 14 on Friday.

In an earlier match Clermont Ferrand thumped Stade Français 46-10 and scored six tries on the way as the Top 14 leaders enjoyed a

rousing performance. They now have 46 points from their 14 games ahead of Montpellier and La Rochelle on 41 while Toulon are fourth on 37.

Clermont's tries were scored by Adrien Plante on 22 and 32, Patricio Fernandez on 43, Noa Nakaitaci on 58, Damien Chouly on 73 and Sitaleki Timani two minute from time.

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The win ignites vague hopes of escaping relegation for the Alpine hosts and leaves Toulouse rooted outside the end-of-season play-off



TIGERS BRING BACK CATCHER ALEX AVILA WITH \$2M DEAL

DETROIT: Alex Avila got a present of Avila told The Associated Press on Friday sorts, indirectly from his father, and will host a celebration this weekend with his family minus any potential baseballrelated drama.

The Detroit Tigers brought back Avila to play behind starting catcher James McCann, giving him a \$2 million, oneyear contract.

Avila's father, Al Avila, is Detroit's general manager. "I don't think he was even part of negotiations," the younger

night. Alex Avila spent this year with the Chicago White Sox, then became a free agent for the second straight offseason. Avila said the deal came together between his agent, Matt Laird, and assistant general manager John Westhoff.

"Westhoff contacted my agent and expressed an interest and the last few days, I haven't really slept much because I'm so excited," he said. "I'm sure my dad

it's done, I talked to him and we'll be together at my house in Florida this weekend. And, we'll have something other than Christmas to celebrate."

Al Avila let his son get away as a free agent last year, and now the organization he leads is putting him back on the roster. The Tigers designated right-hander Angel Nesbitt for assignment to clear a spot.

Detroit drafted Avila in 2008 and he

was involved at some point. Now that hit .242 with 66 homers and 282 RBIs with the Tigers from 2009-15. Avila had career highs in 2011 with a .295 batting average, 19 homers and 82 RBIs, earning his only All-Star selection.

"Alex is a left-handed hitter who has some pop in his bat," Detroit manager Brad Ausmus said. "We like his ability to catch and throw, his familiarity with the organization and his leadership qualities, which makes him an asset to the ballclub."

The 29-year-old Avila played in 57 games for the Chicago White Sox this year, hitting .213 with seven homers and 11 RBIs.

"I'll be backing up James and doing whatever I can to help the team win," he said. "I might even play some first place to give Miguel (Cabrera) a break and I'll catch whenever Brad wants me to catch. I love Detroit and I'm really excited to be in that clubhouse and playing with those guys again."—AP

IOC OPENS 28 NEW DOPING CASES FOR **RUSSIAN ATHLETES**

GENEVA: On yet another doping-tainted day for Russian sport, 28 athletes now face IOC cases linked to cheating at the Sochi Winter Olympics and a major cross-country skiing event was removed from the country. The IOC said Friday it has opened 28 disciplinary proceedings against Russian athletes whose urine samples were likely tampered with at the 2014 Olympics.

Six cases involve cross-country skiers who are now provisionally suspended by the International Ski Federation (FIS), which did not identify them. Six Russian men won five medals, including one gold, in cross-country skiing on home snow at Sochi.

The new wave of Olympic doping cases is set to produce a flow of verdicts and disqualifications next year that could fuel calls for some or all of the Russian team to be banned from the 2018 Pyeongchang Winter Olympics in South Korea.

The cases are based on evidence provided this month by World Anti-Doping Agency investigator Richard McLaren.

McLaren detailed vast state-backed cheating in Russian sport that included swapping athletes' tainted samples for clean urine through the testing laboratory at Sochi. The Canadian law professor offered evidence of a method for state intelligence officers to break open supposedly tamper-proof glass sample bottles which had scratches behind the lid. Urine samples retained by the IOC since Sochi included some with unnatural levels of salt in healthy humans.

Russian President Vladimir Putin has repeatedly denied there was a state-backed program, and on Friday blamed the director of the labs at Moscow and Sochi, whose allegations to American media in May led to McLaren's appointment.

MANIPULATION

Putin accused Grigory Rodchenkov of forging doping evidence against Russian athletes at the behest of foreign forces he did not name. Putin said Rodchenkov was forcing Russian athletes to take illegal substances he had brought in from Canada, where the scientist had previously worked.

In further fallout Friday from McLaren's report, the world ski body said Russian officials have handed back hosting rights for the end-of-season World Cup finals in cross-country skiing.

The event was scheduled in March in Tyumen, which on Thursday also lost the right to host a biathlon World Cup event in March.

"The findings in the McLaren Report have seriously damaged the integrity of sport and we are determined to ensure the necessary measures are undertaken to punish the offences," said FIS President Gian Franco Kasper, who is also a member of the IOC's executive board. The IOC said the 28 new cases being examined by its disciplinary commission are not positive doping tests. However "the manipulation of the samples themselves could lead to an Anti-Doping Rule Violation and sanctions

Samples from Russian athletes at Sochi are now being re-tested at the WADA-accredited lab in Lausanne, Switzerland, the IOC said.

The IOC cites legal reasons for not identifying the athletes. FIS said it was the responsibility of the Russian ski federation and the athletes themselves if they wished to be identified.

On Thursday, the International Biathlon Union said it provisionally suspended two Russians whose cases from Sochi were opened by the IOC.

The re-testing of Russian athletes' samples for traces of steroids and other banned substances now involves all four Olympic Games from 2008 through 2014.

The IOC said Friday that it already disqualified 27 Russian athletes, stripping an array of titles and medals, in re-tests of samples from the 2008 Beijing Olympics and 2012 London Olympics. All Russian samples from the 2010 Vancouver Winter Olympics are now being re-

At Vancouver, an underachieving Russia team placed 11th in the medals table. That performance is often cited as the motive for Russia to orchestrate a doping program to ensure better results in the home Sochi Olympics, which cost \$51 billion to build and run.

Russia did top the Sochi medals table, but looks certain to lose that place to Norway when the IOC processes the disciplinary cases announced Friday. — AP



MOSCOW: In this Dec. 25, 2015 file photo Russian Sports Minister Vitaly Mutko gestures during a news conference in Moscow, Russia. Players from Russia's under-21 national soccer team had suspicious drugtest samples covered up, emails released by a World Anti-Doping Agency investigation show. Another case in the Russian league was allegedly covered up by then-Sports Minister Vitaly Mutko, who is also in charge of the country's World Cup preparations. — AP



REXAS: Navy safety Daiquan Thomasson (26) forces a fumble by Louisiana Tech wide receiver Trent Taylor (5) during first half of the Armed Forces Bowl NCAA college football game, Friday, in Fort Worth, Texas. Navy recovered the ball.—AP

LOUISIANA TECH BEAT NAVY 48-45 ON AF BOWL

FORT WORTH: Jonathan Barnes kicked a game-ending 32-yard field goal and Louisiana Tech beat Navy 48-45 in the Armed Forces Bowl on Friday. The Bulldogs (9-5) drove for the winning score after Navy freshman quarterback Malcolm Perry ran 30 yards for a touchdown on his only play with 3:46 left. Ryan Higgins threw for 409 yards and four touchdowns, two each to Trent Taylor and Carlos Henderson. Taylor, a 5-foot-8 senior, set an Armed Forces Bowl with his 12 catches for 233 yards. Henderson had 10 catches for 129 yards. Navy (9-5), which was trying for its first consecutive 10-win seasons, instead ended with its third straight loss. The Midshipmen lost the American Athletic Conference title game before its first loss to Army since 2001. Perry, whose TD with 3:46 left tied the game for the fourth time, came in after Zach Abey took a shot to the ribs on a play that led to a targeting ejection by Tech defensive tackle Jordan Bradford. Abey, who made only his second start, ran for 114 yards and two scores and threw for 159 yards and another touchdown.

DOLLAR GENERAL BOWL TROY 28, OHIO 23

Jordan Chunn had three short touchdown runs and Troy intercepted four passes in Troy's victory over Ohio. The Trojans (10-3) finished off their first 10-win season since moving up to the FBS in 2001, thanks largely to a defense that came up with three big fourth-quarter stops. The first Sun Belt Conference team to crack the Top 25, Troy forced 18 turnovers in its last five games. The Bobcats (8-6) settled for field goal attempts twice in the fourth quarter, making one, and got one more chance from their own 15 with 2:20 left and no timeouts. They managed one first down but Greg Windham couldn't throw for another one under heavy pressure.

BAHAMAS BOWL OLD DOMINION 24, EASTERN MICHIGAN 20

David Washington threw three touchdowns passes, Ray Lawry ran for 133 yards and Old Dominion beat Eastern Michigan. Old Dominion (10-3) won in its first bowl appearance in school history. The Monarchs didn't play football for 69 years before restarting the program in 2009. They made the transition to the Football Bowl Subdivision in 2013. Eastern Michigan (7-6) lost in its first bowl appearance since 1987. Brogan Roback completed 26 of 46 passes for 300 yards, two touchdowns and one interception for the Eagles. Roback threw for at least 300 yards in six of his final seven games. Old Dominion had a 10-0 halftime lead, but Eastern Michigan rallied to tie it at 17 late in the third quarter on Paul Fricano's 24-yard field goal. The Monarchs bounced

back with Washington's third touchdown pass, which went for 5 yards to Jonathan Duhart. — AP



TEXAS: Louisiana Tech head coach Skip Holtz, right, passes the championship trophy to safety Xavier Woods (7) following their win over Navy in the Armed Forces Bowl NCAA college football game, Friday, in Fort Worth, Texas. — AP

COWBOYS KEEP FOCUS ON LIONS WITH DIVISION AND HOME FIELD SECURE

FRISCO: Jason Witten had to figure the questions were coming after the Dallas Cowboys wrapped up the NFC East and home-field advantage in the playoffs with two games remaining.

The last time Dallas had the top seed secured before the end of the regular season, Witten was a fifth-year tight end in 2007. The Cowboys promptly lost their first playoff game to the New York Giants and watched their division rival upset undefeated New England in the Super Bowl.

So now the question is how the Cowboys (12-2) keep their edge with two games that won't change their spot in the playoff bracket - starting Monday night at home against Detroit (9-5) - along with a bye before their postseason opener. The Lions are trying to secure a playoff berth. "I don't think it's entered anybody's minds," Witten said Friday, a day after the Cowboys clinched thanks to the Giants' 24-19 loss to Philadelphia . "I think we're all aware of where it's at. It's a long time away, to think that you would rest or anything like that.

Our job is to go play and coaches will handle those situations.

For instance, will backup Tony Romo the architect of that 13-3 season nine years ago - get playing time so that Dallas can protect Dak Prescott, the rookie who took the 10-year starter's job with an 11-game winning streak?

What about left tackle Tyron Smith and defensive end DeMarcus Lawrence with their bad backs? Should Darren McFadden, last year's leading rusher for Dallas, get more carries in relief of rookie NFL rushing leader Ezekiel Elliott because the nine-year veteran just returned from an offseason elbow injury?

Sorry. Coach Jason Garrett isn't interested in discussing such things . "We don't really think about that," Garrett said. "We're focused on practicing and playing as well as we can in this game on Monday night against Detroit."

Elliott needs 258 yards to break Eric Dickerson's 33-year-old rookie record of 1,808 yards, and he acknowledged that it

would be special. But the fourth overall pick, whose career took off with a dominant stretch when Ohio State won the first College Football Playoff two years ago, was surprisingly candid when asked what he preferred.

"I think there is a shot to get that rookie rushing record, but it's not worth risking what we have the opportunity to do as a team," said Elliott, who has 1,551 yards. "And I wouldn't want to risk getting it

for something (when) we have the opportunity to go and play for a Super Bowl. Whatever they think is best for our team, then that's what's going to happen." Romo made his infamous trip to Cabo San Lucas with then-girlfriend Jessica Simpson during the bye week in 2007, fuel for criticism after the Cowboys' 21-17 loss to New York. Barring an injury to Prescott, Romo won't have to answer questions about that episode in the Cowboys' return to the top spot in the NFC.

When the bye week arrives, Witten most likely will. But the answers probably won't be much different than they are now. "I believe you want to build on the way you play in December and go into the playoffs," Witten said. "I think that's how good teams handle this situation. As I said before, that's for people to talk about at the barber shop. Our focus is just on what's going to allow us to win."

Nine years ago, Garrett was the offensive coordinator under coach Wade Phillips. In the regular-season finale at Washington, Romo sat after the first series of the third quarter. Witten recalls getting pulled in the second quarter - but never being told what the plan was. And if there is a plan to start resting players as early as Monday night, the coaches aren't saying. Dallas finishes the regular season at Philadelphia.

"I think you've got to do exactly what we're doing," offensive coordinator Scott Linehan said. "When you put the pads on, you're going out there to win the football game. It doesn't matter what the implications are. We approach it the same way regardless."—AP

NEW ZEALAND WEIGH WORKLOAD WORRIES AHEAD OF ODI SERIES

CHRISTCHURCH: New Zealand's desire tion but coach Mike Hesson is wary for a confidence-boosting limited overs series against Bangladesh, starting tomorrow, has been tempered by the need to ease the workloads of Tim Southee and Trent Boult.

From the high of winning a Test series against Pakistan in November the switch to the shorter game brought the New Zealanders sharply back to earth early this month when hammered 3-0 by Australia. The three ODIs against Bangladesh, which begin in Christchurch on Boxing Day, offer a shot at redemp-

about the possibility of burnout with home series against Australia and South Africa to follow. "It's always a balancing act with guys that play all three forms, especially the bowlers," Hesson said Saturday, confirming Boult will sit out the last ODI, Southee will miss the three T20s that follow, and other players may also be rested. Following the Australia drubbing, New Zealand resisted the urge for wholesale changes but did recall veterans Neil Broom and Luke

Only six players remain from the squad of 15 who took New Zealand to the World Cup final last year and although the side is rebuilding, selector Gavin Larsen said "it's very important that we do see improvements during the home summer".

With Ross Taylor sidelined following eye surgery, and Test gloveman BJ Watling not performing as expected in Australia, the selectors are looking to the experienced 33-year-old Broom and Ronchi, 35, to shore up the side.

It is nearly seven years since Broom

last played an ODI for New Zealand, but Mustafizur Rahman. Mustafizur took at domestic level "he has an impressive strike-rate and obviously fills the number four role with Ross out injured", Larsen said. Ronchi, who did play in the 2015 World Cup, is recalled after a string of low scores saw him dropped from the recent Australia series.

Bangladesh, at seven in the ODI rankings and three places below New Zealand, lost their rain-affected warm up game to a New Zealand XI by three wickets, but did find inspiration in the performance of 21-year-old pace bowler

two wickets in his first competitive match in five months following shoulder surgery while all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan chimed in with 3-41. Test captain Mushfigur Rahim also showed himself in form with the bat, scoring 45 off 41 deliveries while Soumya Sarkar added 40 to Bangladesh's 245-8 off 43 overs. Following the first ODI in Christchurch on Monday, the second and third matches will be played in Nelson on December 29 and 31 with three T20s and two Tests to follow. — AFP

PAKISTAN LOOKS FORWARD TO RED BALL, HARD MCG PITCH

MELBOURNE: Pakistan batting coach Grant Flower says his side is looking forward to a return of the red ball and a hard Melbourne Cricket Ground pitch for the second Test against Australia beginning

The visitors lost the day-night first test at the Gabba by 39 runs, having made a bold bid at a come-from-behind victory.

Former Zimbabwe star Flower believes the Melbourne conditions will give his side a better chance of taking early wickets and exposing Australia's middle-order with reverse swing

"(The pitch) looks good. It looks hard. It's going to have good carry," he said this week. "It's going to be hard work for the bowlers, but if we can get into them early and if the ball starts reversing then I'm sure we've got a good chance of making some things happen."

Flower also expects the MCG pitch to benefit legspinner Yasir Shah, who was criticized by commentator and former legspin great Shane Warne for bowling too defensively in Brisbane.

"Hopefully towards the end of the match, Yasir can come into it a bit more," Flower said. "I'm sure if the ball is turning a bit more, there will be more attacking lines bowled." Australian batsman Usman Khawaja doubts that Pakistan has the momentum after its fourth-inning performance in Brisbane, nearly chasing down 490 runs. "I don't think that matters - it's a different ground, different conditions, and you can't really measure momentum, can you? I'm not sure if it exists," Khawaja said. "There are always things we can do better, no matter what game, but ... we still won."

Security has been increased at the MCG, where a crowd of 60,000 is expected on Monday, following the arrest of seven people over a terror-related plot in the city. Those charged Friday were allegedly planning to attack Melbourne's Flinders Street train station, nearby Federation Square and St. Paul's Cathedral on Christmas Day.

Chief police commissioner Graham Ashton said while they are confident the terror plot had been contained, extra police will be deployed at major events.

"We know there's lot of events on over the next several days right across our state, including the Boxing Day test, Christmas carols, other events that are on," he said. "There is no intelligence to suggest there is any threat whatsoever in relation to any of those events. However we're just making sure we're taking those extra precautions."

Victoria Police and Cricket Australia were liaising over the appropriate security level. "Our security team is in contact with the relevant authorities to ensure we have the appropriate level of security at the Boxing Day test and other cricket matches being held around the country," Cricket Australia chief executive James Sutherland said in a statement.

In a security-related move late in 2015, the MCG erected a new perimeter fence about 20 to 25 meters (65 to 80 feet) away from the stadium where spectators queue to pass through security before entering the ground.

Teams:

Australia (one to be omitted): Steve Smith (captain), David Warner, Matt Renshaw, Usman Khawaja, Peter Handscomb, Nic Maddinson, Matthew Wade, Mitch Starc, Josh Hazlewood, Nathan Lyon, Jackson Bird, Chadd Sayers

Pakistan (from): Misbah-ul-Hag (captain), Azhar Ali, Sami Aslam, Sharjeel Khan, Younis Khan, Asad Shafiq, Babar Azam, Sarfraz Ahmed, Mohammad Rizwan, Yasir Shah, Mohammad Nawaz, Mohammad Amir, Wahab Riaz, Rahat Ali, Sohail Khan, Imran Khan. —AP



BRISBANE: File photo shows Australian captain Steve Smith shakes hands with Pakistan's coach Mickey Arthur, right, after Australia's victory on the final day of the first cricket Test between Australia and Pakistan in Brisbane, Australia, Dec 19, 2016. — AP

KYRGIOS 'PREPARED FOR COMEBACK AFTER BAN'

SYDNEY: Australia's Nick Kyrgios said I slog my guts out trying to? Without a yesterday he was ready for scrutiny at next month's Australian Open, as the volatile star prepares for his comeback after a playing ban. The controversial 21year-old said his forced hiatus from tennis-when a meltdown at the Shanghai Masters in October resulted in an initial eight-week suspension-has proved a blessing. A condition of the ATP reducing the ban to three weeks meant Kyrgios has been seeing a sports psychologist to prepare him for the new tennis season.

"I needed to shut down really after a very long and tough year," Kyrgios told Fairfax Media yesterday. He added he was now focusing on "managing my schedule and time better to help with physical and mental freshness".

Kyrgios knows he will be in the spotlight at his home Grand Slam tournament and he is working to ensure the media pressure does not derail his campaign. "Look, the added media interest is never easy and it's something that I haven't fully got my head around or got used to, but what can I do?" Kyrgios said. "As far as how I'll deal with it, I'll just keep my head down and go about my business as I have done the past few Aussie summers."

Kyrgios, who won three ATP titles this year with his world ranking climbing to 13, believes he is capable of winning the tournament. "Will I? I don't know. But will

doubt," Kyrgios said. He added despite a turbulent 12 months he would back on the year with pride. "2016 was definitely a success ... for anyone in only their second full year on tour to win three ATP titles is pretty big," he said. Meawnwhile, world number eight

Madison Keys will miss next month's Australian Open after undergoing wrist surgery, the American said on Friday.

Keys, 21, who made the round of 16 at all four grand slam tournaments last year, had the procedure in early November and would not be ready for the seasonopening grand slam that begins at Melbourne Park on Jan. 16.

"Three days after the year-end WTA Championships I had minor arthroscopic surgery on my left wrist," she said on Twitter. "The procedure was very short, did not involve any tendon issues and went very well ... I don't want to rush back and need to take my time to be fully ready to perform my best on the court."

Keys, who plays right-handed, also revealed she was being coached again by former world number one Lindsay Davenport, having worked with Thomas Hogstedt for the last year.

'I am very excited about working with Lindsay again," Keys added, "She's helped me reach great results in the past and we make an excellent team!" — Agencies



South Africa's Faf du Plessis cuts a high ball. — AP

S LANKA UNDERDOGS IN **SOUTH AFRICA SERIES**

PORT ELIZABETH: Sri Lanka will be underdogs when they challenge a resurgent South Africa in a three-Test series starting at St George's Park tomorrow - but will hope that the traditionally slow pitch in Port Elizabeth will negate South Africa's strong fast bowling attack.

Even without the injured Dale Steyn and Morne Morkel, South Africa's pace trio of Vernon Philander, Kagiso Rabada and Kyle Abbott is likely to provide a stiff examination of a Sri Lankan batting line-up which has minimal experience of coping with the kind of pitches that are found outside Asia. St George's Park, though, usually has less pace and bounce than South Africa's other Test venues and the hosts have a relatively modest record there of six wins, four losses and four draws since returning to Test cricket in 1992. It could also provide some assistance for Rangana Herath, Sri Lanka's veteran left-arm spinner who is likely to be the biggest threat to the South African batsmen. Herath took nine wickets and was man of the match when Sri Lanka gained their only previous Test win in South Africa, in Durban in 2011/12. South Africa, meanwhile, will be seeking a strong finish to a year in which there have been three different captains of the Test team. The year started badly with Hashim Amla resigning as captain midway through a losing home series against England. That loss, which followed a 3-0 humiliation in India late in 2015, cost South Africa their number one ranking in Tests. They slipped as low as seventh after some earlier triumphs were discarded when the ratings were adjusted in May.

DE VILLIERS STILL OUT

AB de Villiers was appointed captain for the last two Tests against England but a long-term elbow injury ruled him out of home matches against New Zealand and an away series in Australia - both of which were won under the leadership of stand-in Faf du Plessis, enabling South Africa to climb to fourth in the rankings With De Villiers still not fit enough to face Sri Lanka in the Tests - he is targeting a return in the one-day series which starts in late January - he resigned the captaincy and recommended his former schoolmate as his full-time successor.

Under Du Plessis, South Africa were a tightknit unit in Australia and coach Russell Domingo wants the side to build on their success there. Domingo said that despite the difference in conditions from other home venues, "the guys love coming to Port Elizabeth. We feel that the wicket suits us to a degree. The ball tends to reverse swing because of the abrasive wicket. If there is a little bit of an easterly wind or overhead conditions we are able to exploit those conditions as well. "It's never historically been a fast wicket, it's a wicket where you have to be patient and you have to grind out runs. That's the strength of this particular side, our levels of patience and being able to withstand those types of periods."

Teams:

South Africa (likely): Faf du Plessis (captain), Stephen Cook, Dean Elgar, Hashim Amla, JP Duminy, Temba Bavuma, Quinton de Kock (wkt), Vernon Philander, Keshav Maharaj, Kyle Abbott, Kagiso Rabada.

Sri Lanka (from): Angelo Mathews (captain), Dinesh Chandimal (wkt), Kusal Mendis, Kusal Perera, Dimuth Karunaratne, Kaushal Silva, Dhananjaya de Silva, Upul Tharanga, Dilruwan Perera, Rangana Herath, Lahiru Kumara, Nuwan Pradeep, Dushmantha Chameera, Suranga Lakmal, Vikum Sanjaya.—AFP

CRITICISM OF TEAM, CAPTAIN SMITH JUST BIZARRE: WARNER

fans continue to criticise the team despite winning their last two test matches after a run of five losses.

Australia beat Pakistan by 39 runs in a thrilling finish in the first test in Brisbane last week. Misbah-ul-Haq's side were dismissed for 450 on the final day at the Gabba, chasing a victory target of 490, having counterattacked late on the fourth evening of the day-night Test.

They were within sight of the world's largest successful run chase when Mitchell Starc ended a 71-run ninth wicket stand between Asad Shafiq and Yasir Shah that effectively ended the game.

Critics, however, suggested that Australia captain Steve Smith was not ruthless enough when he failed to impose the follow on when Pakistan were skittled for 142 in their first innings, 287 runs short of Australia's total.

His cautious field settings on day five, with Pakistan still needing 108 runs for victory with only two wickets in hand, were queried by former captains Michael Clarke and Mark Taylor and slammed as "ridiculous" by ex-England skipper Michael Vaughan.

"It's bizarre people are mentioning things about the way he went about the game with his field placements, his bowling changes, the way he used Gazza (Nathan Lyon)," Warner told reporters ahead of the second test at the

MELBOURNE: Australia vice-captain David Melbourne Cricket Ground. "At the end of the Warner has found it "bizarre" that pundits and day we did win the game. There would be a lot more talk if we didn't."

The victory was the second for a revamped side after selectors swung the axe following a run of five successive test losses and Warner dismissed any notion the visitors' fifth-day performance had given them the momentum heading into the test.

"Pakistan played very well," Warner said. "They backed themselves and played their shots. They got into a fantastic position to win the game. But we know that test match cricket comes down to that last day, that last hour ... and that delivery from Starcy was right on the money.

"But if they can take confidence out of losing I don't know. We won the game."

Warner did not give any hints as to the make-up of the side, with suggestions that all-rounder Hilton Cartwright could come into the team for batsman Nic Maddinson.

Cartwright could take some of the workload off the team's pace trio of Josh Hazlewood, Mitchell Starc and Jackson Bird bowled 113 overs in Pakistan's second innings. Warner, however, was not concerned with their workload. "All the monitoring and workload is left to the experts and you have to respect their decision, they're analysing all the data," Warner added.

"If they think someone is going to break down then it's up to them." —Reuters



David Warner

PAST AND FUTURE OF ARIZONA HOCKEY FACE OFF IN DESERT

GLENDALE: Shane Doan has been a franchise cornerstone since the Coyotes moved from Winnipeg to Arizona in 1996, a stabilizing force through the good times and the bad.

Auston Matthews grew up watching the Coyotes, went on to become the first Arizonan to be drafted in the NHL and a budding star with the Toronto Maple Leafs. Matthews returned to the desert Friday for his first NHL game in his home state, the same night Doan played his 1,500th career game and scored his 400th goal.

The future of hockey in Arizona and the anchor of its past on the ice together for the first and, quite possibly, last time. "It's just so unique," Matthews said. "The hockey community is so small here. It's very tight. It's definitely special playing here."

Matthews went to his first Coyotes game at 3 and began playing two years later. He played for the Jr. Coyotes and the Arizona Bobcats, generating national buzz as he got older.

Matthews went on to join the U.S. National Team Development Program and played professionally in Switzerland, becoming the obvious choice for the Maple Leafs as the No. 1 overall pick in the 2016 draft. He hasn't disappointed, becoming the first player in modern NHL history to score four goals in his first game. The 19-year-old has been good throughout his rookie season, entering Friday's game tied for sixth in the league with 16 goals and nine assists.

"He has such a maturity about him," Doan said. "So much credit goes to him and his dad and his advisers in telling him, just be who you are. He is and that's what people love the most about him, and that's what makes him successful."

Doan is the rock of the Coyotes, the NHL's longest-tenured captain and the franchise record holder in nearly every statistical category. He was the leader during Arizona's playoff runs, the stand-up guy when the losing started and a staunch sup-

LAS VEGAS: Southern California coach

Andy Enfield hopes this isn't the only time

his team wins a tournament championship

non-conference test Friday night and it

turned out to be an extremely difficult one

had the ball in a tie game. Jordan

McLaughlin dribbled down the clock, drove

through traffic in the lane and made a left-

handed layup with 4.5 seconds left that

gave No. 23 USC a 94-92 win in the title

game of the Las Vegas Classic at the

Enfield said. "We said make a play and if

you do, shoot or pass it to someone open.

He made a spectacular move to the basket."

potential game-winning 3-pointer from the

top of the key at the buzzer, and USC (13-0)

remained one of six unbeaten teams in

Division I. The Trojans finished without a

blemish during the non-conference por-

tion of their schedule. McLaughlin, the

Classic's MVP, had 22 points, seven

rebounds and five assists. Jonah Matthews

led the Trojans with 26 points and six steals,

and De'Anthony Melton added 16 points

Haydon Dalton, who had 18 points and

18 rebounds for Wyoming, forced overtime

by hitting an improbable 3-pointer with 2.3

seconds left after Melton missed the front

end of a 1-and-1 with 15 seconds left and

Wyoming (10-3) with 23 points apiece.

McManamen was 6 of 14 from 3-point

range. "USC is a good team and they

Jason McManamen and Justin James led

and eight rebounds.

USC leading 90-87.

"It wasn't a set play. It was a clear-out,"

Wyoming's Jeremy Lieberman missed a

against a stubborn Wyoming team.

The undefeated Trojans took their last

With 30 seconds left in overtime, USC

in Las Vegas this season.

USC REMAINS UNBEATEN THANKS

TO MCLAUGHLIN'S DRIVING LAYUP

porter of youth hockey in Arizona.

The 40-year-old right wing is a huge fan favorite and was showered with cowboy hats - he owns a ranch and loves riding horses - in the final minute of warmups Friday night in honor of becoming

the 17th NHL player to reach 1,500 games. He was mobbed by teammates in the closing minute of the second period after scoring career goal No. 400.

"It speaks volumes about his commitment to team, organization, community and how good a player he's been," Coyotes coach Dave Tippett said. The connection between Doan and Matthews goes beyond their meeting in the desert.

Doan helped create a hockey buzz in the Valley of the Sun with his hard-working ways and generosity with his time in the community. Matthews helped build it up even more, becoming a local star as hockey gained a stronger foothold in the area. USA Hockey reached an all-time high for registered hockey players in 2015-16 with more than 7,600 skaters, thanks to Matthews and Doan. Several of them were in attendance Friday night wearing jerseys of their newest role model, Matthews. "It's definitely pretty humbling to kind of be a role model for kids growing up here in the Valley, so it's pretty special," Matthews said.

The pair faced off in Toronto earlier this season and the Coyotes won in a shootout. Doan and Matthews took the opening faceoff against each other Friday night, won by Arizona's captain.

But the future belongs to Matthews. He's one of the NHL's top up-and-coming players, at the start of what should be a long, productive career. Doan has been one of the league's best captains, but is nearing the end of a 21-season career. Even if he doesn't retire after this one, his time in the NHL is winding toward the end.

And, on a night when the future and past of hockey in Arizona met, Doan got the milestones, but Matthews had an assist and his team won 4-1. — AP

deserved to be ranked in the country,"

Wyoming coach Allen Edwards said. "We

got guys that came off the bench that

played well. It was a good challenge. We've

for Wyoming as well. Both teams are sched-

uled to play their conference tournaments

the Cowboys grabbed a 52-51 lead and lat-

er extended it to 68-62. But USC responded

and took an 82-78 lead. The Cowboys

answered with four straight points to tie it

"They have shooters all over the place. We

almost gave it away with missing our free

Elijah Stewart with 1:22 left and seemingly

had the game in hand until the final sec-

onds of regulation. USC outscored

ALL OFFENSE

the first half. From 3-point range, the

Cowboys were 8 of 16, while the Trojans

were 5 of 9, and overall from the field,

Wyoming was 14 of 31 (45 percent), and

March and compete in the Pac-12

Conference tournament down the street at

the new T-Mobile Arena. The Trojans open

Pac-12 Conference play at Oregon State on

Wednesday. Wyoming: The Cowboys start

Mountain West Conference play by hosting

Air Force on Wednesday. Wyoming will be

right back in Las Vegas next Saturday

The Trojans will return to Las Vegas in

Both teams had their offense clicking in

"Wyoming is a tough team," Enfield said.

The Trojans took the lead on a layup by

This was the final non-conference game

After Wyoming trailed 50-44 at halftime,

been playing well."

in Las Vegas in March.

with 1:40 remaining.

throws down the stretch."

Wyoming in the paint, 50-28.

USC 17 of 34 (50 percent).

against UNLV. —AP



COLUMBUS: Sergei Bobrovsky #72 of the Columbus Blue Jackets makes a save as David Savard #58 of the Columbus Blue Jackets checks Brendan Gallagher #11 of the Montreal Canadiens during the first period on Friday at Nationwide Arena in Columbus, Ohio. Columbus defeated Montreal 2-1 to earn their 12th consecutive win. — AFP

BLUE JACKETS BEAT CANADIENS 2-1 FOR 12TH STRAIGHT WIN

COLUMBUS: Sergei Bobrovsky made 36 saves, and the Columbus Blue Jackets beat the Montreal Canadiens 2-1 on Friday night for their 12th straight win. Columbus improved to 23-5-4, the best start in franchise history. It has not lost since Nov. 26. Montreal, which outshot Columbus 37-24, fell to 21-9-4. It was Bobrovsky's NHL-best 20th win. He kept Columbus in the game despite an apathetic third period in which the Blue Jackets took just five shots. Sam Gagner put Columbus on the board at 17:50 of the first period, 16 seconds into a Canadiens bench minor for too many men on the ice. It was his 15th goal on the season. Brandon Saad made it 2-0 with his 13th goal of the season just 1:22 into the second. Montreal controlled much of the third, and Jeff Petry scored at 9:08.

WILD 7, RANGERS 4

Mikko Koivu, Nino Niederreiter and Marco Scandella scored in a strong burst early in the second period, and Minnesota earned its franchise-record 10th straight win. Mikael Granlund, Jason Zucker, Matt Dumba and Charlie Coyle also scored for the Wild (21-8-4), who chased Henrik Lundqvist with four goals on 13 shots. Coyle added three assists, while Koivu and Zucker had three points apiece. Eric Staal (two assists) and Granlund both finished with two points. Minnesota's Darcy Kuemper made 31 saves in his seventh start of the season. Chris Kreider had two goals for the Rangers, and Ryan McDonagh and Derek Stepan also scored.

PENGUINS 4, DEVILS 1

Sidney Crosby scored his NHL-leading 24th goal and the Penguins rebounded nicely from their worst performance of the season. Chad Ruhwedel got the first goal of his career for Pittsburgh. Eric Fehr and Patric Hornqvist also scored for the Penguins, and Marc-Andre Fleury made 22 saves. The Penguins improved to 8-0-1 in their last nine home games while offering an immediate response after getting crushed 7-1 in Columbus on Thursday. Kyle Palmieri scored for the Devils, who lost for the eighth time in nine games. Cory Schneider stopped 35 shots.

MAPLE LEAFS 4, COYOTES 1

Arizona captain Shane Doan scored his 400th goal in his 1,500th game, and Toronto rookie Auston Matthews had an assist in his first NHL game in his hometown in the Maple Leafs' victory over the Coyotes. Leo Komarov scored twice, and Connor Brown and William Nylander also scored for Toronto. Frederik Andersen made 31 saves. The Maple Leafs have won three of four, while the Coyotes have lost four straight.

CAPITALS 4, LIGHTNING 0

John Carlson scored two goals, Alex Ovechkin also scored and Braden Holtby stopped 23 shots for his third shutout of the season, leading Washington to the win against short-handed Tampa Bay. Carlson beat Tampa Bay goalie Andrei Vasilevskiy 55 seconds into the game, and scored again at 15:42 of the first. The defenseman has three goals on the season. Ovechkin scored his 15th goal midway through the second period. The Lightning dressed just 11 forwards and seven defensemen because of injuries, and then lost left wing Jonathan Drouin and defenseman Braydon Coburn in the second period.

SHARKS 3, OILERS 2, OT

Kevin Labanc scored his second goal of the night 3:24 into overtime and San Jose beat Edmonton for its sixth victory in seven games. Joe Pavelski also scored to send the Sharks into the Christmas break in first place in the Pacific Division, one point ahead of the second-place Oilers. Martin Jones made 16 saves. The Sharks prevailed when Logan Couture got the puck below the goal line and fed Labanc, who skated in and beat Cam Talbot on the short side for his sixth of the season. Connor McDavid and Patrick Maroon each scored a tying goal in the third period for the Oilers, but they never managed to take the lead as their three-game winning streak was snapped. Talbot made 28 saves.

STARS 3, KINGS 2, OT

Esa Lindell scored 1:07 into overtime, sending Dallas to the win. Lindell skated in for a 2-on-1 on Kings goalie Jeff Zatkoff. Stars captain Jamie Benn eased a pass from the right side to the rookie defenseman at the left faceoff circle for

his third goal this season. Los Angeles fell to 6-1 in overtime. Dallas is 2-7. Jeff Carter scored both Kings goals on rebounds. He connected on the power play in the first period and tied it at 2 at 10:51 of the third. Tyler Seguin and Radek Faksa scored the first two goals for Dallas. Kari Lehtonen made 29 saves.

AVALANCHE 2, BLACKHAWKS 1, OT

Nathan MacKinnon scored 25 seconds into overtime to lift Colorado to the road win. Cruising in with Tyson Barrie on a 2-on-1 break, MacKinnon beat Corey Crawford with a high shot that ticked off the post and ended the Avalanche's five-game losing streak. Mikko Rantanen scored on a deflection at 5:42 of the third period for the Avalanche's first goal in 167 minutes and 43 seconds of play. Colorado was shut out in its previous two games, including a 6-0 loss to the Maple Leafs on Thursday. Chicago captain Jonathan Toews stopped a 13-game drought with his fifth goal of the season. Crawford had 32 stops in his return from an appendectomy.

RED WINGS 4, PANTHERS 3, SO

Thomas Vanek and Frans Nielsen scored in the shootout, and helping the Red Wings rally for the win. Anthony Mantha, Drew Miller and Nielsen scored for Detroit (15-15-4) in regulation. Jared Coreau made 31 saves for his first career win in his second start. Florida lost for the fourth time in six games, including a 3-1 loss to Boston on Thursday night. Reilly Smith, Jason Demers and Derek MacKenzie scored for the Panthers (15-14-6), and Roberto Luongo made 36 saves.

HURRICANES 3, BRUINS 2, OT

Teuvo Teravainen scored 3:01 into overtime and Carolina won for the ninth time in its last 10

home games. Justin Faulk and Jordan Staal also scored for the Hurricanes, now 9-0-1 in their past 10 at home. Staal scored his 15th career shorthanded goal in the second period. Ryan Spooner and Brad Marchand scored for the Bruins, who squandered a two-goal lead.

ISLANDERS 5, SABRES 1

Ryan Strome had a goal and an assist, Thomas Greiss made 28 saves and the New York Islanders beat Buffalo. John Tavares had a power-play goal for New York, and Andrew Ladd, Anthony Beauvillier and Calvin de Haan also scored. Defenseman Travis Hamonic had two assists as the Islanders snapped a three-game home losing streak. Greiss was in line for a shutout before Zemgus Girgensons scored with 1:03 left, and the goaltender improved to 6-2 in his last eight games. Anders Nilsson made 27 saves in his 10th start of the season for Buffalo. The Islanders honored Kyle Okposo with a video tribute during a stoppage in the opening period. It was Okposo's first game against New York since he left the team for a \$42 million, sevenyear deal with Buffalo in the offseason. Okposo played the first 529 games of his career with New York, compiling 139 goals and 230 assists in

FLAMES 4, CANUCKS 1

Flames defenseman Mark Giordano scored two goals less than 10 minutes apart in the second period. Mikael Backlund also scored for the Flames, and Matthew Tkachuk had an empty-net goal that sent Calgary (18-16-2) into the Christmas break 8-3-0 in its last 11 games. Backlund added two assists. Nikita Tryamkin scored his first of the season for the Canucks (14-18-3), who limped into the holidays 2-5-1 in their last eight games. — AP



SAN JOSE: Milan Lucic #27 of the Edmonton Oilers tries to score on Martin Jones #31 of the San Jose Sharks at SAP Center on Friday in San Jose, California.— AFP

NHL result/standings

San Jose 3, Edmonton 2 (OT); Calgary 4, Vancouver 1; Toronto 4, Arizona 1; Colorado 2, Chicago 1 (OT); Dallas 3, Los Angeles 2 (OT); Detroit 4, Florida 3 (SO); Carolina 3, Boston 2 (OT); NY Islanders 5, Buffalo 1; Minnesota 7, NY Rangers 4; Pittsburgh 4, New Jersey 1; Washington 4, Tampa Bay 0; Columbus 2, Montreal 1.

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Western Conference														
	(Centra	l Divis	ion										
	W	L	OTL	GF	GA	PTS								
Chicago	22	9	5	102	86	49								
Minnesota	21	8	4	102	66	46								
St. Louis	18	12	5	98	103	41								
Nashville	15	13	5	94	94	35								
Dallas	14	14	7	89	106	35								
Winnipeg	16	17	3	95	105	35								
Colorado	12	20	1	67	106	25								
		Pacific	: Divisi	on										
San Jose	21	12	1	87	75	43								
Edmonton	18	12	6	105	97	42								
Anaheim	17	12	6	96	99	40								
Los Angeles	17	13	4	87	84	38								
Calgary	18	16	2	94	103	38								
Vancouver	14	18	3	86	109	31								
Arizona	11	18	5	75	108	27								
Eastern Conference														
	F	Atlanti	c Divis	ion										
Montreal	21	9	4	104	76	46								

Ottawa	20	11	3	88	89	43					
Boston	18	14	4	85	87	40					
Tampa Bay	17	15	3	100	98	37					
Florida	15	14	6	85	97	36					
Toronto	14	12	7	97	95	35					
Detroit	15	15	4	83	96	34					
Buffalo	12	13	8	71	91	32					
Metropolitan Division											
Columbus	23	5	4	110	65	50					
Pittsburgh	22	8	5	121	100	49					
NY Rangers	23	12	1	119	89	47					
Washington	20	8	4	87	69	44					
Philadelphia	20	12	4	110	108	44					
Carolina	15	11	7	88	90	37					
New Jersey	13	14	7	80	102	33					
NY Islanders	13	14	6	90	102	32					
Note: Overtime	e loss	ses (OTL)	are v	vorth o	one poir	nt in th	1				
standings and	are n	ot includ	ed in	the lo	ss colun	nn (L)					



LAS VEGAS: Southern California guard Jonah Mathews (2) loses the ball as he drives to the basket against Wyoming forward Andrew Moemeka during the first half of an NCAA college basketball game Friday, in Las Vegas. — AP

ALLARDYCE TAKES CHARGE AT PALACE

LONDON: Premier League strugglers can help it go forward. Crystal Palace appointed Sam Allardyce as their new boss on Friday in a swift return to the dugout for the former England manager.

The former Bolton and West Ham manager's one-match reign in charge of the national side ended in September following a newspaper sting. "We are delighted to be able to make an appointment so quickly and fortunate that someone of Sam's calibre and experience was available," Eagles chairman Steve Parish said, a day after sacking Alan Pardew. After agreeing a two-and-a-half-year contract, Allardyce will have his first game in charge on Monday with an English Premier League match at Watford. He was set to take his first training session on Saturday and has the opportunity to remodel the squad once the January transfer window opens. "I hope I can bring some joy, particularly over Christmas and New Year, and over the long term between now and the end of the season," he said. "The club seems to be very ambitious, certainly the chairman and the owners seem to be taking the club forward in the right direction. "I like the look of the squad and that's the probably the reason that I'm here, because I feel that the club can go forward from here and hopefully I

"With my experience, I think I can us get a few more results on the board." Pardew was sacked on Thursday following a miserable run of results, with the Eagles winning just four of their 17 league matches this season and only one of their last 11.

Palace are 17th in the Premier League, one point above the relegation zone and three points off the foot of the table.

Allardyce has been out of the game since being ditched by England after just 67 days in charge following ill-advised remarks to undercover journalists. Allardyce gave advice on how to circumnavigate transfer rules, criticised the FA's decision to rebuild Wembley and mocked his England predecessor Roy Hodgson while being secretly filmed by reporters from The Daily Telegraph posing as East Asian businessmen.

Though he has never won a major trophy, Allardyce, 62, has proved adept at keeping smaller sides in the Premier League. "Big Sam" has integrated sports science and technology into his training techniques and made his teams difficult to beat, often proving a thorn in the side of the top flight's more glamorous clubs.— AFP



SUNDERLAND: File photo shows Sunderland's Adnan Januzaj, centre, talks to manager David Moyes, during the English Premier League soccer match between Sunderland and Watford, at the Stadium of Light, in Sunderland, England, Dec 17, 2016. — AP

MOYES BACK AT OLD TRAFFORD

MANCHESTER: The "Chosen One" banner has gone from the Stretford End. The team has been overhauled through three consecutive offseasons of lavish spending. Alex Ferguson's shadow no longer looms quite so large.

Yet, when David Moyes returns to Old Trafford on Monday for the first time since his abrupt firing by Manchester United in April 2014, he'll find things haven't changed that much at England's biggest club since his ill-fated 10-month spell there

In the fourth year of the post-Ferguson era, 20-time champion United is still vearning for its former glories, still searching for that attacking spark of old, and still languishing outside the Champions League qualification positions they once took for granted.

Recent results may have been encouraging for United's latest manager, Jose Mourinho, but a run of three straight wins has only left the team in sixth place heading into the match against Sunderland, the relegation-threatened northeast club coached by Moyes. A top-four finish - and therefore a place in the Champions League - is far from guaranteed for United this season. So Moyes returns to United with a feeling of "What if?"

What if he'd been allowed to see out the six-year contract he was given after being hand-picked as a replacement by Ferguson (hence the "Chosen One" moniker)? Instead, as soon as United could no longer finish in the top four in that 2013-14 campaign, he was fired

What if he'd been given more than two transfer windows to reshape an aging squad left behind by Ferguson? Moves signed two first-team players - Marouane Fellaini and Juan Mata - at a cost of about 65 million pounds, which is nothing compared to the amount successors Louis van . Gaal and Mourinho have spent. Moyes said he targeted Cristiano Ronaldo, Gareth Bale and Cesc Fabregas, and had finalized a deal for Toni Kroos but was fired before it could go through.

"I was definitely unfairly treated," Moyes said in his pre-match news conference. Other managers have come and gone and it's been difficult for them as well. I actually think whoever followed Alex Ferguson, whether it be Jose Mourinho then or Carlo Ancelotti or Juergen Klopp, Pep Guardiola or David Moyes, I think it would have been the same. "I think it would have taken whoever it was time to change the squad around. It was going to be a rebuilding job and never get done immediately."

Moyes said he was given "plenty of reassurances" he would have longer to carry out the rebuilding job - "I didn't believe I had to do it in nine months, or even 12 months" - but is still happy to have experienced managing such a big club.

"Disappointed I didn't get to see out my contract, that's for sure," he said, "but I'll look back knowing I was really fortunate to have the chance to work with some great players, and to see how, at the real top level, things are. I enjoyed being at Manchester United."

Since leaving Old Trafford, Moyes spent a year at Real Socieded before getting fired and has been in charge of Sunderland since July. The team is in 18th place in the 20team standings after 17 games.—AP



DOHA: AC Milan team celebrates with the trophy after winning the Italian Super Cup soccer match between Juventus and AC Milan, at the Al Sadd Sports Club in Doha, Qatar, Friday. AC Milan won 5-4 following a shootout. — AP

AC MILAN WIN THE ITALIAN SUPER CUP ON PENALTIES

DOHA: AC Milan celebrated wildly after beating Juventus to win the Italian Super Cup in a penalty shoot-out to win their first trophy since 2011

Mario Pasilic blasted home the final spot kick to give AC Milan a 4-3 victory on penalties after a hard fought match was locked at 1-1 on 90 minutes and after extra time in Doha.

Mario Mandzukic and Paulo Dybala missed their spot kicks for Juventus, with Gianluca Lapadula the only Milan player not to convert his penalty. It is the second time Milan have beaten Juventus, who lead Serie A by four points, this season. In October, they won 1-0 in the San Siro. A delighted Milan coach Vincenzo Montella said he hoped the victory would serve as a springboard for his side.

"I would like to think that this match is the beginning of a new era, we would like to consider it a starting point," he said.

"I am sure that this win will give us confidence." The victory was just about merited by Milan who responded well after early Juventus dominance.

Juve, Italian league and cup double winners last season, had taken the lead in 18th minute after Giorgio Chiellini prodded home a Miralem Pjanic corner.

At that stage it was all Juventus and it was not until the 36th minute that Milan had their first shot on target, a tame effort from midfielder Juraj Kucka. But they drew level just before halftime when Giacomo Bonaventura beautifully glanced home a Fernandez Suso cross.

Suso was a constant irritant to the Juve defence and set up several fine chances including an 83rd minute header for Carlos Bacca, who was denied by a great save by evergreen Gianluigi Buffon, making his 600th appearance for Juventus.

Romagnoli also went close, hitting the bar with a header. Juventus also had their chances, most notably in extra time. In the 111th minute Patrice Evra put the ball in the net only to be ruled offside, then Dybala missed a great chance, spooning a shot over when unmarked from just eight yards with only four minutes remaining.

A "very angry" Juventus coach Massimiliano Allegri said he was upset at the way his team had lost control of the game and become nervous. "The match started well for us, the first 30 minutes Juventus were at their best," he said. "We should have been more focused."

He added that Dybala should have scored towards the end of extra time. The match, the second time the Super Cup has been played in Qatar, was watched by a near capacity crowd of 11,356. — AFP

BARTON BACK IN TROUBLE FOR BREAKING BETTING RULES

LONDON: English footballer Joey Barton is back in disciplinary trouble after being charged with misconduct for placing 1,260 bets on matches or competitions over a 10year period. The English Football Association said Friday the bets were made from March 2006 to May 2016.

Barton this week signed a short-term deal with Premier League team Burnley after cutting short his contract at Scottish club Rangers, where he was handed a onematch suspension for breaking Scottish Football Association rules by placing 44 bets on games between July 1 and Sept. 15. That suspension will carry over into his

Burnley career. The 34-year-old Barton has until Jan. 5 to respond to the FA charge.

Barton only left Rangers after having his contract terminated last month, seven weeks after being suspended by the Glasgow club over a training-ground row with his manager and a teammate.

That was the latest episode in a controversial career, which has included spending 77 days in jail in 2008 after a street fight in Liverpool.

In 2012, while playing for Queens Park Rangers, Barton was suspended for 12 matches for violent conduct during a Premier League game. — AP



Joey Barton

CHINESE PARENTS SHY AWAY FROM WORLD CUP DREAMS

BEIJING: Beijing's dream of making China a an emphasis on sports... or should you nurture football powerhouse depends on millions of children taking up the sport, but even coaches say tradition-minded parents view the game as a wasteful distraction from school.

China's President Xi Jinping, an avowed fan of the game, has declared three goals for the country: to host, qualify, and win a World Cup. But the team are ranked a lowly 83rd in the

world by FIFA-just below the Caribbean island nation of Antigua and Barbuda, population 86,295 — and are bottom of their qualifying group for the next World Cup, despite the recent hiring of Italian coach Marcello Lippi.

The Asian giant has made improving youth football programmes a national priority, with an official plan promising 20,000 academies and 30 million elementary and middle school pupils playing the sport within four years.

The goal is to make China one of the world's top sides by 2050, the document said, to bring to life "the sports-superpower dream". But it faces steep social barriers, with train-

ers saying traditional attitudes towards education and children's responsibility to support their parents in retirement make it difficult to secure recruits.

"The big challenge is that mindset in general, that football is a distraction to education," said Tom Byer, a Japan-based football consultant hired by the Chinese education ministry to design pilot programmes for young children.

"If you look at families that have just one child it's kind of a no-brainer. If you're thinking about the future of your child, should you put your child to be better academically?"

To assuage concerns, Byer tells Chinese parents that studies suggest kids who are physically active do better academically. But parents online ask whether it is "irresponsible" for children to play soccer.

'JUST A HOBBY'

At a practice session for a children's football club in Beijing, parents praised the sport for giving seven-year-olds the experience of overcoming challenges and defeat, but said they were wary of letting it interfere with studies.

Song Feng, 41, said soccer was "just a hobby, an exercise" for her 11-year-old son, and that studies would always have to come first "because China's education system is just that way now". Gao Fei, father of another boy, said he "won't let him become a footballer because China's professional soccer scene is no good".

Chinese media have weighed in to try to reassure them. An article on internet portal Sohu cited French philosopher Albert Camus and Danish physicist Niels Bohr, who both played in goal for club sides, as proof that sporting and academic pursuits were compatible. "Playing soccer means falling behind in studies? Teachers and parents wake up, don't waste your child's future!" it said.

While Beijing's plans should see more football played in school, China's education system still revolves around the highly competitive, all-important gaokao graduation exam, which determines university placement and many

career opportunities. That makes it difficult to stimulate a mass craze for football, as the structure "leaves very little space or time for sports", said Mary Gallagher, associate professor of political science at the University of Michigan. "Will parents risk points on the gaokao for the chance to play soccer every day?" The world's most populous nation has 25 times more people than England, but lags far behind its 37,000 football clubs, says Rowan Simons, a football author and founder of a private football club in the capital.

LONG GAME

Without grassroots teams and a deep pool of players, he said, "It's irrelevant how much money the government puts into it-football can never flourish unless people love it."

"In Chinese there's just no history of civic society, that's really at the heart of it," Simons told AFP. "That's why top-down national funding will never work."

One challenge to developing players is China's traditional training methods, says Mark Dreyer of China Sports Insider, in which the coach "is still the military drill sergeant where he's barking orders and having them do repetitive drills. What kid enjoys that?"

In other countries, he said, "they play football with a smile on their face". Chinese Super League clubs are splashing vast sums on foreign coaches and players, many of them from Latin America, where Byer says children learn basic ball-handling skills at a very early age. Countries that want to emulate the success of Brazil and others have to ensure that football is an activity at home as well as at school, he added. "It will take a couple of decades," he said. "When you're dealing with youth development, we won't know if we're going to reap the benefits for 10 years."

The question is whether the Chinese government's footballing push can last that long. While President Xi is a soccer fan, he is expected to step down in 2022 and his successor may have entirely different priorities.

"Can they stay the course? It's possible," said Dreyer. "But in five, 10 years, who knows? If Xi Jinping goes, and the next guy doesn't like football, then maybe it's basketball and Yao Ming is going to lead the way."—AFP



BEIJING: This photo taken on December 14, 2016 shows boys practicing during a training session at a football club in Beijing. Beijing's dream of making China a football powerhouse depends on millions of children taking up the sport, but even coaches say traditionminded parents view the game as a wasteful distraction from school. — AFP

Leaders Clerment romp past Stade Francais



AC Milan win the **Italian Super Cup on penalties**



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2016

IOC OPENS 28 NEW DOPING CASES FOR RUSSIAN OLYMPIC ATHLETES

Page 16



BOSTON: Boston Celtics guard Isaiah Thomas (4) dribbles against Oklahoma City Thunder center Enes Kanter (11) in the first half of an NBA basketball game, Friday, in Boston. — AP

WESTBROOK TRIPLE-DOUBLE LEADS THUNDER PAST CELTICS

BOSTON: Russell Westbrook had his 14th triple-double of the season and his third straight 40-point game, finishing with 45 points, 11 assists and 11 rebounds to lead the Oklahoma City Thunder to a 117-112 victory over the Boston Celtics on Friday night. Westbrook missed his first five shots but scored the last seven points of the first half as the Thunder turned a three-point deficit into a four-point lead. He scored 18 points in the fourth quarter, including eight straight during a 10-0 run that flipped a 104-100 deficit into a six-point lead. Rookie Domantas Sabonis topped his career high by halftime and finished with 20 points for Oklahoma City. Enes Kanter also had 20 points. Isaiah Thomas had 34 points and 10 assists for Boston.

WARRIORS 119, PISTONS 113

Draymond Green made a tiebreaking dunk with 1:31 left and Kevin Durant overcame foul trouble to score 32 points, lifting Golden State past Detroit. The NBA-leading Warriors have won seven straight, rolling with their new star, Durant, as they head into their Christmas NBA Finals rematch in Cleveland. The Pistons have lost five in a row. Golden State had a season-high 23 turnovers, surpassing the 20 it had in a 20-point loss Nov. 4 against the Los Angeles Clippers, and Detroit took advantage of them to score 33 points. Stephen Curry had 25 points and eight assists. Tobias Harris had a season-high 26 points for Detroit.

LeBron James scored 19 points, Kevin Love added 14 points and 15 rebounds, and Cleveland rolled past Brooklyn. The defending champion Cavaliers (22-6) never trailed against the Nets and built a 46-point lead in the third quarter. The lopsided margin gave the Cavaliers a chance to rest their stars heading into their Sunday showdown against Golden State. Brook Lopez had 16 points for the Nets.

GRIZZLIES 115, ROCKETS 109

Mike Conley scored 24 points and Zach Randolph and Marc Gasol each added 16 to help Memphis beat Houston. Memphis snapped a three-game home skid and ended Houston's road winning streak at five. Ryan Anderson led Houston with a season-high 31 points. James Harden had 16 points and 17 assists.

PELICANS 91, HEAT 87

Anthony Davis had 28 points, a career-high 22 rebounds and four blocked shots, and New Orleans overcame a 14-point deficit to beat Miami Heat 91-87 on Friday night. Davis had 19 points and 14 rebounds after halftime to lead the comeback effort. Jrue Holiday added 22 points for the Pelicans. Goran Dragic scored 23 points for Miami.

SPURS 110, TRAIL BLAZERS 90

Kawhi Leonard scored 33 points and San Antonio handed

NBA results/standings

Dallas 90, LA Clippers 88; San Antonio 110, Portland 90; Atlanta 109, Denver 108; Toronto 104, Utah 98; Phoenix 123, Philadelphia 116; Milwaukee 123, Washington 96; Memphis 115, Houston 109; New Orleans 91, Miami 87; Sacramento 109, Minnesota 105; Cleveland 119, Brooklyn 99; Oklahoma City 117, Boston 112; Golden State 119, Detroit 113; Charlotte 103, Chicago 91; Orlando 109, LA Lakers 90.

		ern Confei Intic Divis				Weste Nort			
	W	L	PCT	GB	Oklahoma City	18	12	.600	-
Toronto	21	8	.724	-	Utah	18	13	.581	0.5
Boston	17	13	.567	4.5	Portland	13	19	.406	6
NY Knicks	16	13	.552	5	Denver	12	18	.400	6
Philadelphia	Philadelphia 7 22 .241 14		Minnesota	9	20	.310	8.5		
Brooklyn 7 22 .241 14									
	Cer	tral Divis	ion		Pac	cific Divisi	ion		
Cleveland 22 6 .786 -		Golden State	27	4	.871	-			
Milwaukee	14	14	.500	8	LA Clippers	22	9	.710	5
Indiana	15	16	.484	8.5	Sacramento	13	17	.433	13.5
Chicago	14	15	.483	8.5	LA Lakers	11	22	.333	17
Detroit	14	18	.438	10	Phoenix	9	21	.300	17.5
	Sout	heast Div	ision			Sout	hwest Div	ision	
Charlotte	17	13	.567	-	San Antonio	24	6	.800	-
Atlanta	15	15	.500	2	Houston	22	9	.710	2.5
Washington	13	16	.448	3.5	Memphis	20	12	.625	5
Orlando	14	18	.438	4	New Orleans	11	21	.344	14
Miami	10	21	.323	7.5	Dallas	9	21	.300	15

Portland its fifth straight loss despite resting key players. Patty Mills added 23 points, and former Blazer LaMarcus Aldridge had 18 points and 14 rebounds. The Spurs rested Pau Gasol, Tony Parker and Manu Ginobili. Damian Lillard had 16 points and 10 assists for the Trail Blazers. They have lost nine of 10.

KINGS 109, TIMBERWOLVES 105

DeMarcus Cousins scored 21 of his 32 points in the second half and Sacramento rallied to beat Minnesota. Cousins hit three 3-pointers and added seven rebounds and seven assists. Zach LaVine scored a career-high 40 points and tied a career best with seven 3s for Minnesota.

HORNETS 103, BULLS 91

Nic Batum had 20 points, 11 rebounds and 10 assists for his first triple-double of the season and seventh overall to help Charlotte beat Chicago. Kemba Walker added 20 points, and Michael Kidd-Gilchrist had 12 points, nine rebounds and four blocked shots. Jimmy Butler had 26 points for the Bulls. They have lost five of their last six.

RAPTORS 104, JAZZ 98

Kyle Lowry took advantage of a depleted Utah guard corps by scoring a season-high 36 points, including 19 in the fourth quarter, to lead Toronto. Lowry was nearly unstoppable as he either pulled up for a 3-pointer or drove the lane unfazed by the lurking Rudy Gobert. The point guard shot 9 for 10 in the final quarter as the Raptors set a franchise record with six straight wins on the road. Gordon Hayward led Utah with 23 points.

MAGIC 109, LAKERS 90

Elfrid Payton had 25 points and nine assists and Orlando blocked nine shots in the first quarter in a victory over Los Angeles. Serge Ibaka added 19 points, 11 rebounds and five blocks for Orlando. Jordan Clarkson had 18 points for the Lakers. They finished a seven-game trip with their 12th loss in 13 games.

HAWKS 109, NUGGETS 108

Paul Millsap capped a 9-0 run in the final 1:43 with two free throws and Atlanta rallied to beat Denver. Dennis Schroder had 27 points and Millsap finished with 20 points and eight rebounds for the injury-depleted Hawks. Atlanta played its third straight game without center Dwight Howard because of lower back stiffness. Danilo Gallinari had 21 points and a season-high 11 rebounds for the Nuggets.

BUCKS 123, WIZARDS 96

Giannis Antetokounmpo had a career-high 39 points to help Milwaukee rout Washington. Antetokounmpo made 12 of 19 shots and 15 of 17 free throws and had eight rebounds and six assists in 33 minutes. John Wall and Otto Porter each scored 18 points for Washington.

MAVERICKS 90, CLIPPERS 88

Harrison Barnes made a 10-foot running jumper with 3.7 seconds left for the last f his team-high 24 points as Dallas beat Los Angeles. Dirk Nowitzki, playing only in the first half in his return from an Achilles strain after missing 14 consecutive games, added 17 points and Wesley Matthews 16 for the Mavericks. Jamal Crawford scored 26 points for the Clippers, who were playing without both of their stars, Chris Paul (hamstring) and Blake Griffin (knee).

SUNS 123, 76ERS 116

Eric Bledsoe scored 16 of his 24 points in the fourth quarter and had 11 assists, leading Phoenix past Philadelphia to snap a four-game losing streak. Devin Booker added 23 points for the Suns. Joel Embiid had 27 for the 76ers. — AP



PORTLAND: San Antonio Spurs guard Patty Mills, left, and center Dewayne Dedmon close in on Portland Trail Blazers guard Damian Lillard during the second half of an NBA basketball game in Portland, Ore., Friday, Dec. 23, 2016. The Spurs won 110-90.— AP

Qatargas starts up **Laffan Refinery 2**

Holiday splurging not an option for many workers scraping by

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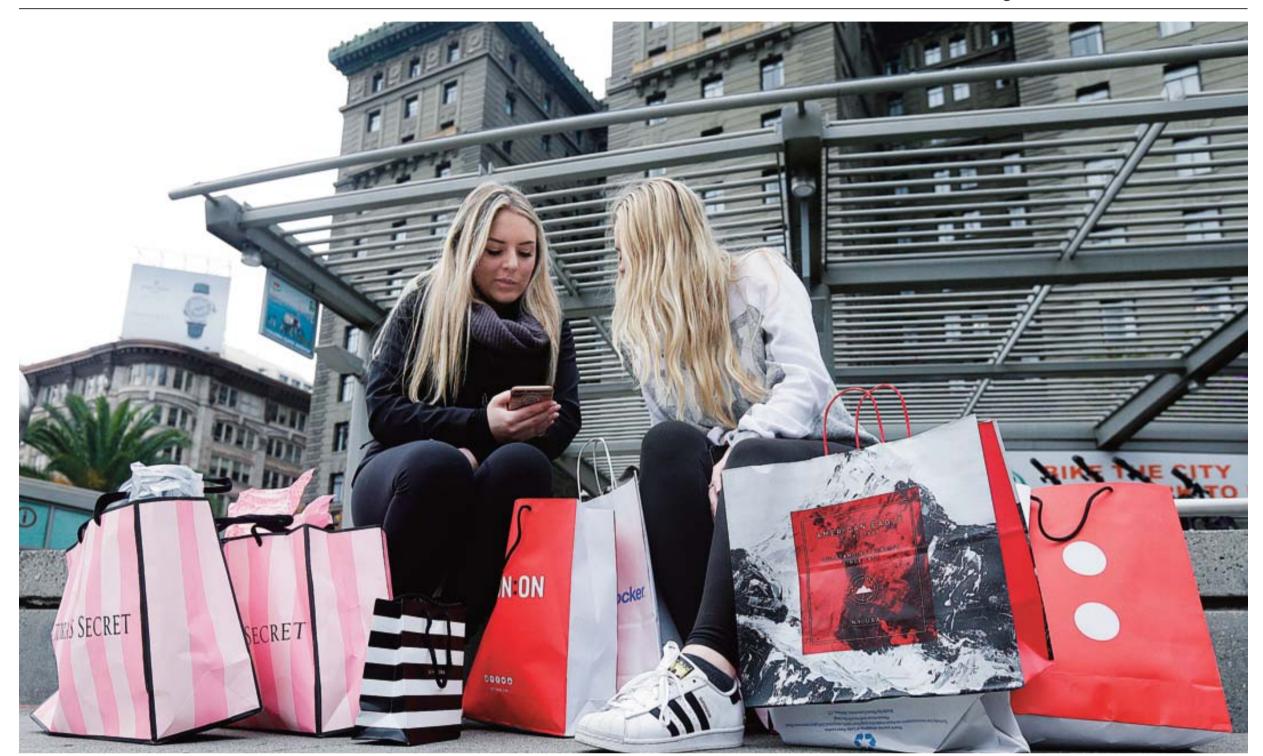
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CFA Society Kuwait appoints new board

of directors

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ECONOMISTS: 'AMERICA FIRST' APPROACH COULD HURT IOWA

SAN FRANCISCO: Maddy (left) and her friend Maggie sit with their shopping bags at Union Square in San Francisco. The holiday shopping season is losing some of its power in the year's sales. November and December now account for less than 21 percent of annual retail sales at physical stores, down from a peak of over 25 percent. The shift is in part because people are spreading out their shopping all year, demanding big discounts and spending more on events rather than more stuff. —AP

Weak UK data raises warning flags for 2017

DOMESTIC DEMAND RISES, BUT TRADE AND INVESTMENT WEAKEN

LONDON: British consumers brushed off June's Brexit vote and drove the economy to expand faster than expected in the third quarter, but a hefty current account gap and weaker trade and investment raised warning flags for 2017.

The economy grew by 0.6 percent in the three months to September, above its longrun average and beating expectations in a Reuters poll of economists who expected the Office for National Statistics to stick with its earlier estimate of 0.5 percent. The ONS also revised down growth for the second quarter to 0.6 percent, meaning there was no slowdown at all following June's Brexit vote - confounding predictions at the time that the 'Leave' vote would push Britain's economy into recession.

With the large services sector continuing to perform well in October, Britain's economy looks on track to expand by more than 2 percent this year - faster than almost all other big advanced economies except perhaps the United States. Sterling rose against the dollar after the data, having hit a sevenweek low earlier in the day. But Friday's figures showed no sign that sterling's sharp fall after the referendum had boosted exports. The picture for trade worsened markedly and growth depended more on domestic consumer demand than previous-

"Six months to the day after the Brexit vote, it is clear that 2017 is likely to be a

challenging period for the economy, not least in assessing 'traditional' imbalances in the current account and the household sector," Investec chief economist Philip Shaw said. Economists polled by Reuters expect Britain's growth rate to more than halve next year to 1.1 percent.

Inflation squeeze

Household spending rose at a quarterly rate of 0.7 percent in the third quarter, but at the same time household incomes adjusted for inflation fell 0.6 percent - the biggest drop since early 2014.

Households also ate into their savings, with the savings ratio dropping to its lowest in eight years.

"With high inflation set to weigh further on spending power next year, the consumer is surely set to falter soon," said Martin Beck, economist at consultancy EY ITEM Club. Business investment also disappointed, with the ONS more than halving its estimate for investment growth in the third quarter to 0.4 percent.

Net trade subtracted 1.2 percentage points from third quarter growth, the biggest drag since early 2012 and compared with an initial estimate that trade had offered a 0.7 percentage point boost to the growth rate. This reflected corrections the ONS recently made to trade data due to a miscalculation in the trade of gold.

Britain's current account deficit widened

to 25.494 billion pounds (\$31.23 billion) from a downwardly revised 22.079 billion pounds in the second quarter. While lower than the 27.45 billion pounds expected by economists, it caused the deficit to rise to 5.2 percent of gross domestic product from 4.6 percent - approaching a record 6.0 percent seen in late 2013.

In the run-up to June's referendum, Bank of England Governor Mark Carney said Britain relied on the "kindness of strangers" to meet its financing needs - something that could fade if Britain became a less attractive investment destination. Some economists warn Britain could still be vulnerable if it looks like it will end up with a bad deal in its divorce from the European Union. —Reuters

US ECONOMIC OUTLOOK FOR 2017 BRIGHTENS

WASHINGTON: New US single-family home sales rose more than expected in November and consumer sentiment hovered near a 13year high this month, strengthening the view that the economy will gain further momentum next year. President-elect Donald Trump's plan to cut taxes and increase infrastructure spending is expected to boost economic growth, though it already has sparked a surge in mortgage rates that could hurt the housing market in the long term.

"Home buyers are confident in their futures and this means the outlook is likely to be brighter next year than we thought," said Chris Rupkey, chief economist at MUFG Union Bank in New York.

The Commerce Department on Friday said new home sales increased 5.2 percent to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 592,000 units last month. That was the second highest pace since 2007. Economists had forecast singlefamily home sales, which account for about 9.5 percent of overall home sales, rising 2.1 percent to a 575,000-unit rate last month.

Sales rose 16.5 percent from a year ago, boosted by a 43.8 percent jump in the Midwest to a nine-year high. Sales surged 7.7 percent in the West, their highest level since January 2008, but fell 3.1 percent in the South. They were unchanged in the Northeast. Separately, the University of Michigan said its consumer sentiment index edged up to a reading of 98.2 from 98 earlier this month. That was the highest reading since January 2004.

The University of Michigan said a record 18 percent of respondents "spontaneously mentioned the expected favorable impact of Trump's policies on the economy." Consumers anticipated that a stronger economy would create more jobs, with the share expecting higher income rising to a one-year high. "Greater income growth prospects for consumers serves as a good leading indicator of real spending activity," said Michael Brown, an economist at Wells Fargo in Charlotte, North Carolina.

US financial markets were little moved by the upbeat data in light pre-holiday trading. The US dollar was steady against a basket of currencies, while prices of US Treasuries rose. Stocks on Wall Street were little changed.

RISING MORTGAGE RATES

While Trump's envisaged policies have boosted confidence among households and businesses, his agenda to increase spending is expected to stoke inflation. Mortgage rates have risen rapidly since the business mogul's Nov 8 election victory. The interest rate on a fixed 30-year mortgage has increased more than 70 basis points to an average of 4.30 percent, the highest level since April 2014, according to data from mortgage finance firm Freddie Mac.

Mortgage rates are likely to rise further after the Federal Reserve raised its benchmark overnight interest rate last week by 25 basis points to a range of 0.50 percent to 0.75 percent. The US central bank forecast three rate hikes for next year. Higher mortgage rates in the near term could boost home sales by luring in buyers who fear further increases in borrowing costs. A report on Wednesday showed sales of previously owned homes rose to near a 10-year high in November.

"We have yet to see any clear signs in the housing data reported to date that higher rates have depressed activity," said Daniel Silver, an economist at JPMorgan in New York. "That said, we think that at some point higher rates will weigh at least somewhat on the housing market.

Higher borrowing costs come at a time when house price increases are outstripping wage gains, which could make purchases unaffordable for many first-time buyers. Despite the rise in sales last month, the inventory of new homes on the market increased 1.6 percent to 250,000 units, the highest level since September 2009. Still, the supply of new houses for sale remains about half of what it was at the peak of the housing market boom.

The inventory rise, if sustained, could slow the pace of house price increases. At November's sales pace it would take 5.1 months to clear the supply of houses on the market, down from 5.2 months in October. A six-month supply is viewed as a healthy balance between supply and demand. —Reuters



WASHINGTON: President Barack Obama steps off the stage after addressing business leaders about the economy in the East Room of the White House in Washington. —AP

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WHAT MAKES YOUR HR TEAM EXCELLENT

Bayt.com weekly report

■he well-being of employees is highly dependent on the HR team at every company. An HR team that follows a transparent communication system and regularly updates the employees on what happens in the workplace will increase the sense of trust and will help employees develop loyalty to the company. According to the Bayt.com Poll: The Role of HR in Middle East and North Africa, 66% of respondents say their HR department is good at sharing infor-

The role of HR does not stop at recruitment, on-boarding and training processes; HR professionals are advocates for employees. They also ensure a happy and successful workplace and they work towards developing leadership thinking amongst other

In order to build a successful HR team that

provides the most for the company and for all employees, Bayt.com, the #1 Job Site in the Middle East, recommends using the following steps.

1. Create a mission

Every successful enterprise has a goal in mind that it works towards - also known as the mission statement. A similarly successful HR team must have their own mission that is specified prior to even hiring them. Doing so boosts the efficiency of HR professionals and ensures that their mission is in alignment with that of the company. All strategies and efforts of the HR team must support the overall business goals and work towards achieving them. However, these goals need to be moldable as to cater to the company's unique needs in changing

2. Formulate a strategy

Strategies are the frameworks for how things are done, and every HR team needs to build a clear and comprehensive strategy for all aspects of their tasks, such as hiring top talent, employee engagement and motivation, talent retention, etc. HR strategies are built according to their mission, and can be amended based on changes that take place gradually. It is vital that all HR activities are not played by ear but are systematically guided and in support of a strategy and a mission.

3. Enable automation

HR professionals have a lot to juggle. Their duties and responsibilities range from recruitment and on-boarding, to administrative responsibilities and payroll coordination. Time management and work efficiency are, therefore, incredibly important for successful

HR practices. Support your HR team and allow them to utilize tools such as Bayt.com's automated platforms and charts, specialized HR software, applicant tracking systems, online payroll and attendance tracking resources, etc. This will make sure that their precious time is used most wisely.

4. Learning and implementation

Continuous learning is fundamental. New trends develop daily and the needs of employees change depending on their age, positions, experience, and industry. HR plays a key role in training other team members in the company, which is the reason why they should be trained as well. So when hiring HR professionals, look for individuals who are committed to personal excellence and who want to constantly improve themselves. Encourage them to attend seminars, read more resources and research reports, and keep up with market and hiring trends. After all, your HR team should always be one step ahead.

Providing learning opportunities for your HR team is not sufficient on its own. It is important that the tools and strategies adopted stay up to date with current market trends and shifts. Your HR team should be capable of applying what they learn and developing it for the success of the company.

Bayt.com is the #1 job site in the Middle East with more than 40,000 employers and over 26,750,000 registered job seekers from across the Middle East, North Africa and the globe, representing all industries, nationalities and career levels. Post a job or find jobs on www.bayt.com today and access the leading resource for job seekers and employers in

QATARGAS STARTS UP LAFFAN REFINERY 2

ALGERIA TO BOOST OIL PRODUCTION IN 2017

DOHA: Qatargas, the world's largest LNG producer, said yesterday it has started commercial operations at the Laffan Refinery 2 condensate splitter, according to a statement. The refinery, prior to its expansion, had a capacity of 146,000 barrels per day (bpd). Laffan 2 will add an additional 146,000, bringing its total capacity to 292,000 bpd. The shareholders of the Laffan Refinery are Qatar Petroleum, ExxonMobil, Total, Idemitsu, Cosmo, Mitsui and Marubeni, the statement said.

Algeria output

Algeria's Sonatrach will drill 290 wells in 2017 in comparison with 265 in 2016, the head of the oil and gas giant's drilling division told Reuters late on Friday. OPEC member Algeria has seen a slow rise in energy output this year after years of energy stagnation, helped in part by increased production at existing fields like Hassi Messaoud and new gas fields coming online in its southern Sahara region.

The North African country has struggled to draw in foreign energy companies to help it to explore new fields, its efforts undermined by low global oil prices and what many investors see as tough contract terms and operating conditions. "Of the 290 wells, 190 will be for production and 100 for exploration," the head of Sonatrach's drilling division Khelil Kortobi told Reuters in an interview at Hassi Messaoud, explaining next year's drilling program.

Hassi Messaoud, Algeria's biggest oil field, produces more than 400,000 barrels per day. Oil output is expected to reach 69 million tons of oil equivalent in 2016, against 67 million tons last year, while gas production will rise to 132.2 billion cubic meters (bcm) from 128.3 bcm in 2015 and 130.9 bcm in 2014, a Sonatrach report showed earlier this year.

Like other producers, Algeria has been hit by the global oil price crash and is focusing on boosting production to alleviate pressure on the government budget. Around 97 percent of Algeria's revenues are from oil and gas.

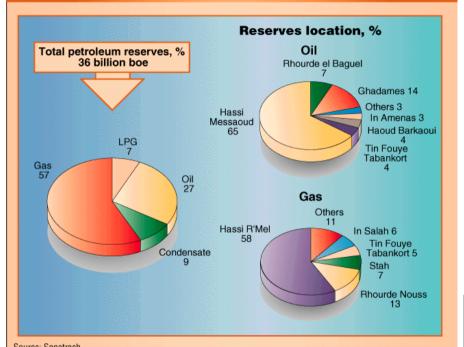
"Our key objective is to rise total output by 20 percent by 2020," Kortobi said. Kortobi said Sonatrach has 100 drilling rigs, with 30 percent of the equipment belonging to foreign firms including China's Sinopec and Greatwall, India's John Energy and WDI. A major supplier of gas to the European market, Algeria was in talks earlier this year with energy companies and European Union officials to explore ways Algeria can adapt to more competitive markets and attract investment.

Kuwait oil price

The price of Kuwaiti oil was up 24 cents Friday to \$50.31 per barrel (pb), compared to \$50.07 pb a day earlier, said the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) yesterday. On the global level, prices saw slight change as the market is waiting to see how OPEC and other major producers would manage the planned output cuts of 1.8 million barrels as of

The Brent crude was up 11 cents to \$54.16 pb, the West Texas Intermediate followed suit with 7 cents up to \$53.02 pb. Late in November, OPEC members concluded a deal in Vienna to cut production by around 1.2 million barrels per day (bpd), or over 3 percent, to 32.5 million bpd Non-OPEC producers voluntarily decided to reduce output by 600,000 barrels per day. Russia alone will cut 300,000 barrels daily. — KUNA

ALGERIA'S RESERVES BASE



3 KD 5,000 WINNERS IN NBK'S AL-JAWHARA WEEKLY DRAWS

KUWAIT: National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) announced three lucky winners in Al-Jawhara weekly draws during the month of December. The draws were conducted under the supervision of Ministry of Commerce Representatives.

Ammar AbdulBaqi Mahmoud, Mohamad Saeed Al-Tamimi and Mohammad Nasser Al-Ajmi each won KD 5,000. The winners expressed their gratitude and thanked NBK for its great services and promotions. NBK has doubled customers' chances to win in the weekly, monthly and quarterly draws when they do not withdraw or transfer from their accounts.

NBK customers have chances to win KD 5,000 weekly, KD 125,000 monthly and a grand prize of KD 250,000 quarterly. Each KD 50 in a customer's account entitles them to one entry in the draw, thus more money in an account means more chances in each draw. The new feature introduced to all lawhara Account enables customers to double their chances when maintaining their balance without withdrawing or transferring from Al-Jawhara account.

Al-Jawhara is the most popular prizegiving account in Kuwait. Al-Jawhara account entitles account holders to enter the weekly, monthly and quarterly Al-Jawhara draws. All prizes are automatically credited to the winners' accounts the day after the draw. Al-Jawhara accounts are available for both Kuwaitis and expats and can be opened at any of NBK's branches around Kuwait, or through NBK website for existing customers.



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'SPECIAL TRADES' TRANSACTIONS KUWAIT: In line with the company's dili-

BOURSA KUWAIT LAUNCHES

gence to address market needs Boursa Kuwait announced today the launch of 'Special Trades' transactions, after receiving final approval from the Capital Markets Authority (CMA).

Boursa Kuwait Vice Chairman and CEO, Khaled Abdulrazzaq AlKhaled said: "Boursa Kuwait seeks to introduce new tools and products that will first and foremost, facilitate the trading process for investors, and enhance the overall status of the exchange by providing long due solutions that will allow them to manage their investments more efficiently". AlKhaled added "This is one of many tools the company aims to launch in the stock market, and we will continue to work towards improving the infrastructure and business environment of the exchange to create a robust, transparent and fair capital market platform." "I would like to thank The Capital

Markets Authority for their cooperation and hard work for this project, and I would also like to thank the Kuwait Clearing Company for their continued support in 'Special Trades' transactions assignment."

Boursa Kuwait recently announced the launch of a market wide consultation



Khaled Abdulrazzag AlKhaled

for the Market Makers Rulebook draft, which has also been made available on the Boursa Kuwait website. The initiative comes in line with Boursa Kuwait's mission to reinforce the element of transparency in all its operations; and to engage stakeholders to ensure an impactful and successful end result.

GULF BANK ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF AL-DANAH DAILY DRAWS

KUWAIT: Gulf Bank held its Al-Danah daily draws on 18 December 2016 announcing the names of its winners for the week of 11 December - 15 December 2016. The Al-Danah daily draws include draws each and every working day for two prizes of KD

1,000 per winner. The winners are:

(Sunday 11/12): Majed Mohammed Rasheed Abdulla Alrasheed, Essam Yousri Tawfeek Zaher

(Monday 12/12): Khuloud Bader Mutlaq Dhaher, Ghadir Nasser Mansour Aldalal (Tuesday 13/12): Samer Samir Alalaily,

Maryam Zaid Ali Zaid Alkhabaz (Wednesday 14/12): Mohammed Yousef Abdulla Elabdulhadi, Bader Yasin Jumaa Alfoudari

(Thursday 15/12): Nwayer Abdullah Saoud Alajmi, Amal Lazim Ahmed

Gulf Bank's Al-Danah 2016 draw lineup includes daily draws (2 winners per working day each receive KD1000). The final Al-Danah draw for KD1 million will be held on 5 January, 2017 whereby the Al-Danah millionaire will be announced. Open an Al-Danah account now or deposit more to increase your chances of winning the millionaire draw!

Five reasons why the Al-Danah account is the best:

1) Kuwait's single biggest yearly cash

prize of KD 1 million 2) Kuwait's biggest quarterly cash prizes,

up to KD500,000

3) Two winners of KD1,000 every working day

4) The most chances to win

5) Only Bank that transfers your chances to win from year to year

Only Al-Danah makes millionaires.

Al-Danah also offers a number of unique services including: The Al-Danah Deposit Only ATM card which helps account holders deposit their money at their convenience; as well as the Al-Danah calculator to help customers calculate their chances of becoming an Al-Danah winner.

Gulf Bank's Al-Danah account is open to Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti residents of Kuwait. Customers who open an account and/ or deposit more will enter the draw within two days.

To take part in the Al-Danah 2016 upcoming quarterly and yearly draws, customers must have an Al-Danah account containing at least KD 200; customers can visit one of Gulf Bank's 56 branches, transfer on line, or call the Customer Contact Center on 1805805 for assistance and guidance. Customers can also log on to www.e-gulfbank.com/aldanahwinners, to find out more about Al-Danah and its winners.

EXCHANGE RATES

AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

Α	SIAN COUNTRIES
Japanese Yen	2.615
Indian 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
GO	CC COUNTRIES
Saudi Riyal	81.895
Qatari Riyal	84.348
ani Riyal	797.557
Bahraini Dinar	815.460
UAE Dirham	83.601
	AB COUNTRIES
Egyptian Pound - Cash	19.990
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.233
Tunisian Dinar	133.840

Lebanese Lira/for 1000 Syrian Lira 2.188 Morocco Dirham 30.690

Jordanian Dinar

432.470

EUR	OPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES
US Dollar Transfer	306.900
Euro	322.710
Sterling Pound	385.160
Canadian dollar	231.100
Turkish lira	881.900

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

DOLLARCO EXCHANGE CO. LTD

Rate for Transfer	Selling Rate
US Dollar	306.550
Canadian Dolla	230.500
Sterling Pound	384.385
Euro	322.080
Swiss Frank	300.105
Bahrain Dinar	812.640
UAE Dirhams	83.855
Qatari Riyals	85.080
Saudi Riyals	82.675
Jordanian Dinar	433.540
Egyptian Pound	16.830
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.060
Indian Rupees	4.530
Pakistani Rupees	2.924
Bangladesh Taka	3.887
Philippines Pesso	6.143
Cyprus pound	168.345
Japanese Yen	3.600
Syrian Pound	2.435
Nepalese Rupees	3.825
Malaysian Ringgit	69.340

Chinese Yuan Renminbi 31,240 Thai Bhat 9.535 Turkish Lira 87.725

BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY WLL

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL									
	Europe										
British Pound	0.372556	0.382556									
Czech Korune	0.003855	0.015855									
Danish Krone	0.039055	0.044055									
Euro	0.314624	0.323624									
Norwegian Krone	0.031379	0.038579									
Romanian Leu	0.085083	0.085083									
Slovakia	0.009220	0.019220									
Swedish Krona	0.029305	0.034305									
Swiss Franc	0.292567	0.303567									
Turkish Lira	0.083761	0.094061									
Australasia											
Australian Dollar	0.213608	0.225608									
New Zealand Dollar	0.205531	0.215031									
	America										
Canadian Dollar	0.223105	0.232105									
Georgina Lari	0.138660	0.138660									
US Dollars	0.302900	0.307300									
US Dollars Mint	0.303400	0.307300									
	Asia										
Bangladesh Taka	0.003528	0.004112									
Chinese Yuan	0.042699	0.046199									
Hong Kong Dollar	0.037497	0.040247									
Indian Rupee	0.002786	0.005520									

Indonesian Rupiah 0.000018 0.000024 Japanese Yen 0.002709 Kenyan Shilling 0.003158 Korean Won 0.000245 0.000260 Malaysian Ringgit 0.064831 0.070831 0.002911 0.003081 Pakistan Rupee 0.002619 0.002909 0.006087 0.006387 Philippine Peso 0.000068 0.000074 Singapore Dollar 0.207310 0.217310 South African Rand 0.016362 0.024862 Sri Lankan Rupee 0.001649 0.002229 0.009517 0.009697 Taiwan 0.008222 0.008772

Thai Baht Arab Bahraini Dinar 0.807751 0.816251 0.023131 **Egyptian Pound** 0.013878 Iranian Riyal 0.000085 0.000086 Iraqi Dinar 0.000181 0.000241 Jordanian Dinai 0.427955 0.436955 1.000000 Kuwaiti Dinar 1.000000 Lebanese Pound 0.000149 0.000249 Moroccan Dirhams 0.020242 0.044242 Nigerian Naira 0.001275 0.001910 Omani Riyal 0.790981 0.796661 Qatar Riyal 0.083514 0.084964 Saudi Riyal 0.080780 0.082080 Syrian Pound 0.001302 0.001522 Tunisian Dinar 0.129048 0.137048 0.094061 Turkish Lira 0.083761 **UAE Dirhams** 0.082160 0.083860 Yemeni Riyal 0.001016 0.001096



What you should and shouldn't do when installing a car seat

PARENTING PRO TIPS

KUWAIT: Globally, road traffic collisions are the ninth leading cause of death, killing almost 1.25 million people each year-and for children, these numbers are even higher. According to The World Health Organization (WHO), road traffic accidents accounted for 21 percent of fatalities of those aged 0-19. But these tragedies can be easily prevented: WHO states that child restraints, when correctly installed and used, reduce deaths among infants by approximately 70 percent and deaths among small children by between 54 percent and 80 percent.

Child restraints have proven to reduce the risk of death among infants by approximately 70 percent, and deaths among small children by between 54 and 80 percent. When installed correctly child restraints have the ability to reduce injury or prevent death in the event of an automobile accident, but if they aren't installed properly, their effectiveness can be reduced. Even the most well-meaning parents can sometimes have trouble installing child seats

correctly, so Chevrolet has come up with this complete list of car seat dos and don'ts to help you keep your little ones safe.

DO choose the right seat for the child. Research different types of seats and their age, height, and weight guidelines, and keep track of the child's growth in these aspects to anticipate when a new seat or seat modification will be required.

DON'T buy a second-hand car seat. There's no way to know for sure if the seat has been in an accident, if it has missing or outdated parts, has been recalled, or if it has expired (it is recommended to check the car seat expiration date). Saving a bit of money on a used car seat isn't worth the safety risk, so invest in a new one that you know will work well.

DO make sure to position the car seat in the right direction for your child's age, weight and height: forward or backward. Generally, rear-facing child seats are more secure for babies or until they're too big to fit. However, the label on the seat will have

specific height- and weight-related information about when to turn the car seat from rear-facing to forward-facing.

DON'T ever put a child restraint in the front passenger seat-even if it's rear-facing. According to WHO, best-practice child restraint laws restrict children (under 13 years old) from sitting in the front seat at all, so putting an infant or toddler in the front seat is especially risky. A passenger seat airbag, while meant to protect an adult from the impact of a collision, can seriously injure a small child.

Instruction manual

DO thoroughly read the instruction manual that comes with the car seat. Safety-belt attachments should be tight, the tethers should be attached correctly based on the direction the seat is facing in a car that uses the LATCH system, and a brand- and car seat model-specific protective mat should be placed underneath the seat to prevent slippage.

DON'T buckle the child in with bulky clothing or outerwear. These items can prevent you from tightening the straps enough and can allow a child to slip out of their car seat by wiggling too much. If your child is cold, buckle them into their car seat and then lay their jacket or a blanket over them.

DO make sure to buckle the child in correctly. They should be sitting with their back and bottom flat against the seat, the straps should be snug (with no more than a finger's width of slack), and the chest clip should be even with the child's armpits. They should not be able to slip out of the harness or pull the straps far away from their body.

While only 53 countries worldwide have bestpractice child restraint laws as laid out by WHO, ensuring a child's safety by properly installing and using a car seat should be a priority. Invest the time and energy into finding the right seat, installing it well, and buckling the child in correctly, and in turn, invest in protecting the child during an accident.

GERMAN CONSUMERS VIEW NEW YEAR WITH OPTIMISM: SURVEY

ICAHN SAYS REGULATION

STIFLES US REFINERIES

FRANKFURT AM MAIN: German consumers are looking ahead to the new year with optimism, a leading survey said Friday, though it warned that the impact of this week's deadly Berlin attack had yet to be taken into account. The poll of around 2,000 people, carried out by market research firm GfK, found that consumer morale in Europe's top economy rose for a

third consecutive month in December.

"Consumer appetite remains robust," it said in a statement. Looking ahead to 2017, GfK's headline consumer confidence indicator was forecast to rise to 9.9 points in January, it said, up from 9.8 in December. Buoyed by a strong labour market and high wages, Germany's bigspending shoppers appear unfazed by a string of political and financial risks on the horizon, the pollster said.

"Consumers are showing resilience towards a series of risk factors, such as the outcome of the US elections, the Brexit decision, the flare-up of the Italian banking crisis... and the ongoing terror threat,"

In a note accompanying the survey however, GfK said respondents were questioned before Monday's truck assault on a Christmas market in Berlin. "Any possible implications from that will be known in the next survey at the earliest," it added.

Twelve people were killed in the attack, which was claimed by the Islamic State group. The latest snapshot of consumer morale echoed the upbeat findings of a closely-watched business confidence survey released by the Munich-based Ifo institute earlier this week. That poll found that German businesses also expected to end the year on a high note, likewise shrugging off concerns about Brexit or Donald Trump's surprise election in the United States. The German government expects the economy to grow by 1.8 percent this year and 1.4 percent in 2017. —AFP



A shopper at the Brea Mall in Brea, California, carries bags full of packages. Amid the holiday decorations and cheerful ads, splurging is not an option for many Americans struggling to get by. — AP

HOLIDAY SPLURGING NOT AN OPTION FOR MANY WORKERS SCRAPING BY

LUXURY STORES PROMOTE 'FEEL-GOOD' GIFTS

WASHINGTON: Carl Icahn, a newly named adviser to President-elect Donald Trump, said yesterday that burdensome US regulations were hindering free enterprise, and oil refining in particular. In an interview with CNBC, Icahn, the famed Wall Street activist investor, also suggested he would help push the new Trump administration towards broad-based deregulation, as he

is widely expected to do.

Trump said Wednesday that he had named Icahn, 80, as his special advisor to overhaul "strangling regulations." Icahn has significant investments in the energy sector, including the Texas oil refiner CVR Energy, which suffered heavily in recent years as energy prices declined but could stand to gain from an anti-regulation agenda.

In the interview aired Thursday, Icahn said that, under President Barack Obama the United States was "on a fast track to socialism" and businesses suffered under an "absurd regulatory environment."

"I'm not against regulations at all. I sort of believe that you need a rule of law," Icahn said. "But it's become literally absurd in many areas." "There good companies, good CEOS, as there are good regulators," he added. "There are some that

are completely absurd.... Frankly, you almost get enraged by some of the stuff."

He pointed to rules under the Environmental Protection Agency governing oil refineries, asserting that gasoline prices were tied to production limits at refineries on the eastern coast of the United States.

Trump has nominated Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt, a close ally of the fossil fuel industry and climate change denier, to lead the EPA.

"You have to have healthy refineries," Icahn said Thursday. "There are refineries on the brink of bankruptcy today." In a statement on Thursday, the organization Friends of the Earth said Icahn's new role in the Trump administration showed that the president-elect was building a "kleptocracy" that would steal from the public and give to the well-connected. "Once again Donald Trump has chosen a billionaire who will make himself rich at the expense of the American people," Ben Schreiber, the organization's climate director, said in a statement. "Carl Icahn's vast fossil fuel holdings should disqualify him from any role in reviewing regulations designed to protect public health and the environment." — AFP

ELIZABETH, NJ: At the brightly lit mall, clothing stores highlight holiday sweaters and big signs tout the sales, while Duquan Allen keeps his expectations in check.

Allen, who works full-time cleaning planes at Newark Airport, says his mother doesn't expect anything big, and he usually gets a hooded sweatshirt. He plans to spend about \$150 on presents for his grandmother, mother and 21-year-old sister. "I'm good at budgeting," says

Allen, who makes \$10.10 an hour.

Heading into this holiday season, with gas and food costs down, unemployment at its lowest point since 2007 and clothing prices on the decline, economists and retail executives declared it a great time to be a consumer. But seven years into the recovery, there's a stubborn divide that hourly workers see more starkly during the holidays, between themselves and better-off consumers who have benefited more as the economy improved.

"I see people traveling. I wish I could afford it," said Allen. Many workers are indeed earning more. Average hourly earnings have picked up 2.5 percent over the past year, and major retailers have raised wages as competition for workers has increased.

Thanksgiving weekend featured crowds of shoppers at stores and malls, snapping up new TVs and clothing. Luxury stores have promoted "feel-good" gifts like \$1,000 silk pajamas. Americans spent \$3.45 billion online on Cyber Monday, according to Adobe Digital Insights, and nearly that much on Black Friday, the day after Thanksgiving. The National Retail Federation trade group expects holiday sales for the November and December period to rise 3.6 percent to \$655.8 billion.

From the data, people seem very able to buy. Overall, people plan to spend about \$935 per person this holiday season, according to an NRF survey. Behind that figure, though, there's a split.

Consumers with income under \$50,000 plan to spend a little over \$362 on gifts for their family and friends, while for those with income of \$50,000 and higher, that number is about \$768. Throwing in decorations, greeting cards, flowers and food, the difference is even larger - around \$512, compared to about \$1,020. That divide also hasn't budged since the recession.

"The U.S. economy is not creating high-wage jobs for lower- and middle-income consumers," said Ken Perkins, president of research firm Retail Metrics LLC. "This is making it extremely difficult for lower-income consumers to make a living. There's really not a lot left for Santa Claus."

About half of American workers have seen their share of overall income growth shrink since 1980, according to a recent study by economists Thomas Piketty, Emmanuel Saez and Gabriel Zucman. In 1980, the top 1 percent of adults earned on average 27 times more than the bottom 50 percent adults; now, they earn 81 times more.

Workers at Wal-Mart Stores Inc., the nation's largest private employer, now earn an average of \$13.38 an hour, while the average hourly pay for cashiers and low-level retail sales staff across the industry is \$9.26, according to a Hay Group survey. But some groups say hourly employees across the board still don't make enough to live on. Their fight will face hurdles with President-elect Donald Trump's pick for labor secretary: fast-food CEO Andrew Puzder, who has been critical of minimum wage increases.

"It's a scary-looking administration," said Scott Courtney, executive vice president of the Service Employees International Union. But he said the "Fight for \$15" campaign that began with retail and restaurant workers is not giving up. "You are going to see a lot more opposition and a lot more people taking part."

Retail sector

Besides the hourly wage, some workers say an issue is they can't get enough hours. The share of people working part-time because that's all they can get remains at recessionary low levels, according to research by Penn State professor and the University of Illinois' Project for Middle Class Renewal senior research analyst Lonnie Golden, published by the Economic Policy Institute. That level is nearly 45 percent higher than it was in 2008, fueled by a few industries like the retail sector.

Maria Coates, 20, of Elizabeth, New Jersey, works about 35 hours a week at a mall-based clothing store, but would like more hours to make more money. "I wish I could shop for my mother, my grandmother and my sister," said Coates, who plans to spend \$50 for the whole family. More than that, she'd like to be able to afford to study accounting. "What I really want is to go to school so I can get a better job."

After rent and rising health care costs, some workers find there's not much left. Allen says of the \$1,260 per month he takes home, more than half goes toward rent. After food, Wi-Fi, phone and utilities, he has about \$310 per month for any other needs. He doesn't have health insurance and recently paid \$100 to fix an abscessed tooth - the equivalent of about ten hours of work.

"The real story for the economic pinch seems to be the rise in health insurance costs," said economist Michael P. Niemira, who examined 2015 data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics and focused on the second-lowest income strata, which had an average pretax income of \$28,343 - about \$13.63 an hour for full-time work. — AP



WALPOLE: A "Sold" sign rests in front of a house under construction, in Walpole, Massachusetts. Builders pulled back on constructing homes in November 2016, after ground breakings surged in October to the strongest pace in more than nine years. —AP

1,200 MICHIGAN CUSTOMERS AFFECTED AFTER GAS LINE HIT

L'ANSE, Mich: It could be a cold Christmas for more than 1,000 people in Michigan's Upper Peninsula after a vehicle struck a natural gas line early Friday, causing an explosion and fire in Baraga County.

The sheriff's office says a vehicle went off US 41, struck a Semco Energy gas line and caused a fire at a utility substation in the L'Anse area on Lake Superior. There were no injuries.

The L'Anse Fire Department extinguished the fire, but gas service to about 1,200 gas customers in parts of the village and L'Anse Township will be disrupted for two to three days while repairs are made,

Baraga County Sheriff Rick Johnson said. Utility crews were going door to door to shut off gas at each home and business, a process that was estimated to take hours. Semco crews also were working to repair the damage at the substation, the utility said. Semco crews from across Michigan were headed to L'Anse to assist with service restoration.

restoration.

Warming centers were established at a Baraga school, Ojibwa Community College and the Big Bucks Bingo Hall. The National Weather Service predicted low temperatures in the 20s and 30s through Sunday night. Space heaters were also distributed for people who preferred to stay home. At Baraga High School, district Superintendent Richard Sarau turned on Wi-Fi for people staying there. —AP



In this photograph taken yesterday, Afghan labourers sort and pack carrots along a roadside on the outskirts of Mazar-i-Sharif. —AFP



NEW YORK: Traders Fred DeMarco (left) and Greg Mulligan confer as they work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. —AP

US STOCKS INCH HIGHER IN SLOW PRE-HOLIDAY TRADING

WALL STREET WEEKLY REPORT

NEW YORK: Wall Street traders sometimes root for year-end "Santa Claus rallies," but on Friday, hardly a creature was stirring as stocks finished slightly higher on the quietest full day of trading in more than a year. Health care companies brought in most of the gains.

Major US indexes stayed in a narrow range throughout the day. Drugmakers and other companies in health care did the best, while retailers continued to take small losses just before the holiday. Energy companies also slipped, and they took their first weekly loss since the beginning of November. The Dow Jones industrial average, however, rose for the seventh week in a row.

Defense contractor Lockheed Martin fell after President-elect Donald Trump again tweeted that the company's F-35 fighter jet costs too much. The stock is down almost 6 percent this month. "This is a negotiating tactic," said Josh Sullivan, a Seaport Global analyst who covers aerospace and defense companies. "You're seeing the negative portion of the negotiation in public where privately they may be more constructive."

The Dow Jones industrial average picked up 14.93 points, or 0.1 percent, to 19,933.81. The Standard & Poor's 500 index gained 2.83 points, or 0.1 percent, to 2,263.79. The Nasdaq composite rose 15.27 points, or 0.3 percent, to 5,462.69.

Small-company stocks did far better, as the Russell 2000 climbed 8.85 points, or 0.6 percent, to 1,371.51. Fewer than 2 billion shares changed hands on the New York Stock Exchange. That's barely half the volume of an average day. The last full trading day with that little activity was in

October 2015. Lockheed Martin fell after Trump said on Twitter that Lockheed's F-35 fighter jet costs too much and that he has asked Boeing to "price-out" a comparable F-18 jet. Trump complained earlier this month about the costs of the F-35, which brought in about 20 percent of Lockheed's revenue last year. Lockheed gave up \$3.21, or 1.3 percent, to \$249.59.

This month Trump also criticized Boeing for the cost of the next Air Force One. The presidential jet is far less significant for Boeing than the F-35 is for Lockheed, however, and Boeing shares were only briefly affected.

Sullivan, of Seaport, said Trump's tweets are a new type of bad publicity for defense companies. But even if the President-elect periodically criticizes the companies in public, investors are still optimistic about their prospects under his administration. If Trump builds up the US nuclear arsenal, as he proposed doing in a tweet Thursday, that would also involve more military spending.

Defense spending

"Ultimately (Trump) ran on a strong defense spending platform," he said. Defense stocks have done better than the rest of the market overall since the election.

So far, investor optimism that Trump's spending plans could boost economic growth is outweighing any concerns about his trade proposals, brash style and Twitter pronouncements, which have moved company stocks at times. That may change when he's in office and can more easily back up his comments with executive actions and policy shifts. Drug companies

made small gains on Friday. Botox maker Allergan rose \$5.09, or 2.6 percent, to \$199.08. Bristol-Myers Squibb picked up 85 cents, or 1.4 percent, to \$59.61 and health insurer Aetna added \$1.26, or 1 percent, to \$125.95.

Cintas, a uniform rental company, slipped after its second-quarter profit fell short of Wall Street's forecasts. Analysts said its first-aid business, which sells products like first-aid kits, eyewash stations and emergency cabinets, had a disappointing quarter. The stock lost \$3.73, or 3.1 percent, to \$116.36.

Benchmark US crude added 7 cents to close at \$53.02 a barrel in New York. Brent crude, the international standard, rose 11 cents to close at \$55.16 a barrel in London.

In other energy trading, natural gas prices continued to climb as investors anticipated that colder weather will lead to more demand for home heating. Natural gas futures rose 12 cents, or 3.5 percent, to \$3.66 per 1,000 cubic feet. Wholesale gasoline added 2 cents to \$1.63 a gallon and heating oil stood still at \$2.48 a gallon. The dollar slid to 117.26 yen from 117.60 yen. The euro rose to \$1.0452 from \$1.0433. Bond prices rose. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note fell to 2.54 percent from 2.55 percent. The price of gold rose \$2.90 to \$1,133.60 an ounce. Silver lost 11 cents to \$15.76 an ounce. Copper gave up 2 cents to \$2.48 a pound. Britain's FTSE 100 and the CAC-40 in France both rose 0.1 percent. In Germany, the DAX lost 0.1 percent. The Hang Seng of Hong Kong retreated 0.3 percent and the Kospi in South Korea finished slightly lower. Japanese markets were closed for a holiday. —AP

GM'S KEY CHINA VENTURE FINED \$29M IN ANTI-MONOPOLY CASE

CHINESE ACTION FOLLOWS TRUMP REMARK ON TRADE PRACTICES

BEIJING: General Motors Co's main joint venture in China was fined \$29 million on Friday on charges it suppressed competition by enforcing minimum sales prices for dealers, the latest in a string of penalties against foreign auto brands under the country's anti-monopoly law.

Chinese regulators have punished companies in industries from milk to medical devices under a 2008 anti-monopoly law in what appears to be an effort to force down consumer prices. Friday's announcement followed public criticism by US President-elect Donald Trump of Chinese trade practices but there was no indication the case was linked to that. GM had announced in August 2014 its joint venture, Shanghai GM, was under investigation by anti-monopoly regulators.

The Shanghai Price Bureau said Shanghai GM, a joint venture with state-owned Shanghai Automotive Industries Corp., improperly suppressed competition by enforcing minimum prices dealers were allowed to charge for Cadillac, Chevrolet and Buick models. That "disrupted the normal order of market competition," the statement said.

Setting minimum retail prices is a common practice in many markets but lawyers say Chinese regulators appear to regard it as an improper restraint on competition.

A statement by the price bureau said the penalty was set at 4 percent of Shanghai GM's annual sales, or 201 million yuan (\$29 million). In a statement, GM said: "GM fully respects

local laws and regulations wherever we operate. We will provide full support to our joint venture in China to ensure that all responsive and appropriate actions are taken with respect to this matter."

GM vies with Germany's Volkswagen AG for the status of the top-selling vehicle brand in China.

Sales of GM vehicles in China rose 7 percent in November over a year earlier to 371,740 units. Year-to-date sales rose 8.5 percent to 3.4 million. Audi, VW's luxury unit, was fined \$40.5 million and Fiat Chrysler Automobiles' Chrysler brand received a smaller penalty in 2014 on similar charges of enforcing minimum sales prices.

State media cited an official saying Daimler Benz AG's Mercedes unit was guilty of violations but no penalty was announced. Toyota Motor Corp. said its Lexus unit was under scrutiny but no results have been announced. A dozen Japanese auto parts suppliers were fined earlier on price-fixing charges. The industry-wide investigation began in 2014 following complaints foreign auto brands were abusing their control over supplies of spare parts to overcharge consumers. In the case of Mercedes, regulators said purchasing the spare parts needed to assemble one car would cost as much as 12 new vehicles.

Foreign business groups welcomed passage of the 2008 law, which they said would help to clarify operating conditions in China's statedominated economy.

Since then, they have complained about the secretive way investigations are conducted. They say companies are pressured into agreeing to penalties and to avoid disputing any finding of wrongdoing.

In the biggest penalty so far, Qualcomm Inc. was fined \$975 million in 2015 on charges it abused control over patents that are part of global industry standards for mobile phones to charge Chinese handset makers excessive licensing fees. This month, medical device maker Medtronic Inc. was fined \$17 million on charges it suppressed competition by enforcing minimum prices for its retailers. —AP

FITCH DOWNGRADES BELGIAN DEBT RATING; 'STABLE' OUTLOOK

washington: The ratings agency Fitch on Friday downgraded Belgium's longterm debt rating one notch to AA-, citing growing levels of sovereign debt, but said the European nation's outlook was stable. Belgian efforts to stimulate growth through structural reforms since a new government took power in 2014 have pushed the country's fiscal targets upward, with gross debt forecast to be 107 percent of GDP in 2016, the agency said in a statement.

"This persistent fiscal slippage moves back the first year with substantial debt reduction to 2019, two years later than previously projected by Fitch in November 2014, when the agency placed

Belgium's rating on negative outlook," the statement said.

With tax revenues falling, the agency is now forecasting a three percent deficit for the Belgian budget in 2016, up three tenths from a prior estimate.

Extraordinary costs associated with the refugee crisis as well as security measures in response to terrorist attacks in France and Belgium also pushed the deficit forecast higher by 0.2 percent of GDP, according to Fitch. "Repeated slippage against government targets is negatively affecting fiscal policy credibility, and reduces confidence in the ability to meet future fiscal targets" — AFP

BRAZIL'S TEMER UNVEILS PLANS TO PRESERVE JOBS

BRASILIA: President Michel Temer vowed to slash credit card interest rates, offer subsidies to companies that retain employees and ease the hiring of workers on temporary contracts in his latest bid to lift Brazil out of a prolonged recession. Temer also said the government will allow some workers to draw on severance fund accounts, known as FGTS, a step which could inject up to 30 billion reais (\$8.98 billion) into the economy.

The president last week announced other moves to boost credit, as Brazil tries to combat a two-year-old recession and 11.8 percent unemployment. Temer's seven-month-old government, which has been buffeted by corruption scandals, has seen its unpopularity increase.

"They are clearly trying to fight the negative agenda," said Alessandra Ribeiro, an economist with TendÍncias Consultoria. "But the effect for his popularity could be marginal because the impact of the measures will not appear in the short term." In laying out the latest economic measures, Eliseu Padilha, Temer's chief of staff, said subsidies to companies that reduce working hours instead of firing employees could preserve 200,000 jobs over the next four years.

The government also said it would send a bill to Congress to ease the hiring of workers on a temporary basis. Roberto Setubal, chief executive officer of Ita Unibanco Holding SA, the largest Brazilian private bank, said the changes to the labor law will "certainly generate jobs, allowing negotiation of working conditions according to the economic sector."

Temer said interest rates on revolving credit cards of up to 30 days would be cut by more than half. For longer periods, banks would allow consumers to pay their debt in installments with reduced rates compared with today.

Brazilian interest rates are among the world's highest, with credit cards charging more than 400 percent a year. Credit card industry association Abecs said it expected a drop in default rates following the changes. Regarding the severance funds, workers will be allowed to withdraw all the money from their FGTS accounts if they are inactive for more than three years. Under current law, FGTS money can only be accessed if a worker is fired, retires or acquires property. — Reuters

PUERTO RICO OUSTS DIRECTOR OF INDEBTED WATER, SEWER AGENCY

SAN JUAN: The board of directors for Puerto Rico's heavily indebted water and sewer company has removed the agency's executive director amid a worsening financial crisis. The directors said Friday that they had lost confidence in Alberto Lazaro and also complained about what they called a lack of communication with Puerto Rico's

incoming new governor.

The board stressed that its decision was

not based on Lazaro's work. It praised him for accomplishments including strengthening the agency's finances, reducing water loss, improving response times and handling one of the worst droughts that Puerto Rico has faced.

Lazaro said in a statement that he accepted the board's decision. He was appointed in January 2013 and was scheduled to remain in the position until January 2019. —AP



PITTSBURG: In this July 16, 2015, photo, a customer refuels her car at a Costco in Pittsburgh. US consumer prices rose in November 2016 by the smallest amount in three months as the climb in energy prices moderated a bit and food prices remained flat.—AP

ECONOMISTS: 'AMERICA FIRST' APPROACH COULD HURT IOWA

JOHNSTON: President-elect Donald Trump's "America first" economic nationalism scored well with voters but may not play well with international trading partners, much to the detriment of lowa, according to economists who monitor the state's economy.

The zero sum trade game - that is, the idea that when American wins, there has to be a loser - that Trump seems to be advocating could hurt lowa's exports to China as well as to its North American and European trading partners, economists David Swenson of Iowa State University and the University of Iowa and Ernie Goss of Creighton University said Friday during taping of an upcoming "Iowa Press" program. Goss compared Trump's approach to trade to Brexit - Britain's decision to leave the European Union - and similar populism in Europe, saying such "uber nationalism" is not good for the economy.

The impact could be "huge, huge," Goss said, because "the US depends heavily on agriculture, agricultural exports, and agriculture depends heavily on trade." Iowa is among the five states most dependent on agricultural trade, he said. Iowa exports much of its agricultural commodities and manufactured goods to China, so if Trump carries through on his threats to impose tariffs on Chinese goods, Swenson said, it

will "either increase the cost of buying stuff from lowa or decrease our access to goods and services from other places."

China has played fast and loose on trade in some cases, Goss said, but the Chinese are no longer manipulating their currency to gain an advantage in trade.

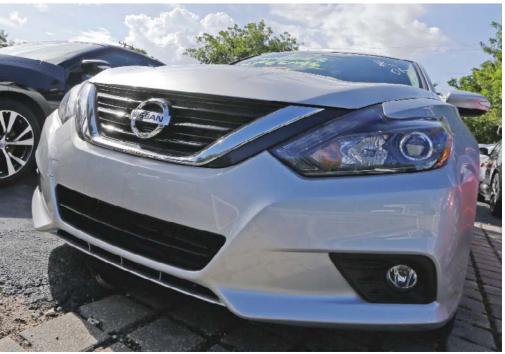
And while many lowans have praised

Trump's selection of Gov Terry Branstad as his ambassador to China because of his many trade missions and personal relationship with Chinese President Xi Jinping, the economists warned that Branstad can't approach the post as lowa's trade representative.

"The governor is going to have to learn

"The governor is going to have to learn to be an ambassador and all that entails broadly with regard to traditional State Department activities," he said. "An ambassador isn't a trade representative and so the role is significantly different from being the chief trade representative of the state of lowa or the Midwest.

"There's no ribbons to cut in China, which is what Terry Branstad loves to do. He's a promoter, and he's a hand-shaker, and he likes to work out arrangements with people," Swenson added. Iowa Public Broadcasting's edition of "Iowa Press" with the economists will air at 7:30 pm Dec 30 and noon Jan 1 on IPTV, 8.30 am Dec 31 on IPTV World and online at IPTV.org. —AP



MIAMI: In this June 28, 2016, photo, shows the front of a 2016 Nissan Altima at a Nissan dealer, in Miami. Black Friday deals were expected to pull US auto sales out of their recent slump in November 2016. —AP

CUT RATES, BRACKETS BUT WHAT ABOUT DEFICIT: GOP ON TAXES

Congressional

WASHINGTON:

Republicans are planning a massive overhaul of the nation's tax system next year, a heavy political lift that could ultimately affect families at every income level and businesses of every size. Their goal is to simplify a complicated tax code that rewards wealthy people with smart accountants, and corporations that can easily shift profits - and jobs - overseas. It won't be easy. The last time it was done was 30 years ago.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky, and Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., have vowed to pass a tax package that would not add to the budget. The Washington term is "revenue neutral."

It means that for every tax cut there has to be a tax increase, creating winners and losers. Lawmakers would get some leeway if non-partisan congressional analysts project that a tax cut would increase economic growth, raising revenue without increasing taxes.

Nevertheless, passing a massive tax package will require some tough votes, politically. Some key Republican senators want to share the political risk with Democrats. They argue that a tax overhaul must be bipartisan to be fully embraced by the public. They cite President Barack Obama's health law - which passed in 2010 without any Republican votes - as a major policy initiative that remains divisive.

Congressional Democrats say they are eager to have a say in overhauling the tax code. But McConnell, who faulted Democrats for acting unilaterally on health care, is laying the groundwork to pass a purely partisan bill.

Both McConnell and Ryan said they plan to use a legislative maneuver that would prevent Senate Democrats from using the filibuster to block a tax bill. McConnell says he wants the Senate to tackle a tax plan in the spring, after Congress repeals Obama's health law. House Republicans are more eager to get started, but haven't set a timeline.

Some things to know about Republican efforts to overhaul the tax code:

The house plan

House Republicans have released the outline of a tax plan that would lower the top individual income tax rate from 39.6 percent to 33 percent, and reduce the number of tax brackets from seven to three. The gist of the plan is to lower tax rates for just about everyone, and make up the lost revenue by scaling back exemptions, deductions and credits. The plan, however, retains some of the most popular tax breaks, including those for paying a mortgage, going to college, making charitable contributions and having children.

The standard deduction would be increased, giving taxpayers less incentive to itemize their deductions.

The non-partisan Tax Policy Center says the plan would reduce revenues by \$3 trillion over the first decade, with most of the savings going to the highest-income households.

That's not revenue neutral.

Small business owners would get a special top tax rate of 25 percent. Investment income would be taxed like wages, but investors would only have to pay taxes on half of this income. — AP



WASHINGTON: The exterior of the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) building in Washington. Congressional Republicans are planning a massive overhaul of the nation's tax system in 2017, a heavy political lift that could ultimately affect families at every income level and businesses of every size. — AP



FORT WORTH: This July 7, 2006, file photo, the Lockheed Martin F-35 Joint Strike Fighter is shown after it was unveiled in a ceremony in Fort

ANOTHER TRUMP TWEET JAB, AGAIN IN THE DEFENSE SECTOR

LOCKHEED MARTIN SHARES, BOEING UP

NEW YORK: Shares Lockheed Martin slipped while rival Boeing's rose Friday after a tweet from President-elect Donald Trump appeared to pit the two defense industry giants against one another in a bid to lower prices for government contracts.

It was just the latest targeted jab at US corporations that may have led to volatile trading.

During his campaign, Trump lambasted Ford for beefing up operations abroad. He said he would not eat Oreo cookies that may soon be made in Mexico and vowed to get Apple to make iPhones in the US. Now it's Boeing and Lockheed, the defense contractors, who are defending their business practices after Trump tweeted late Thursday: "Based on the tremendous cost and cost overruns of the Lockheed Martin F-35, I have asked Boeing to price-out a comparable F-18 Super Hornet!"

Trump tweeted earlier this month that he is looking to cut "billions" in costs for military purchases. Boeing Co spokesman Todd Blecher said, "We have committed to working with the president-elect and his administration to provide the best capability, deliverability and affordability."

Lockheed Martin Corp., based in Bethesda, Maryland, said earlier this month that it has worked to lower the price of the F-35 one-seat fighter aircraft by more than 60 percent and that it expects the aircraft to cost \$85 million in 2019 and 2020.

The F-35 program made up 20 percent of Lockheed's revenue of \$46.1 billion last year. And US government orders made up 78 percent of its revenue last year. The F-35 program directly or indirectly supports more than 146,000 US jobs, according to the company's website.

Lockheed Martin's stock declined \$3.21, or 1.3 percent, to close Friday at \$249.59. Two weeks ago, Trump threatened to cancel Boeing's contract to build Air Force One because of "out of control" costs.

Chicago-based Boeing relies less on that contract than Lockheed does on the F-35 program. Its shares ended up 35 cents to \$157.81 Friday after earlier dropping to \$156.51. Trump met with the CEOs of Boeing and Lockheed Martin Corp. Wednesday and CEOs from both companies said that they had discussed lowering costs of the F-35 and Air Force One projects.

Boeing and Lockheed are also among the companies pursuing a contract for replacing Minuteman missiles in the US nuclear arsenal. Representatives for the two companies declined to comment on whether that contract came up during the meetings this week.

CEO response

The chief executive of Lockheed Martin Corp told President-elect Donald Trump on Friday that she was committed to driving down the cost of the company's F-35 fighter jet, a day after Trump

took aim at the cost of the F-35 in a Twitter post.

CEO Marillyn Hewson said she spoke with Trump on Friday afternoon and assured him that she had heard his message "loud and clear" about reducing the cost of the F-35.

Trump, in a tweet posted late on Thursday, suggested that an older aircraft made by rival aerospace company Boeing Co could offer a cheaper alternative to the F-35.

"Based on the tremendous cost and cost over-

runs of the Lockheed Martin F-35, I have asked Boeing to price-out a comparable F-18 Super Hornet!" Trump said. Hewson, in a statement posted on Twitter, said she had had "a very good conversation" with Trump on Friday. "I gave him my personal commitment to drive

the cost down aggressively," she said in the statement. Lockheed shares closed down 1.3 percent on Friday, nearing their lowest levels since the Nov. 8 election. They were the biggest drag on a basket of defense-related stocks. Boeing's stock ended near the unchanged mark.

Trump had met with the chief executives of both Lockheed and Boeing on Wednesday.

Boeing's F-18 is an older generation aircraft that lacks the stealth capabilities of the F-35.

One US official said it was impossible to tell what Trump meant by his tweet, given the importance of stealth technology as a way to counter advanced defenses of near-peer states, like Russia or China. — Agencies

Revolutionary Geely Emgrand X7 Sport See it to believe it!





with Geely International Corporation launched the all new Geely Emgrand X7 Sport SUV in Kuwait. This SUV is the latest launch from the synergy of Geely & technology transfer agreement with Volvo. The SUV comes with a remarkable improvement on the exterior and interior appeal bonded with a power train of 2.4L, 4 cylinder engine mated to smooth & responsive 6 speed tiptronic gear box.

Mr Yousef Al Shaya, CEO, KAICO mentioned that KAICO is very excited to launch the new Emgrand X7 Sport in Kuwait after receiving a wide recognition from media and consumers internationally and in GCC too, we received a great feedback from our neighbors in Oman, KSA and Bahrain.

Mr Ashish Tandon, General Manager, KAICO mentioned that the exciting part is that we are already receiving enquiries & bookings for Emgrand X7 Sport before we have even launched it. We are very confident about the Emgrand X7 Sport and looking



Remarkable influence of European Manufacturing Mr. Mohammad. Osman. Geely. Brand, KAICO mentioned that the X7 Sport was designed by the Volvo designer Peter Hurbory, who headed up design at Volvo in the 1990s and oversaw it for Volvo, Jaguar, Aston Martin and Ford's other brands from 2002, is now in charge of Geely's new wave of world class.

forward for record breaking sales.

Emgrand X7 Sport is an obvious example of how the company expertise has increased since this partnership considering the design approach, exterior & interior appeal, and body built quality etc.

Design and Power these are the Key word that explain the new Emgrand Success. With technical support from European partners and excellent designers, the Chinese automaker is now producing increasingly competitive and award-winning cars.

Aggressive & Powerful Exteriors:

The SUV is developed around the concept of a

speeding cheetah, strong shoulders of a big cat in motion are shown over the front wheels with strong shoulder line moving throughout the vehicle, creating a strong visual impact and developing a sports sense around the Emgrand X7 Sport. It has a nice stance, a trendy black D-pillar for the floating roof idea, a kinky kink in the bodywork just behind the C, and sleek taillights.

Elegant Interiors:

The elegant interior design of the Emgrand X7 Sport reflects a mix of technology and quality. The three-spoke leather multifunction steering wheel, TFT full-color 3D combination instrument and extended instrument panel have an elegant appearance. The central console arches from the front to the rear passenger area. The seats are well-designed, floating on bridge-like supports and dressed in the style of Chinese clothing.

Power Train:

The Geely Emgrand X7 Sport is a front wheel drive SUV powered by a 2.4 liter 4 cylinder engine produces 160 HP & 210 NM. It is mated to a six-speed tiptronic automatic gearbox. This is good enough to propel the car from 0100- in 8.8 seconds.

Safety & Other Features

The new Emgrand X7 Sport is packed with safety technology that includes ABS, EBD, EBA, Cruise Control, Tyre Pressure Monitoring System, Autohold, Visual Parking System etc, to name a few. The SUV is loaded with latest gizmos to make your drive experience comfortable.

Electronic Parking Brake, Auto hold & Traction Control Intelligent Climate Control

Rear AC Vents Multi Colored Digital Display

By bringing the Geely range to the Kuwait, KAICO has reinforced its commitment to provide high-quality products and services to its customers in Kuwait. Moreover, KAICO is offering very attractive prices on the Emgrand X7 Sport range of cars along with a warranty of upto 5 years / 150,000 kms. The old English saying "the proof of the pudding is in the eating", test drive the car to experience the style, luxury and performance of the car.









Kuwait Times 55. SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2016

THE SURPRISING TECHNOLOGY BEHIND THE FUTURE OF AUTONOMOUS DRIVING

KUWAIT: As autonomous driving (AD) technology brings new advances and features to mobility, important questions inevitably arise. For example, how will drivers come to trust their autonomous vehicles? How will vehicles com-municate with drivers and alert them to the presence of other vehicles on the road? And, what actions will vehicles take after identifying objects, signs and other road infrastructure such as painted lanes? As Nissan's Tetsuya lijima said in our most recent Medium article on omous driving, social acceptance is key to

Takashi Sunda, Deputy General Manager of the Autonomous Drive Technology Development Department at Nissan, and his team of engineers have developed answers to these and other questions through their work on technology that enables communication between drivers and cars. In a world of ubiqui-tous personal devices, we're already interacting with this sort of technology dozens of times a day?-?you find it on your smartphone touch-screen, on your computer, and even your home coffee machine. It's already a key technology in your car, where it plays a critical role in instrument panels, navigation touchscreens, and parking assistance features.
Sunda's team is working on a wide range of

new technologies that focus on how to better unicate and establish trust between drivers and their cars. Adding to the complexity, researchers must also factor in the many differences in gender, age, experience, terrain, culture?-?and even different countries' rules of the road. "Driving is so different wherever you go. In France, motorcycles frequently cut across highways, while motorists in the US and UK drive on opposite sides of the road," he said. "There is much to consider on both an individual level and from a cultural perspective. Driving is very personal and unique" And that's why it's impor tant to gather as many perspectives as possible, he said. "Understanding and considering differences is the most helpful," Sunda continued. "But it can be difficult to grasp at first, so the question becomes: 'How do you make that universal step to build trust?'" Finding the Right Balance For Sunda, transparency holds the key. But as AD technology advances, so must





the interface between drivers and their cars. Once vehicles begin collecting more information in support of new AD features, the systems will need to be able to recognize and react to a range of situations. What's more, the technology will also need to quickly communicate all information back to the driver in an easy-to-grasp manner. "We want even first-time customers to feel comfortable using AD," he said. "It all must remain simple." Drivers will need to know what information the car is collecting and importantly what the vehicle is going to do with that data to ensure a safe and comfortable ride.

Consider a scenario in which you are changing lanes and are suddenly approached by another car in an adjacent lane: How will your vehicle convey important information about the approaching car quickly, and what will it do in response? Or, think about a city corner, when a lone pedestrian suddenly steps off the curb and starts walking across the street: What will your car need to tell you? In these situations, you need to inform but not overwhelm users. "It's a

delicate balance of how much information to control, and how much to share," said Sunda.

Clearly, autonomous driving will change the relationship between drivers and their cars, but it's a challenge that Sunda is particularly cut out for. Before joining Nissan 16 years ago, he worked on developing aircraft-human machine interfaces. When working on those airplanes, he had the benefit of trained pilots who could not only operate the aircraft, but who offered opinions on design.

For the AD project, Sunda's team members draw on their own driving experiences as well. But he's quick to add that his own personal experience behind the wheel is not necessarily going to reflect another driver's experience. In the end, the big prize for Sunda's team is a chance to reinvent the future of driving. Sunda said as more autonomous features are available. it will have a revolutionary impact on the way people interact with their cars. "The change has already begun," he said, "We are altering the relationship between drivers and their cars and the experience of driving as a whole." Nissan is a global full-line vehicle manufac-

turer that sells more than 60 models under the Nissan, Infiniti and Datsun brands. In fiscal year 2015, the company sold more than 5.4 million vehicles globally, generating revenue of 12.2 trillion ven. Nissan engineers, manufactures and markets the world's best-selling all-electric vehi-cle in history, the Nissan LEAF. Nissan's global headquarters in Yokohama, Japan manages operations in six regions: ASEAN & Oceania; Africa, Middle East & India; China; Europe; Latin America and North America. Nissan has been partnered with French manufacturer Renault since 1999 and Mitsubishi Motors since 2016

ZAIN ANNOUNCES JASSIM ALI THIRD WINNER OF 4 PRIZES IN 'PAY ONLINE AND WIN

nications company in Kuwait, announced the winner of the third week of its "Pay Online and Win" draw that will see a weekly postpaid winner of four valuable prizes when paying their bill using Zain's website or app as well as a grand prize at the final draw at the end

Zain announced Jassim Yousef Yaseen Ali winner of 4 valuable prizes in the third week of the draw, including iPhone 7, Touch Hotspot LTE-A with free 1.5 TB Prepaid Internet line valid for 3 months, and iPad mini 4. The draw, held weekly until the 22nd of January 2017, will see one weekly winner of four valuable prizes, including iPhone 7, Touch Hotspot LTE-A with free 1.5 TB Prepaid Internet line valid for 3 months, and an

winner, announced at the end of the campaign, will receive iPhone 7, iPhone 7 Plus, Touch Hotspot LTE-A with free 1.5 TB Prepaid Internet line valid for 3 months, and a PlayStation 4 (1 TB).

Postpaid customers will get one chance to enter the weekly draws as well as the final draw for every KD1 paid through Zain's digital channels, includ ing the company's website (pay.kw.zain.com) and Zain's app available for iOS and Android. Zain launched this exciting promotional campaign to reinforce its leadership position and its pledge in offering the best products and services to meet its customers' personal and professional telecommunications needs, who are considered Kuwait's biggest family of subscribers.

GENUINE SPARE PARTS FROM CHEVROLET AND CADILLAC ALGHANIM LAUNCH NEW YEAR PROMOTION

KUWAIT: In celebration of the arrival of the New Year, Yusuf Ahmed Alghanim & Sons Automotive, the exclusive distributor of Chevrolet and Cadillac vehicles in Kuwait, as well as the largest distributor of genuine spare parts from General Motors, is happy to launch its festive Genuine Spare Parts promotion in all of the Alghanim Auto Parts outlets. Now with every KD 25 spent, customers will have 4 chances to win an iPhone 7 or the grand prize, the new 2017 Chevrolet Trax LT.

Valid from December 17th, 2016, until March 17th, 2017, the promotion offers customers multiple chances to win valuable prizes. Customers will get the chance to win one of 30 iPhone 7 on a number of draws-the first will take place on January 17th . 2017 and the second on February 16th , 2017. As for the grand draw on the new 2017 Chevrolet Trax LT, the event will

take place on March 20th, 2017. As the agent of GM in Kuwait, Yusuf A Alghanim & Sons Automotive provides its customers with world-renowned, genuine spare parts that enhance customers' safety and prolong vehicles' longevity and per-formance. Yusuf A. Alghanim & Sons Automotive facility is equipped with a modern and air-conditioned warehouse that stocks all the required parts using the latest global systems and processes, which include making deliveries to all parts loca-tions in Kuwait. Customers can purchase spare parts from any of the Alghanim Genuine Spare Parts outlets [Shuwaikh 24967772, Canada Dry Street (tel. 24834822) - Faheehel, (tel. 23929849) -Sharq (tel. 22460972) and Jahra 24965935] open from Saturday to Thursday, from 8 am to 7.30 pm, with the exception of the Shuwaikh Main Branch (tel. 24969772)



BURGAN BANK ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF YOUTH ACCOUNT QUARTERLY DRAW



the three lucky winners of its Youth Account Quarterly Draw. First place winner, Abeer Fahad Motlag Almutain took home a cash prize of KD1,000, while second and third place winners, Fahad Naseem Mohammad Albloushi and Lolwa Saad Jasim Alsawilem, each received a remarkable gift of an "unlimited access" voucher to Grand

Cinemas for one year.

Customers transferring their Student allowances to the bank will automatically be enrolled into the draw and with every KD 20 in their Youth account they will get one

ance to enter the quarterly draw.

The Youth Account draw was re-launched in response to the increasing market demand for highly innovative offerings which provide a higher incentive of winning for young individuals, between the ages of 15 - 25, who seek to attain a successful future. There is no KD limit to open an account, and no minimum balance required to main tain it. Furthermore, account holders will receive free prepaid MasterCard and an ATM card which entitles them to discounts at selected merchants along with an exclu sive discount at Grand Cinemas Theatres in Al Hamra Mall and The Gate Mall.

To receive regular updates about Burgan Bank's Youth Account promotions, customers can follow the Youth Account Instagram page @Burgan_Youth.

CFA SOCIETY KUWAIT APPOINTS NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS

consisting of portfolio managers, financial analysts and investment advisors, has announced he appointment of its new board of directors Mijbel AlQattan, previously the society's Vice President, was appointed by the newly elected board of directors to take over the role from preious President Rafik Hafez.

The new board, consisting of top professionals from within the local finance industry, reflects both CFA Institute and CFA Society Kuwait's mission of raising professional and ma ket standards to support the growth and deve opment of the country's investment sector. The new members of the board are

- * Mijbel AlQattan, CFA, President * Mohammad AlSarraf, CFA, Vice President and Treasurer
- * Alaa Abdelrahim CFA Secretary
- * Anuj Tewari, CFA, Board Member * Hargurmit Singh, CFA, Board Member
- ⁴ Robin Bhattacharva, CFA, Board Member

Commenting on his new role, Mijbel AlQattan, CFA, President of CFA Society Kuwait said: "I am honoured to be elected as President of CFA Society Kuwait and look forward to

KUWAIT: CFA Society Kuwait, CFA Institute's working with the newly elected board, our local association of investment professionals members, local government entities, regulators, education institutions and the country's top firms as we continue to uphold the highest standards of professionalism in Kuwait's invest-

He added: "Our priorities for the next year are to continue to serve our members' needs through the delivery of high quality, profes-sional programs and to support global initiatives geared towards investor education, investor protection and ethical investment practices. We have also been proactive in helping aspiring young investment professionals attain the prestigious CFA Charter, which is recognised as the gold standard investment

qualification around the world."

AlQattan received his CFA Charter in 2009 and has served CFA Society Kuwait in various roles, including Vice President and Advocacy Chair. He is a Senior Investment Manager with Impulse International for Telecommunications.

"I would like to take this opportunity to thank the previous board and especially Rafik Hafez, our previous society President, for all his hard work in making it such an important component of the financial community over the past years.



Mijbel AlQattan, CFA President

He will remain an important part of the work CFA Society Kuwait will continue to do," conclud-

2008 and currently has over 100 members.

AUB ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF AL-HASSAD PROGRAM DRAW

KUWAIT: Ahli United Bank held its weekly draw of Al-Hassad Islamic Saving program on December 21, 2016. This program offers the biggest prize amount to the largest number of winners. The prize program succeeded in becoming the first prize account in Kuwait compliant with the Islamic Sharia principles. The program has been developed to fulfil the needs of the Bank customers and increase their opportunities in winning sizeable and attractive prizes in addition to enjoying the latest banking advantages that Ahli United Bank provides

On this occasion, the bank issued the following press release: Al-Hassad Islamic Saving program offers the highest amounts of prizes which amount to KD 3.4 million per year. This Program also offers 26 weekly prizes, with the highest number of weekly winners. The Islamic Hassad Saving Account may be opened by the lowest amount to open an account, which is KD 100. The winner of the weekly grand prize in the amount of KD 25,000 is: . Mohammad Abdullah Al Kandari

The winners of the KD 1,000 prize each: Mohammed Abdul Rauf Ibrahim, Amirah Mohammad Behbehani, Fareeda Abbas Al Saffar, Ali Hajjaj Alazmi, Nabeelah Abdullah Al Matrouk, Jana Baseil Fouad, Sulaiman Adnan Sulaiman, Yaqoub Abdullah Al Qattan, Zakareya Salem AlTararwah, Ghala Mohannad Al Refaei, Ghaith M Al-Tayyar, Talal Zaben Al-Arbeed Sirai Saifuddin, Khalid F M Alabdulhadi Moudhi Naser Mohammad Hameed Husain Dashti, Amro Mohammad Al-Sayad, Dhiya Ahmed Al-Mahmeed Khairiya Abdulla Dashty, Ali Kunhalil, Husain Naser Mohamed, Sabah Salmar

Yusuf Sharaf, Taiba Abbas Ebrahim The prize program of "Al-Hassad Islamic Saving" from Ahli United Bank offers a weekly grand prize worth KD 25,000 in addition to 25 weekly prizes worth a total of KD 25,000 distributed to 25 prizes, KD 1 000 for each winner.

البنك الاهتلى المتح ahli united bank

In addition, prizes of Al-Hassad Islamic

saving program from Ahli United Bank offer 4 quarterly grand prizes announced in quarterly draws. Each is a "Salary for Life" prize which is worth KD 250,000. In general, Ahli United Bank continues

to offer innovative tools and means to meet the needs of its customers to match the Bank's long history of distinctive services which extend over 74 years during which the Bank managed to take the lead

MIMECAST APPOINTS CHANNEL DIRECTOR FOR MIDDLE EAST AND AFRICA



Jason Roos, Channel Director, **Mimecast MEA**

MIME), a leading email and data security company, today announced an executive appointment to strengthen its leadership team. Jason Roos joins Mimecast from Dimension Data, as the new Channel Director and will lead the channel teams in Middle East and Africa. "Our channel partners play an essential role in how we support our customers and expand our business into new verticals and markets," com-

imecast Limited (NASDAQ: mented Brandon Bekker, Managing the country, across all verticals. He will Director of Mimecast Middle East and Africa.

> "Having Jason on-board will bolster our existing channel relationships and establish new partnerships across the Middle East and Africa. Especially as organizations continue to migrate their on-premise email environments to cloud services like Office 365." Jason brings 12 years of experience in the ICT industry, leading high-impact sales teams across

manage all partner and alliance based engagements, and is tasked with establishing a renewed, energised channel program. In his previous role as Executive of Sales at Internet Solutions, he managed 13 sales teams across SME, Channel, Mid-Market and Enterprise accounts and held several sales leader-

Jason also spent three years in New York working in the Cisco channel with a Cisco Gold partner. On joining Mimecast, Jason says: "The attraction and excitement for me is in the competency, scale and reach that Mimecast provides customers. Our reputation, strong marketing presence and legendary customercentric service delivery, will enable an all ready robust partner program. Ultimately we will capitalise on the strong opportunity that exists in the MEA region, for both Mimecast and our Partner ecosystem, around email securi-

POPULAR MOBILE GAME 'POKEMON GO' LANDS ON APPLE WATCH

NEW YORK: The popular mobile game to advance in the game and to hatch new "Pokemon Go" is now available on the Apple Watch, squashing rumors that the game's maker was scrapping such plans. The game involves catching digital pocket monsters in an augmented-reality version of your surroundings. The Apple Watch version will let you discover nearby Pokemon and collect special items, such as potions, from nearby "PokeStops." But once you encounter a Pokemon, you will need to use your iPhone to catch it.

Still, the Apple Watch should make it easier for players to log their steps (needed

Pokemon out of eggs), and to avoid walking around with their phones held out to search for nearby monsters."Pokemon Go" was a huge success when it came out in July. It's not clear how the Apple Watch version will do, especially now that it's too cold in much of the Northern Hemisphere to be outside catching Pokemon. Plans for the watch version had been announced at Apple's iPhone launch event in September. The game's maker, Niantic, hasn't announced any plans for Android Wear and Samsung Gear smartwatches.—AP

INTO THE **BREACH**

records lost or stolen world-wide, there is greater responsibility than ever before on MENA's CISOs and CIOs to ensure the security of their organizations. Data theft and cyber security - once obscure concepts that were restricted to the IT departments at large corporations have become common topics of discussion in recent years. Since 2013, more than 3.67 billion records have been lost or stolen worldwide - with almost 233.5 million in December 2015 alone, according to a report by Breach Level Index. This threat has grown increasingly global, with companies in the MENA region also now at risk.

That means it is now more critical than ever before for public and private sector organizations around the world to boost their system capabilities to protect against data loss and ensure consumers remain confident while sharing personal information online. According to a Data Breach Investigations Report from Verizon Communications, the cost of a breach of 100records can range from \$18,000 to \$555,000. Often the culprits are careless or malicious employees who have stolen or simply lost private records -far from the popular image of sophisticated menacing hackers lurking in the shadows. Against this backdrop, the responsibility resting on



Dr Mahir Nayfeh



Lutfi Zakhour

the shoulders of Chief Information Officers and Chief Information Security Officers (CISOs) now weighs heavier than ever.

And this is where Data Loss Prevention (DLP) technologies come into play. But, for the successful implementation of these technologies, an organization must have a clear idea both of the threats they face and, vitally, how DLP technologies can be properly implemented to protect against them. In simple terms, DLP solutions are designed to protect data against attempts to copy and/or send it to unauthorized entities. These solutions fall into two categories: Those focused on preventing loss from data in motion and those that protect data at rest or in use.

Meanwhile, a growing number of hardware and software vendors are seeking to secure a share of the DLP market - one that research firm Markets and Markets predicts will grow to an annual figure of \$2.64 billion by 2020, up from \$0.96 billion in 2015. However, despite the increasing scale and sophistication of the DLP solution landscape and the existence of skilled information security officers, combating data loss remains fraught with challenges. From demands and weaknesses relating to information security governance to understanding data flows and addressing the lack of information, data loss protection can seem an insurmountable task. However, if suitably armed with knowledge and a solid plan, the objective should be within reach.

The following steps are designed to help set organizations on the right track to security:

Create a Plan

Today's DLP landscape is rife with marketing materials that are masquerading as industry insights, and one-sided opinions that can cloud judgment. As a result,

ith more than 3.67 billion data organizations can find themselves entering into a sea of DLP solutions for which they are unprepared.

> This means that companies must understand their technologies and the nature of their problems to determine the action required-DLP solutions may not even be the answer. Companies must then develop a clear plan that can evaluate the scope of the threats they face and the most effective way to minimize them. Here, alignment with the organizationwide information governance program is critical. Proper planning and governance can help set the rules for any security solution while ensuring clear objectives and criteria for evaluation.

Know your Data

DLP solutions are designed to crawl through the network using agents to identify structured and unstructured data in a process called fingerprinting. While this is a valuable and time saving feature, it is not necessarily failsafe and can present risks: in the absence of manual processes, sensitive data could be overlooked. Therefore, before embarking on the implementation of a DLP solution, organizing and classifying data's an important first step. If this is done successfully, determining what type of data requires protection-and thus what solution is required-will become a smoother exercise.

Understand the Options

Different DLP solutions come with different capabilities. While many focus on providing endpoint protection for mobile devices, laptops, or other user systems, some protect data at rest, securing databases and online storage while monitoring for data being downloaded or transferred. Meanwhile, other solutions monitor network traffic to protect data in motion. Successful DLP deployment, therefore, requires a complete understanding of an organization's data types and flows.

In summary, the three main DLP solution types includes solutions that secure data in use or storage on endpoints, those that secure data in motion, and comprehensive solutions that protect data both at

Adopt a Phased Approach

Using a phased approach to the implementation of DLP solutions enables engineers to better assess legitimate data flows within a network and separate them from those that demonstrate data loss. Phasing can also help avert inaccuracies. When implementing DLP solutions, potential impacts to network traffic could derail the solution and inundate security analysts with false positives. Implementing network-based DLP capabilities at egress points-the points through which data leaves one network for another-can allow a system to function passively and facilitate fine tuning over time. It can then become easier to migrate the system to maximize in-line protection.

Ensure Integration

Layering additional security capabilities on top of existing infrastructure will only exacerbate complexities in incident response and mitigation. DLP systems that do not integrate with security information and event management(SIEM) technologies, and that do not support an organization's current security goals and constructs, will only increase the workloads of already over-burdened employees and decrease the effectiveness of the solution. Furthermore, failing to ensure system integration will prevent security staff from using emerging analytics technologies and tactics to combat threats.

As the adoption of digital payment technologies accelerates and contactless payment options become more popular, CIOs and CISOs need to undertake a comprehensive evaluation of the risks of data theft. From there, the application of measures to combat those threats can help leaders protect their networks, and consequently, their balance sheets. The key is to reassure customers that their private information ranging from birthdates to credit card data and bank account numbers is stored in a safe place, out of reach of hackers and cybercriminals.



FINLAND: In this photo, reindeers walk across the road in Suomussalmi, Finland. —AP

FINNISH PHONE APP FINDS REINDEER, AVOIDS ROAD KILL

'So now we know to be cautious and look more carefully

ROVANIEMI, Finland: There's good news for Rudolph and his friends - an app is helping officials reduce the number of reindeer killed in traffic accidents in Finland. Some 300,000 reindeer freely wander the wilds of Lapland in Arctic Finland. An estimated 4,000 are killed every year through road accidents, officials say, and compensation to reindeer herders can be expensive. Most of the accidents occur during the dark winter months when the animals are hard to spot. Several methods to cut road kill have failed, including spray-painting antlers with fluorescent colors, hanging reflectors on reindeer necks and using movable traffic signs to warn of reindeer as they wander through the lichen-covered fells.

In their latest attempt, officials are using a smartphone app called "Porokello," Finnish for "Reindeer Bell." And it seems to be working - at least last month, when there were 300 less reindeer accidents on the roads of Finnish Lapland compared to the same month in 2015. According to Jaakko Ylinampa, head of a local

business center in Rovaniemi, the biggest town in Lapland near the Arctic Circle, the app helps cut costs for herders. A simple, one-button interface allows drivers to tap their smartphone screens to register any reindeer spotted near roads. Using GPS technology, it creates a 1.5kilometer (1-mile) warning zone that lasts for an hour and warns other app users approaching

"If there are reindeer, (drivers) reduce speed," Ylinampa said. "When they have passed the warning place, then they can get back to the normal speed again." Reindeer often wander onto roads that cut across grazing grounds rather than plowing through the deep snow, said Anna-Leena Jankala, whose family has a reindeer farm in Narkaus, 40 kilometers (25 miles) south of Rovaniemi. When female reindeer are killed, it can be particularly damaging to herders, setting them back years despite government compensation.

"In practice, it's not possible to buy a similar

reindeer, you need to raise it," Jankala said. It's hard to gauge the success of the pilot project that started in June with 1,000 free, app-loaded smartphones delivered to professional drivers, including heavy vehicles, taxis and buses, but those using it at least have a good warning system, says Maria Timo-Huhtala, who helped develop the app. Driving along an icy Lappish road, she looks checks her phone when a warn-

"We know that we are in the area where rein deer (have) been seen in the past one hour," she said. "So now we know to be cautious and look more carefully." This time the reindeer, which are bred for their meat, milk and fur, have moved on. Timo-Huhtala emphasizes that drivers shouldn't become too reliant on the app. "It's important for the drivers to understand that there might a reindeer even if there is not a warning," Timo-Huhtala said. "We have quite well covered the roads in Lapland with the system, but it's still not 100 percent."—AP



SAN FRANCISCO: In this file photo, Devin Greene sits in the front seat of an Uber driverless car during a test drive in San Francisco.—AP

ARIZONA GOVERNOR WELCOMES UBER FLEET OF SELF-DRIVING CARS

PHOENIX: Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey on Friday welcomed the arrival of a fleet of Uber self-driving cars delivered via a self-driving truck that transported them from California. Ducey's office says the governor welcomed the truck carrying the self-driving Volvos at the State Capitol in Phoenix. Uber announced Thursday that it was shipping the cars to Arizona after they were banned from California roads over lack of required permits.

Uber made the announcement after Ducey on

Wednesday and Thursday promoted Arizona as an alternative to California for the ride-hailing company to test its self-driving cars.

Uber has not announced when the cars will be tested, nor provided details about how many vehicles arrived in Arizona. Uber previously had 16 selfdriving cars registered in California. This story clarifies that Uber's self-driving cars were banned in California because they lacked permits, not solely because of safety concerns.—AP

Turkey probes 10.000 SOCIAL **MEDIA USERS**

ANKARA: Turkish authorities are investigating some 10,000 people on suspicion of using social media to support terrorism, the interior ministry said yesterday, part of a wide crackdown that has alarmed rights groups and some Western allies. Turkey, which faces security threats from Kurdish and leftist militants and Islamic State, has sacked or suspended more than 100,000 people following an attempted military coup in July. It says the measures are necessary to root out supporters of the putsch and other terrorists.

Rights groups and some European countries have said President Tayyip is using the current state of emergency to quash dissent. Since the coup, more than 150 media outlets have been shut down and 140 journalists arrested. The interior ministry said yesterday the fight against terrorism was being carried out "with determination" in social media. In the last six months, authorities have detained 3,710 people for questioning, the ministry said. Of those, 1,656 have been formally arrested and 84 are still being questioned.

The remaining 1,970 have been released, although 1,203 of those are still being monitored, it said. Access to social media sites such as Twitter and Facebook is commonly blocked, particularly after bombings or other deadly attacks, internet monitoring groups have said. Turkey denies that it blocks the internet, and has previously blamed outages on spikes in usage after major events.

Technical experts at watchdog groups say the blackouts on social media are intentional, aimed in part at stopping the spread of militant images and propaganda. —Reuters



NEW YORK: In this photo, US Secretary of State John Kerry, left, Leonardo Dicaprio, second from left, Piers Sellers and Fisher Stevens, from right, attend the premiere of National Geographic Channel's 'Before The Flood,' at the United Nations headquarters. —AP Photos

NASA CLIMATE SCIENTIST AND ASTRONAUT SELLERS DIES AT 61

'PIERS DEVOTED HIS LIFE TO SAVING THE PLANET'

WASHINGTON: Piers Sellers, a climate scientist and former astronaut who gained fame late in life for his eloquent commentary about the earth's fragility and his own cancer diagnosis, has died. He was 61. Sellers died Friday morning in Houston of pancreatic cancer, NASA said in a statement. Sellers shared his astronaut's perspective on climate change in Leonardo DiCaprio's documentary, "Before the Flood," released this fall. He told DiCaprio that seeing the earth's atmosphere as a "tiny little onion skin" from space helped him gain a fuller understanding of the planet's delicacy.

He also wrote a New York Times op-ed about grappling with the meaning of his life's work after learning he had terminal cancer. In both the film and the op-ed, he was optimistic, arguing that he expected human ingenuity to rescue the planet from a dire future of runaway global warming. "Piers devoted his life to saving the planet," NASA Administrator Charles Bolden said in a statement. "His legacy will be one not only of urgency that the climate is warming but also of hope that we can yet improve humanity's stewardship of this planet."

In the op-ed, Sellers wrote that the best way he could imagine spending his final months was to continue working, despite knowing he would not live to see the worst of climate change or the harnessing of possible solutions. "New technologies have a way of bettering our lives in ways we cannot anticipate. There is no convincing, demonstrated reason to believe that our evolving future will be worse than our present, assuming careful management of the challenges and risks," Sellers wrote. "History is replete with examples of us humans getting out of tight spots."

The British-born Sellers was deputy director for sciences and exploration at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland. He started working for NASA as a scientist in 1982 and joined its astronaut corps in 1996. He made three flights to the International Space Station, the last in 2010. "When I was a kid, I watched the Apollo launches from across the ocean, and I thought NASA was the holy mountain," Sellers said earlier this year when Bolden presented him with the Distinguished Service Medal, the agency's highest honor. "As soon as I could, I came over here to see if I could climb that mountain."—AP



FLORIDA: In this photo, British born US Astronaut Piers Sellers talks with reporters following the safe return of the space shuttle Discovery at the Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Florida.

TISSUE RESEARCH INSTITUTE TO BENEFIT INJURED SOLDIERS

CONCORD, New Hampshire: The Department of Defense is providing \$80 million to establish a bio-research and manufacturing institute in Manchester, New Hampshire, to develop transplant tissues and organs for injured American soldiers and other patients. The five-year award was announced Wednesday by Democratic US Sen. Jeanne Shaheen, Republican Sen. Kelly Ayotte and Democratic Gov. Maggie Hassan. All three were strong supporters of locating the institute in Manchester and had urged the Defense Department to support the project.

"This is a monumental investment in the future of New Hampshire and further establishes this region as a hub for scientific research and development," they said in a statement. "This is an immense and critically important mission and we have full faith in this esteemed coalition as they take on this research that will save lives on the battlefield as well as here at home." The Advanced Regenerative Manufacturing Institute will be led by a collation that includes DEKA Research and Development Corp, the University of New Hampshire and Dartmouth-Hitchcock.

Officials said it will bring good jobs to Manchester and give the state's college graduates opportunities to work on cutting edge biomedical research. Both UNH Manchester and DEKA are in Manchester's Amoskeag Millyard, allowing for efficient communication and coordination, said University of New Hampshire President Mark Huddleston. He said the campus will serve as the

home of a cell culture training facility for students and workers from throughout the region.

Developing techniques

"UNH has vibrant and extensive life sciences research, education and workforce development programs, with particular strengths in cellular biology, biomedical sciences and bioengineering. We are honored by this recognition from the Department of Defense for our leadership in STEM education and workforce development," he said. STEM is an acronym for science, technology, engineering and mathematics. The institute is the 12th manufacturing hub awarded by the Obama administration. According to the White House, it will develop techniques for repairing and replacing cells in tissues, possibly leading to the ability to make new skin for soldiers scarred from combat and technology to preserve organs for those waiting for transplants.

Beyond being economically and scientifically important for the state, the institute's work will be transformational for future organ transplant patients, said Dr. James Weinstein, CEO and President of Dartmouth-Hitchcock. He believes researchers will develop ways to make tissue on structured frameworks that could be implantable within five years. "It's extremely important for our veterans who lose limbs and organs that we might be able to make them new ones using stem cells and 3-D printing," he said. "This is going to be foundational and groundbreaking work for the future of our country and our world."—AP

ANGOLA DECLARES END TO YELLOW FEVER EPIDEMIC

LUANDA: Angola on Friday declared the end of a yellow fever outbreak that killed at least 400 people, after an emergency United Nations vaccination campaign covering 25 million people. The outbreak erupted in December last year in the slums of the capital Luanda, spreading to 16 of Angola's 18 provinces and into neighboring Democratic Republic of Congo. Officials said no new cases had been reported in Angola since June after the mass vaccination campaign was launched in both countries.

The World Health Organization (WHO) described it as the world's worst yellow fever outbreak in a generation. "Since June 23 that Angola has not registered new epidemic cases of yellow fever, everything is under control and it is finished," Health Minister Luis Sambo told a press conference in Luanda. Last month WHO said the outbreak in Angola and DR Congo was "coming to a close" after more than 7,300 suspected cases and a vaccination effort involving 41,000 volunteers.

There is no specific treatment for yellow fever, a viral hemorrhagic disease transmitted mainly by the same species of mosquito that also spreads Zika and dengue. Yellow fever vaccinations are routinely recommended for travelers to Angola, though the country had not previously seen a significant outbreak since 1986. WHO has warned of future outbreaks in Africa due to increased urbanization as transmission rates are higher in densely populated areas.—AFP

CHINA UNCOVERS 500,000 FOOD SAFETY VIOLATIONS IN NINE MONTHS

SHANGHAI: China, rocked in recent years by a series of food safety scandals, uncovered as many as half a million illegal food safety violations in the first three quarters of the year, an official said. Chinese officials have unearthed a series of recent food health scandals, including rice contaminated with heavy metals, the use of recycled "gutter oil" in restaurants as well as the sale of baby formula containing lethal amounts of the industrial chemical melamine in 2008.

Bi Jingquan, the head of the China Food and Drug Administration, told the Standing Committee of National People's Congress on Friday that while significant progress had been made in the food sector, "deep-

seated" problems remained. According to a transcript of Bi's report published on the official website of the National People's Congress, Chinese food safety departments conducted more than 15 million individual inspections in the first three quarters of the year and found more than 500,000 incidents of illegal behavior, he said.

Among the offences were false advertising, the use of counterfeit products and ingredients and the sale of contaminated food products, Bi said. One case in the northeastern province of Jilin involved the use of industrial gelatin in food, while several cases in southwestern Guizhou province involved the use of counterfeit and low-quality salt.—Reuters

TESTING STEM CELLS IN TINIEST HEARTS TO FIGHT BIRTH DEFECT

BALTIMORE: The 4-month-old on the operating table has a shocking birth defect, nearly half his heart too small or even missing. To save him, surgeons will have to totally reroute how his blood flows, a drastic treatment that doesn't always work. So this time they are going a step further. In a bold experiment, doctors injected donated stem cells directly into the healthy side of Josue Salinas Salgado's little heart, aiming to boost its pumping power as it compensates for what's missing. It's one of the first attempts in the US to test if stem cells that seem to help heart attack survivors repair cardiac muscle might help these tiniest heart patients, too.

"We think the young heart is able to be more responsive," said Dr. Sunjay Kaushal, chief of pediatric cardiac surgery at the University of Maryland Medical Center, who is leading the study in partnership with University of Miami researchers. Kaushal bent over the baby's right ventricle, the part of the heart that will take over for the abnormal left side. The surgeon had repaired as much as possible for now. Next he measured where to place eight shots of precious stem cells. Then the bustling operating room went silent as Kaushal helped fellow surgeon Dr. Si M. Pham guide tiny needles into the ventricle's muscle.

"We're not saying we're going to cure it," Kaushal said of the birth defect, called hypo plastic left heart syndrome. But, "my whole quest is to see if we can make these little kids do better." Josue's parents knew there was no guarantee the experimental injections would make a difference. But their son had been hospitalized since birth and needed open-heart surgery anyway for a chance to go home. Teary-eyed, they clasped hands and prayed over Josue's crib moments before nurses wheeled him to the operating room. "We are marching ahead with God," said Josue's father, Hidelberto Salinas Ramos, speaking in Spanish through a hospital interpreter. Nearly 1,000 babies are born with hypo plastic left heart syndrome in the US each year.

Underlying problem

It's the most complex cardiac birth defect. Josue is missing his left ventricle, the main pumping chamber that pushes oxygen-rich blood to the body. Other key structures on his heart's left side are too small or malformed to work. Always lethal until a few decades ago, this defect now is treated with three open-heart surgeries performed between birth and age 3. Doctors route blood around the abnormal left heart and they convert the right ventricle which normally would shuttle oxygen-poor blood to the lungs - into the main pumping chamber. Today, about 65 percent survive at least five years, and many reach adulthood, said Dr. Kristin Burns, a pediatric cardiologist at the National Institutes of Health.

But too many children still die or require a heart transplant because the right ventricle wears out under its increased workload. That's why doctors are conducting this early-stage study of whether stems cells might help that ventricle work better. "This is very different than a surgical approach or giving a medicine just to treat the symptoms. This is trying to treat the underlying problem," said Burns, of NIH's National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute. "I know you're really nervous," Kaushal told Josue's father, placing a hand on his shoulder. "Everything is going to be fine." Just 4 months old, Josue was undergoing his second openheart surgery.

The first operation, a day after his birth, was a temporary fix to keep his heart pumping and create an aorta, the main artery leading to the body, big enough for blood to flow. While he babbled happily at his family and nurses, Josue never got strong enough to be discharged to his Edgewater, Maryland, home. This time, Kaushal would take pressure off Josue's right ventricle - and inject those stem cells. Even in adults, stem cell regeneration is highly experimental. But small studies involving heart attack survivors and older adults with heart failure have found what Dr. Denis Buxton, a stem cell specialist at NIH's heart institute, calls a modest benefit in how well their hearts pump blood.

Long safety record

For testing in babies, Kaushal turned to Dr. Joshua Hare at the University of Miami's Interdisciplinary Stem Cell Institute, who researches a specific type of stem cell donated from the bone marrow of healthy adults. Hare's institute freezes these so-called mesenchymal stem cells, which have a long safety record in adult studies, and is providing them free for the baby study. Initially, Kaushal's team tested piglets, whose hearts are similar to humans. When the right ventricle was damaged, they found stem cell injections preserved the piglets' heart tissue. Apparently the cells spurred some of the heart's existing repair mechanisms.

Back in the Baltimore operating room, University of Miami researchers helped Kaushal's nurses thaw the frozen stem cells and prepare injections. A few feet away, Kaushal was moving a large vein so it will drain deoxygenated blood from the top of Josue's body straight to his lungs without having to enter that overworked right ventricle. (When he's 3, Josue will need a final operation to similarly reroute blood returning from his lower body.) Then, just before his chest was stitched back up, Josue became the second baby with this defect to receive the experimental bone marrow stem cells. It's an early-stage study that will compare 30 babies, half given stem cells, to see if the strategy is safe and shows any difference over surgery alone. If so, it could open stem cell research for other pediatric heart problems. Other types of stem cells also are being explored for hypo plastic left heart syndrome. Mayo Clinic researchers have tested stem cells taken from affected babies' umbilical cord blood. Kaushal also plans to try stem cells from affected newborns' own heart tissue, something researchers in Japan are pursuing. It will take several years to know if stem cell experiments work. But, like many babies after their second surgery for the heart defect, Josue bounced back - and a week later, finally got to go home.—AP

EBOLA: PROFILE OF A PROLIFIC KILLER

PARIS: A fact file on the deadly Ebola virus, against which the World Health Organization said Friday a prototype vaccine could be "up to 100 percent effective".

To

The worst-ever Ebola outbreak started in December 2013 in southern Guinea before spreading to two neighboring west African countries, Liberia and Sierra Leone. That outbreak killed more than 11,300 people out of nearly 29,000 registered cases, according to WHO estimates. The real figure might be significantly higher, however. More than 99 percent of victims were in the three nations-more than 4,800 in Liberia. more than 2,500 dead in Guinea, and more than 3,900 in Sierra Leone. The WHO declared the epidemic over in January this year, but this was followed by flare-ups in all three countries. Liberia said it was Ebolafree in June, prompting the WHO to declare the official end of the outbreak.

Origins

Ebola was first identified in central Africa in 1976. The tropical virus was named after a river in the Democratic Republic of Congo-then known as Zaire. Four of the virus species are known to cause disease in humans-Zaire, Sudan, Bundibugyo and Tai Forest. The West African outbreak was caused by a variant, called Makona, of the Zaire species which has historically been the most deadly in humans. Before the recent West African outbreak, Ebola had

killed about 1,700 people in four decades.

Transmission

The virus' natural reservoir animal is probably the bat, which does not itself fall ill, but can pass the germ on to humans who hunt it for "bush meat." Other dinnertime favorites in parts of Africa-chimpanzees, gorillas, monkeys, forest antelope and porcupines-are also suspected of transmitting Ebola. Among humans, the virus is passed on by contact with the blood, body fluids, secretions or organs of an infected or recently deceased person. This can include touching a sick or dead person, and likely also sexual intercourse. Those infected do not become contagious until symptoms appear. They become more and more contagious until just after their death, which poses great risks during funerals.

Symptoms

Following an incubation period of between two and 21 days, Ebola develops into a high fever, weakness, intense muscle and joint pain, headaches and a sore throat. That is often followed by vomiting and diarrhea, skin eruptions, kidney and liver failure, and internal and external bleeding.

After-effects

After effects have often been observed in survivors, including arthritis, problems with vision, eye inflammation and hearing difficulties.—AFP

HEALTH & SCIENCE

BITE THE DUST: MEEK DINOSAUR LOST ITS TEETH

WASHINGTON: A modest little dinosaur that scampered across northwestern China 160 million years ago boasted a unique trait not seen in any other dinosaur or other prehistoric creature yet unearthed: it was born with teeth but became toothless by adulthood. Scientists on Thursday said fossils of 19 individuals of a dinosaur called Limusaurus, ranging in age from under a year to 10 years, showed that juveniles had small, sharp teeth but adults developed a toothless beak.

This cluster of dinosaurs, found in Xinjiang Province, apparently became hopelessly trapped in a mud pit and died. Only rarely have scientists found fossils of a dinosaur species ranging from babies to adults, a sequence revealing various anatomical changes that unfold as an animal matures. Limusaurus was a lightly built two-legged dinosaur with short arms and long, slender legs. It may have had downlike feathers covering at least part of its

body. The largest ones were about 6 feet long (under 2 meters).

"It probably looked something like an emu with a long tail," said George Washington University paleontologist Joey Stiegler, one of the researchers in the study published in the journal Current Biology. Such tooth loss is called ontogenetic edentulism. Some animals alive today have it, including the egg-laying Australian mammal the platypus. The adult Limusaurus individuals also were found with stones called gastroliths that some plant-eating dinosaurs swallowed to grind up plant material in the stomach. The babies lacked these.

The tooth loss and gastroliths indicate Limusaurus underwent a dramatic dietary change from birth to adulthood, starting life perhaps eating insects and small vertebrates before later turning to plants. Limusaurus is a member of the theropod dinosaur group within which birds evolved.—Reuters

ENDANGERED PUGET SOUND ORCA FOUND DEAD OFF CANADIAN COAST

SEATTLE: Scientists say an orca found dead off the coast of British Columbia belongs to the endangered population of killer whales that spend time in Washington state waters. Center for Whale Research scientist Ken Balcomb said Thursday that he and others have confirmed the whale was an 18-year-old male called J-34. They based the identification on photographs and its unique markings.

The orca was seen floating near the totals 79 animals. —AP

shore Tuesday near Sechelt, about 40 miles northwest of Vancouver. The whale was towed to a beach, and Canadian officials performed a necropsy Wednesday.

The center is awaiting those results for a cause of death. Balcomb said in a statement that at least four members of the J pod, one of three families of southern resident killer whales, have died this year. The population now totals 79 animals —AP



MARYLAND: This file photo shows the Food and Drug Administration campus in Silver Spring, Maryland. —AP

FDA OKS FIRST TREATMENT FOR RARE GENETIC DISORDER

WASHINGTON: The Food and Drug Administration on Friday approved the first treatment for children and adults with spinal muscular atrophy, a rare genetic disorder marked by progressive muscle weakness that's the most common genetic cause of death in infants. The agency that it approved the drug, Spinraza, after granting it fast-track status. It was developed by Ionis Pharmaceuticals Inc. of Carlsbad, California, and Biogen Inc. of Cambridge, Massachusetts. Biogen will market it. The organization Cure SMA says spinal muscular atrophy affects about 1 in 10,000 babies, and about 1 in every 50 Americans is a genetic carrier.

The FDA noted the disorder, which affects the motor nerve cells in the spinal cord, can impact people of any age. Its symptoms and rate of progression also vary. Spinraza is injected into the fluid surrounding the spinal cord. Biogen said that in a clinical study, the drug brought about "meaningful improvement in motor function compared to untreated study participants." With the FDA approval, Ionis will receive a \$60 million milestone payment. It's also in line for royalties on Spinraza sales. It shares rose \$3.69, or 7 percent, to \$57.10 in after-market trading following the announcement of the drug's approval. Biogen rose \$9.47, or 3.3 percent, to \$297.—AP

BANGKOK: This handout shows an infant orangutan at an animal clinic rescued during a sting operation in Bangkok. —AFP

BABY ORANGUTANS RESCUED IN THAI POLICE STING

BANGKOK: Thai police rescued two baby orangutans in a sting operation after undercover officers arranged to buy the primates over a mobile phone messaging app from wildlife traffickers for nearly \$20,000, officials said. An anonymous tip alerted police to an online advertisement for the endangered animals, who are less than one year old and the size of infants. Police then posed as interested buyers and contacted the seller over WhatsApp, according to deputy national park director Adisorn Noochdumrong. "They agreed to buy the two orangutans for 700,000 baht (\$19,400)

and transferred a 100,000 baht down payment to a bank account that belongs to a Thai man," he told AFP.

The undercover officers arranged to pick up the baby apes outside a Bangkok supermarket on December 21, where the orangefurred creatures were delivered by a city taxi driver. The driver was arrested but cleared after authorities determined he was not part of the smuggling gang, according to wildlife police officer Anothorn Srithongbai. "As far as the real trafficker goes, that's still under investigation," he added. Orangutans are native to Malaysia and Indonesia but they are often

illegally smuggled throughout Southeast Asia, either for private zoos or as pets.

Thailand has long served as a transit hub for contraband wildlife products bound for major markets like Vietnam and China. Counter-trafficking organization Freeland, which assisted with the orangutan rescue, said the attempted sale was linked to a "major regional criminal syndicate" involved in the lucrative illegal wildlife trade. Social media has become an integral tool for such gangs to set up sales, said Matthew Pritchett from Freeland. "This case is one link in a much larger chain," he added. —AFP

CANINE PASSENGER GETS LOOSE, SHOT DEAD ON SOUTH KOREA RUNWAY

SEOUL, South Korea: A South Korean airport official said yesterday that airport staff shot and killed a dog belonging to a Thai Airways passenger after it got loose before being boarded onto a plane and ran onto a busy runway. An official from Incheon Airport said that the response on Monday was standard procedure and inevitable because the dog could have threatened the safety of aircraft and passengers. The official said the dog belonged to a passenger who was boarding a flight from Seoul to Bangkok. He couldn't confirm whether the dog's owner filed a complaint with airport management. "It seemed that airline workers didn't properly close the dog's cage, allowing it to escape just before being boarded," said the airport official, who didn't want to be named, citing office rules. "Our staff first ran after the dog trying to capture it, but they couldn't. The dog had to be shot to prevent it from causing a serious safety accident."—AP

BIRD FLU INFECTS SEVEN IN CHINA, KILLING TWO

en cases of bird flu in humans across the country this month, including two deaths, as authorities take steps to guard against an outbreak. Five cases of H7N9 bird flu infections have been diagnosed in central Anhui province since Dec 8, and two people have died, state media reported. In Shanghai, officials said this week that a man was diagnosed with H7N9 and is being treated in a city hospital. Another case has been reported in Xiamen in coastal Fujian province, where poultry sales have been halted.

In rural Jinzhai county in Anhui

province, local officials on Thursday announced a two-week closure of a meat market after a shopkeeper was diagnosed with H7N9. The provincial government also issued a warning on social media urging residents to avoid buying and slaughtering live chickens themselves. A major H7N9 bird flu outbreak in humans first struck China in March 2013, killing more than 40 people and devastating the poultry industry. The strain is less virulent than the H5N1 strain that the World Health Organization says has killed more than 370 people.—AP



Kuwait - Times
248 33 199





ICSK AMMAN EMERGES AS WINNERS

CSK Amman students once again showcased their best talents to bring laurels to the school, during the Indian Schools' Mega Arts Fest 2016 organized among more than 20 Indian schools in Kuwait. The festival of arts was conducted on December 1 and 2 at 5 various stages in ICSK which included more than 80 events in 5 different categories. In this spectacular event the 'Champions Trophy' for Category 3 was procured by ICSK Amman, with commendable scores in oth-

er 3 categories. The winners were honored by the Oscar Award winner, Padmashree Dr. Rasool Pookutty, in the presence of the Ambassador of India to Kuwait, Shri Sunil Jain along with the honorable board members of ICSK. The evening was blessed with a live concert by music maestro Stephan Devassy. This remarkable achievement was made possible because of the continuous support and encouragement of our staff, students and parents community.







CANADIAN EMBASSY AND CANADIAN BUSINESS COUNCIL CELEBRATE HOLIDAY SEASON

mbassy of Canada and
Canadian Business Council CBC celebrated Holiday
Season on December 6. Addressing
the gathering, Her Excellency
Martine Moreau wished season's
greetings and expressed gratitude
to fellow local business community
members for joining this evening.
Her Excellency also appreciated the
role played by the CBC in promoting trade relations between Kuwait

and Canada. Ishtiaq Malik,
President of the CBC, welcomed the
gathering and thanked Canadians,
Kuwaitis and others for attending
this event.

CBC President also thanked the Ambassador of Canada to Kuwait, Her Excellency Martine Moreau for hosting this event and for the support and cooperation extended by the Canadian Embassy to CBC. Malik thanked CBC board members

Dr. Christian Awaraji, Mr. Basil Toutoungi, Dr. David McHardy, Dr. Andrew Gillam and Dr. Jacinthe Lemay for keeping Canadian Business Council connected and active in Kuwait. Special thanks were extended to Tammy Ames-Counsellor (Commercial) at the Embassy of Canada for her support to CBC. The attendees enjoyed the evening and discussed mutual business matters.





















BDO HOSTS SEMINAR AT J W MARRIOTT

BOO (Al Nisf & Partners), the fifth member and Kuwait's Member Firm of BDO International, recently hosted a seminar at the J W Marriott about international standards of fiscal reports. The activity also

included a one-day workshop presented by Lebanon's BDO office's executive partner, Antoine Gholam and manager, Rita Rizq in addition to Abdullah Farahat, a partner at Kuwait BDO office.



FAM PRESENTS LIGHT AND SOUND SHOW 'SANTA REDEEMER'

raternity of Arabian Malayalis
(FAM) presents a light and sound
extravaganza 'Santa Redeemer'
harnessing the possibilities of light
and sound in Kuwait on December 26,
2016 for the first time in Gulf. The
show will be presented on the 12 specially designed stages with approximately 35 eye-catching scenes on the
open auditorium of the Central School
at Abbassiya. Two shows are proposed
every day at 6 PM and 8 PM till the
30th of December.

This show is staged by 150 well accomplished artists and musicians

which will tickle the senses of every spectator and stand out as an unforgettable cultural intervention of the expatriates in Kuwait, claimed the office-bearers during a press conference. 'Santa Redeemer', with the support of three months of rehearsals by dedicated artistes is expected to attract thousands of spectators during the five days of presentation. The skillful and talented Babu Battery has done the scripting and direction. The associate director is Johney Kunnil.

Artist Sujathan does the art direction. Costumes are by designer

Pujappura Sasi, sound effects by state award winner Praveen, music direction by Mustafa Amabdy. The background score is by Udayan Anchal and Manoj Mavelikkara. The office-bearers of Kuwait sounded confident that the show would be major success with the full cooperation and support of the public. The office-bearers who addressed the press conference included Rev Fr Binoy Kochukarikkathil, Babuji Batheri, George Chacko, Artist Sujathan, Shaji George, Rajan Thottathil, Sunil Paul and Biju George.





Relax, renew and ring in 2017 at Marina Hotel Kuwait

rom a New Year's Eve reception and dinner to rejuvenating accommodation package, Marina Hotel Kuwait is offering unique experiences for guests to welcome 2017. When guests choose to ring in the New Year at Marina Hotel, they will have more

to celebrate than the passing of another year. The Hotel offers the perfect venue for New Year's Eve and New Year celebratory fun with your family, friends and loved ones under the twinkling lights and the cool breeze of the Arabian coast.

At Marina Hotel Kuwait each distinctive restaurant, unique in its culinary mastery, will enchant guests with specially-designed menus amid an atmosphere of good cheer and company. What better way than to start the first day of the year with your loved ones

through a delectable selection of special treats and surprises for the entire family at a delightful international lunch buffet at the Atlantis restaurant. Delight yourself in a lavish experience and visit Marina Hotel Kuwait for the fun and festivities.





atch the New Year unfold at Zafran amidst a live band performance and award winning food. Zafran invites families and friends to enjoy its wide range of deliciously crafted north-west Indian classics all made from fresh, high quality ingredients and seasoned with home-ground spices. Located at Light Complex, Mahboula and led by a team of highly skilled and experienced chefs, the New Year's Eve menu is diverse for those in love with the tastes of Indian cuisine. Zafran focuses on a cuisine with subtle and complex flavors, yet light on the stomach. Guests can choose from a range of delicious tandoori kebabs and enjoy the taste of the restaurants award winning biriyani and butter chicken, all bursting with authentic flavors. The meal is perfectly complimented with homemade pickles and preserves and a range of signature drinks and desserts with its own Zafran twist. Whether guests choose to dine in the relaxed indoor ambience of the restaurant or opt to revel in the festivity at its stunning terrace, Zafran will certainly set the mood for a definitive New Year's celebration.

Zafran's interiors are stylish with its main signature element of the venue being the 'wow' kitchen,

where guests are able to watch Chefs prepare their food right before their eyes. Zafran's menu is crafted with care and promises to delight its guest with the best of Indian cuisine capturing delicious and unforgettable flavors of the region. Countdown to New Year 2017 while enjoying scrumptious offerings from tandoori kebabs and wholesome curries to regional favorites such as laal Maas and Rogan Josh, fragrant biryani and signature dishes like aloo tikki and Butter chicken, enjoy an array of savory delights with heartwarming ambience and service at exceptional value.













Higher officials, diplomats, cross section of the Russian community, religious leaders and media persons sign the condolence book for the slain ambassador of Russia in Turkey at the embassy. Many people sent their condolence messages through email and social media over the weekend.

OVIN MOVIES

02:30 Mine Games 04:15 Jesse Stone: Lost In Paradise 06:00 The Machine 08:00 The Last Survivors 10:00 Last Knights 12:00 Swelter 14:00 Seventh Son 16:00 The Machine 18:00 Last Knights 20:00 Nick Of Time

22:00 Wolf Creek 2

00:15 Duplicity

00:50 Gator Boys 01:45 Ten Deadliest Snakes With Nigel

Marven 02:40 The Beauty Of Snakes 03:35 Ten Deadliest Snakes 04:25 Ten Deadliest Snakes

05:15 Ten Deadliest Snakes 06:02 Ten Deadliest Snakes With Nigel Marven 06:49 River Monsters

07:36 Swamp Brothers 08:00 Swamp Brothers 08:25 Dr. Dee: Alaska Vet 09:15 Tanked 10:10 Wildest Islands Of Indonesia

11:05 Lone Star Law 12:00 Life On Earth: A New Prehistory 12:55 Bondi Vet 13:20 Bondi Vet 13:50 Mutant Planet

14:45 Biggest And Baddest 15:40 Biggest And Baddest 16:35 Venom Hunter 17:30 Man, Cheetah, Wild 18:25 Man, Cheetah, Wild

23:55 Gator Boys

19:20 Tanked 20:15 Dr. Jeff: Rocky Mountain Vet 21:10 Wildest Islands Of Indonesia 22:05 Dr. Dee: Alaska Vet 23:00 Tanked

crime &investigation

00:00 Bill Cosby: The Women Speak 01:00 The Haunting Of...

02:00 | Was Possessed 03:00 The Body Detective 04:00 Bill Cosby: The Women Speak 21:30 Lip Sync Battle Holiday Special 22:18 Broad City

22:42 Tosh.0 23:05 Ugly Americans 23:30 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah

Discovery 00:30 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?

01:20 What Could Possibly Go Wrong? 02:10 World's Toughest Jobs 03:00 World's Toughest Jobs 03:50 Ultimate Survival 04:40 Ultimate Survival 05:30 Ultimate Survival 06:20 How It's Made 06:40 How It's Made

07:00 Kenny The Shark 07:25 Kenny The Shark 07:50 Awesome Adventures 08:15 Awesome Adventures 08:40 How It's Made 09:05 How It's Made 09:30 How It's Made

09:55 How It's Made 10:20 How It's Made 10:45 How It's Made 11:10 How It's Made 11:35 How It's Made 12:00 How It's Made 12:25 How It's Made

12:50 How It's Made 13:15 How It's Made 13:40 How It's Made 14:05 How It's Made 14:30 How It's Made 14:55 How It's Made 15:20 How It's Made 15:45 How It's Made 16:10 Ultimate Survival 17:00 What Could Possibly Go Wrong? 17:50 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?

18:40 Troy 19:30 Dogs: The Untold Story How The Earth Works 21:10 Mystery Of The Lost Catacombs 22:00 Destroyed In Seconds 22:25 Destroyed In Seconds 22:50 Destroyed In Seconds 23:15 Destroyed In Seconds

23:40 Destroyed In Seconds

00:40 The Haunted 01:30 A Crime To Remember 02:20 A Crime To Remember 03:10 A Crime To Remember

14:15 Backstage 14:40 Duck The Halls: A Very Mickey

Christmas 15:05 Bizaardvark 15:30 Dog With A Blog 15:55 Dog With A Blog

16:20 Stuck In The Middle 16:45 Best Friends Whenever 17:10 Elena Of Avalor 17:35 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir 18:00 The Next Step

18:25 Jessie's Aloha-Holidays With Parker And Joey 19:15 Bob's Broken Sleigh 20:05 Duck The Halls: A Very Mickey

20:30 Elena Of Avalor 20:55 Best Friends Whenever 21:20 Jessie 21:45 Jessie 22:10 Jessie

22:35 H2O: Just Add Water

23:00 Binny And The Ghost

23:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage

23:25 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage

00:00 Doc McStuffins 00:30 Minnie's Bow-Toons 00:35 Zou 00:50 Loopdidoo 01:05 Art Attack

01:30 Henry Hugglemonster 01:45 Calimero 02:00 Zou 02:15 Loopdidoo 02:30 Art Attack 03:00 Calimero 03:15 Zou

03:30 Loopdidoo 03:45 Art Attack 04:10 Henry Hugglemonster 04:25 Calimero 04:45 Loopdidoo

05:00 Art Attack 05:25 Henry Hugglemonster 05:35 Calimero 05:50 Zou 06:00 Loopdidoo 06:15 Art Attack

06:35 Henry Hugglemonster 06:50 Calimero 07:00 Zou 07:20 Loopdidoo 07:35 Art Attack

08:00 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse 08:25 Mickey's Pirate Adventure



CAITY LOTZ DENIS LAWSON





"SLICK AND INTENSE"

THE MACHINE ON OSN MOVIES ACTION

05:00 The Haunting Of... 06:00 I Was Possessed 07:00 Fred Dinenage: Murder Casebook Fred Dinenage: Murder Casebook Beyond Scared Straight 10:00 Deadly Wives 11:00 Deadly Wives 12:00 Deadly Wives 13:00 Deadly Wives 14:00 Deadly Wives 15:00 Deadly Wives 16:00 Deadly Wives 17:00 Deadly Wives 18:00 Deadly Wives 19:00 It Takes A Killer 19:30 It Takes A Killer 20:00 It Takes A Killer 20:30 It Takes A Killer 21:00 It Takes A Killer 21:30 It Takes A Killer

22:00 It Takes A Killer 22:30 It Takes A Killer 23:00 The Killing Of Jonbenet: Her Father Speaks

CENTRAL () ADAMOD

00:00 Al Madrigal: Why Is The Rabbit Crying

00:50 Chappelle's Show 01:15 Tosh.0 01:40 The Daily Show - Global Edition 02:05 Tosh.0 02:30 Broad City 03:00 Workaholics 03:25 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol

04:15 Key And Peele Impractical Jokers 05:05 Ridiculousness 05:30 Framework 06:20 Lip Sync Battle 07:15 Disorderly Conduct: Video On

Impractical Jokers 08:30 Ridiculousness 08:55 Tosh.0 09:20 Key And Peele 09:45 Workaholics 10:10 The It Crowd

Ridiculousness 11:00 Framework 11:50 Lip Sync Battle

12:15 Workaholics 12:40 The It Crowd 13:05 Disorderly Conduct: Video On 13:55 Ridiculousness

14:20 Lip Sync Battle Holiday Special15:10 The Jim Gaffigan Show 15:35 Ridiculousness 16:00 Impractical Jokers 16:30 Workaholics

16:55 Tosh.0 17:25 Workaholics 17:50 Lip Sync Battle Holiday Special 18:39 The It Crowd 19:04 Framework

19:50 The Jim Gaffigan Show 20:13 Key And Peele 20:37 Ridiculousness 21:00 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah 04:00 A Crime To Remember 04:48 Beauty Queen Murders 05:36 Beauty Queen Murders 06:24 Beauty Queen Murders

TOBY STEPHENS

07:12 Beauty Queen Murders 08:00 I Almost Got Away With It 08:50 I Almost Got Away With It 09:40 I Almost Got Away With It 10:30 I Almost Got Away With It

11:20 I Almost Got Away With It 12:10 Who On Earth Did I Marry? 12:35 Who On Earth Did I Marry? 13:00 I'd Kill For You 13:50 I'd Kill For You 14:40 I'd Kill For You

15:30 I'd Kill For You 16:20 I'd Kill For You 17:10 Dead On Arrival

18:00 California Investigator 18:25 California Investigator 18:50 California Investigator 19:15 California Investigator California Investigator

20:05 California Investigator 20:30 California Investigator 20:55 California Investigator 21:20 California Investigator 21:45 California Investigator 22:10 Vanity Fair Confidential

23:00 Unravelled 23:50 Killer Instinct With Chris Hansen

00:10 Hank Zipzer

00:35 Binny And The Ghost 01:00 Violetta 01:45 The Hive 01:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage

02:15 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch 02:40 Hank Zipzer 03:05 Binny And The Ghost 04:15 The Hive 04:20 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage

Witch 04:45 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch Hank Zipzer 05:35 Binny And The Ghost 06:00 Violetta 06:45 The Hive

06:50 Mouk 07:00 Dog With A Blog 07:25 Dog With A Blog 07:50 Tsum Tsum Shorts 07:55 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And

Cat Noir 08:20 Elena Of Avalor 08:45 Star Darlings 08:50 Liv And Maddie 09:15 Jessie 09:40 Jessie 10:05 Jessie 10:30 Cloud 9 12:10 Liv And Maddie

12:35 Liv And Maddie

13:00 Liv And Maddie

13:25 Liv And Maddie

13:50 Liv And Maddie

09:15 Doc McStuffins Toy Hospital 09:45 Doc McStuffins Toy Hospital 10:10 Doc McStuffins Toy Hospital 10:40 Sofia The First: The Floating Palace 11:35 The Lion Guard 12:05 The Lion Guard 12:30 The Lion Guard

13:00 Sofia The First

13:30 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse 13:55 Jake And The Never Land Pirates 14:25 Doc McStuffins 14:50 The Lion Guard 15:20 Sofia The First

15:50 Jake's Never Land Rescue 16:40 PJ Masks 17:05 PJ Masks 17:35 PJ Masks

18:00 The Adventures Of The Disney 18:30 Goldie & Bear 18:55 Jake And The Never Land Pirates 19:25 Unbungalievable 19:30 Little Mermaid

20:00 PJ Masks 20:30 Sofia The First 21:00 Sofia The First: The Curse Of Princess Ivy 22:00 Miles From Tomorrow 22:30 Miles From Tomorrow

23:00 Miles From Tomorrow 23:30 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse Discoverv CHANNEL

00:20 Wheels That Fail 00:45 Fast N' Loud 01:35 Fast N' Loud 02:25 Fast N' Loud 03:15 Fast N' Loud 04:05 Fast N' Loud Clip Shows 05:00 Fast N' Loud Clip Shows 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? 10:35 Salvage Hunters 11:25 Marooned With Ed Stafford 12:15 The Return Of The Monster Mako 13:05 How Do They Do It? 13:30 Storage Hunters UK 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

20:10 Storage Hunters UK 20:35 The Liquidator 21:00 Mega Trains 21:50 Toucan Nation 22:40 Free Ride 23:30 Cuban Chrome



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 K.C. Undercover 09:25 Lab Rats 09:50 K.C. Undercover 10:20 Lab Rats 10:45 K.C. Undercover 11:10 Lab Rats

11:35 K.C. Undercover 12:00 Teen Beach Movie 13:45 Lab Rats 14:10 Disney Mickey Mouse 14:15 K.C. Undercover

14:40 Counterfeit Cat 14:50 Star vs The Forces Of Evil 15:05 K.C. Undercover 15:30 Atomic Puppet 15:55 Lab Rats 16:25 Danger Mouse16:50 Star Wars Rebels 17:15 Future-Worm!

17:40 Star Wars Freemaker Adventures 18:10 Duck The Halls: A Very Mickey Christmas 18:35 Teen Beach 2 20:05 Counterfeit Cat 20:20 Star Wars Rebels

20:45 Mighty Med 21:10 Pickle And Peanut 21:40 Disney Mickey Mouse 21:45 Guardians Of The Galaxy 22:10 Ultimate Spider-Man 22:35 Boyster

23:00 Programmes Start At 6:00am KSA



00:00 12 Chefs Of Christmas 00:30 12 Chefs Of Christmas 01:00 12 Chefs Of Christmas 01:30 Siba's Festive Table

02:00 Holiday Baking Championship 03:00 Holiday Baking Championship 04:00 Holiday Baking Championship 05:00 Holiday Baking Championship 06:00 Chopped 07:00 Guy's Grocery Games

08:00 The Kitchen 09:00 12 Chefs Of Christmas 09:30 12 Chefs Of Christmas 12 Chefs Of Christmas 10:30 12 Chefs Of Christmas 11:00 12 Chefs Of Christmas 11:30 12 Chefs Of Christmas

12:00 Holiday Baking Championship 13:00 Holiday Baking Championship 14:00 Holiday Baking Championship 15:00 Holiday Baking Championship 16:00 Cooking Christmas With Matt And Lisa

16:30 Cooking Christmas With Matt And Lisa 17:00 Cooking Christmas With Matt And 17:30 Cooking Christmas With Matt And

18:00 Cooking Christmas With Matt And 18:30 Spicy Christmas With Thomasina

19:00 Siba's Festive Table 19:30 Jodie Prenger's Christmas Feast 20:00 Chopped 21:00 Denise Van Outen's Christmas 21:30 Denise Van Outen's Christmas 22:00 Denise Van Outen's Christmas 22:30 12 Chefs Of Christmas



23:00 12 Chefs Of Christmas

23:30 12 Chefs Of Christmas

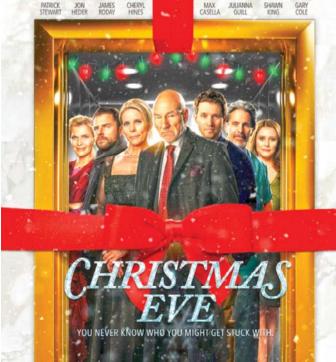
00:10 Coronation Street 00:35 Coronation Street 01:00 5 Star Family Reunion 01:50 Gino's Hidden Italy 02:15 Coronation Street

02:40 Coronation Street 03:05 Coronation Street 03:30 Coronation Street 03:55 Coronation Street 04:15 Cash Trapped 05:05 The Jonathan Ross Show 06:00 The Jonathan Ross Show 06:50 Paul O'Grady: For The Love Of Dogs At Christmas 15

07:45 Jericho 08:40 Royal Stories 09:05 Royal Stories 09:30 The Doctor Blake Mysteries10:30 Gino's Hidden Italy

10:55 A Merry Murdoch Christmas 12:25 Broadchurch 13:15 Broadchurch

14:05 Paul O'Grady: For The Love Of Dogs At Christmas 15



STMAS EVET JUN HEDER JAMES ROBBY CHERYL HINES Hauser Jun Christian Davis (Steve & Lee

CHRISTMAS EVE ON OSN MOVIES HD

15:00 5 Star Family Reunion 15:55 Grantchester Christmas Special 17:25 Big Star's Little Star Christmas Special

18:15 The Jonathan Ross Show 19:05 Paul O'Grady: For The Love Of Dogs At Christmas 15 20:00 5 Star Family Reunion 20:55 Grantchester Christmas Special

00:00 The Universe

01:00 The Universe 02:00 The Universe 03:00 The Universe 03:50 The Universe 04:40 The Universe 05:30 The Universe 06:20 America's Book Of Secrets 07:10 The Universe 08:00 The Universe

22:25 Broadchurch

09:00 The Universe 10:00 The Universe 11:00 The Universe 12:00 The Universe 13:00 The Universe 14:00 The Universe 15:00 The Universe 16:00 The Universe 17:00 The Universe 18:00 The Universe 19:00 Monster Quest 20:00 In Search Of Aliens

> 22:00 The Universe: Ancient Mysteries 23:00 Roanoke: Search For The Lost Colony

21:00 Engineering Disasters



05:00 Time Team 06:00 Swamp People 06:50 Ax Men 07:40 Ice Road Truckers 08:30 Storage Wars Texas 08:55 Counting Cars

09:20 Counting Cars 09:45 Shipping Wars 10:10 Shipping Wars 10:35 Counting Cars: Best Of 11:00 Storage Wars 11:25 Storage Wars 11:50 Storage Wars 12:15 Storage Wars

12:40 Storage Wars 13:05 Storage Wars 13:30 Storage Wars 13:55 Storage Wars 14:20 Storage Wars 14:45 Storage Wars 15:10 Storage Wars 15:35 Storage Wars 16:00 Storage Wars 16:25 Storage Wars 16:50 Storage Wars 17:15 Storage Wars 17:40 Swamp People 18:30 Time Team

19:20 American Pickers 20:10 Pawn Stars 20:35 Pawn Stars 21:00 Pawn Stars 21:25 Pawn Stars Pawn Stars A 22:15 Pawn Stars Australia 22:40 Storage Wars Christmas Special

23:30 Barbarians Rising

00:15 Louie

00:22 Louie 00:30 Fresh Beat Band Of Spies 00:53 Olive The Ostrich 01:03 Max & Ruby 01:26 Wanda And The Alien 01:37 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom 01:48 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom 02:00 Blaze And The Monster Machines 02:22 Blaze And The Monster Machines

02:45 Zack & Quack 03:05 Team Umizoomi 03:28 Louie 03:35 Louie 03:42 Louie

03:48 Paw Patrol 03:58 Paw Patrol 04:23 Paw Patrol 04:46 Paw Patrol 05:10 Olive The Ostrich 05:19 Wanda And The Alien

18:38 Blaze And The Monster Machines 19:00 Paw Patrol 19:13 Paw Patrol 19:36 Dora The Explorer 20:00 Wanda And The Alien

20:11 Zack & Quack 20:22 Dora And Friends: Into The City! 20:46 Blaze And The Monster Machines 21:10 Paw Patrol 21:35 Shimmer And Shine 21:58 Dora The Explorer 22:21 Paw Patrol

05:53 Dora And Friends

07:36 Dora The Explorer

09:10 Dora The Explorer

09:58 Dora The Explorer

10:45 Little Charmers

10:57 Bubble Guppies

11:40 Zack & Quack

12:15 Louie

12:22 Louie

11:52 Team Umizoomi

12:53 Olive The Ostrich

14:45 Zack & Quack

15:28 Louie

15:35 Louie

15:42 Louie

15:48 Paw Patrol

15:58 Paw Patrol

16:23 Paw Patrol

16:46 Paw Patrol

17:10 Olive The Ostrich

17:30 Dora And Friends

17:53 Dora And Friends

17:19 Wanda And The Alien

18:16 Blaze And The Monster Machines

15:05 Team Umizoomi

13:03 Max & Ruby 13:26 Wanda And The Alien

11:20 Fresh Beat Band Of Spies

12:30 Fresh Beat Band Of Spies

13:37 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom

13:48 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom

14:00 Blaze And The Monster Machines

14:22 Blaze And The Monster Machines

10:21 Paw Patrol

08:11 Zack & Quack

08:00 Wanda And The Alien

08:22 Dora And Friends: Into The City!

08:46 Blaze And The Monster Machines

07:00 Paw Patrol

07:13 Paw Patrol

22:45 Little Charmers 22:57 Bubble Guppies 23:20 Fresh Beat Band Of Spies 23:40 Zack & Quack

23:52 Team Umizoomi **MOVIES**

DRAMA 01:00 Cas & Dylan 02:45 The Reluctant Fundamentalist 05:00 Healing 07:00 No God No Master

11:00 Cas & Dylan 13:00 Stranded 15:00 A Mother Betrayed 17:00 Grand Central 19:00 October Gale 21:00 The World Made Straight

09:00 Grand Central

23:00 Wildlike

OM FIRST HD COMEDY

00:30 Happy Endings 01:00 Happy Endings 01:30 Saturday Night Live 03:00 2 Broke Girls 03:30 Baby Daddy 04:00 Better With You 04:30 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon

05:30 10 Items Or Less 06:00 My Big Fat Greek Life Living With Fran 07:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers 08:00 Better With You 08:30 10 Items Or Less 09:00 2 Broke Girls 09:30 Truth Be Told 10:00 Dr. Ken 10:30 Living With Fran

11:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon 12:00 My Big Fat Greek Life 12:30 Better With You 13:00 10 Items Or Less 13:30 Living With Fran 14:00 Baby Daddy 14:30 Truth Be Told 15:00 Dr. Ken 15:30 Happy Endings 16:00 Happy Endings 16:30 My Big Fat Greek Life 17:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers

18:00 Last Man Standing 18:30 Baby Daddy 19:00 Truth Be Told 19:30 Dr. Ken 20:00 Two And A Half Men 20:30 Superstore 21:00 Happy Endings

21:30 Happy Endings

22:00

RACHEL CHRISTOPHER SAMBERG GLOVER

PLAZA SIMMONS HADER PORTER

THE TO DO LIST ON OSN MOVIES COMEDY HD U5:30 Dora And Friends

22:30 veep 23:00 The Detour 06:16 Blaze And The Monster Machines 23:30 Two And A Half Men 06:38 Blaze And The Monster Machines

OJA FIRST HID

00:00 The Last Kingdom 01:00 Better Call Saul 02:00 Better Call Saul 03:00 Grimm 04:00 Stitchers 05:00 Good Morning America - Weekend

06:00 Prison Break 07:00 The Amazing Race 08:00 Castle 09:00 Stitchers 10:00 Prison Break

11:00 The Art Of More 12:00 Shark Tank 13:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show 14:00 The Amazing Race 15:00 Stitchers

16:00 Live Good Morning America -Weekend 17:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show 18:00 Castle 19:00 Chicago Med

20:00 This Is Us

21:00 The Catch

22:00 The Catch

OM MOVIES HID FAMILY

01:00 Hotel For Dogs 03:00 Earth To Echo 05:00 Charlotte's Web 07:00 Snow Day

09:00 One Christmas Eve 11:00 Charlotte's Web 13:00 Get Santa

15:00 Frozen 17:00 Alone For Christmas 19:00 Santa's Little Helper

21:00 Christmas Trade 23:00 Frozen OM MOVIES HID

01:00 A Royal Night Out 03:00 Before We Go 05:00 The Last 5 Years

07:00 Christmas Eve 09:00 Everest 11:00 Love The Coopers 13:00 Far From The Madding Crowd

15:00 Daddy's Home 17:00 Ricki And The Flash 19:00 A Merry Christmas Miracle 21:00 Jurassic World

23:15 Star Wars: The Force Awakens **OM** MOVIES HID

COMEDY

UU:UU Tales UT Halloween 02:00 Confessions Of A Shopaholic 04:00 The Butcher's Wife 06:00 Under The Tuscan Sun 08:00 A Lot Like Love

10:00 The Butcher's Wife 12:00 Confessions Of A Shopaholic 14:00 Vampire Dog 16:00 A Lot Like Love

18:00 Just Married

20:00 The To Do List

22:00 A Night At The Roxbury **ON** MOVIES **FESTIVAL**

00:45 Mood Indigo 03:00 The Fugitive 05:15 The Railway Man 07:15 Neil Young: Heart Of Gold 09:00 Jack Strong

11:15 Mood Indigo 13:30 Middle Of Nowhere 15:15 Ordinary People 17:15 Jack Strong 19:30 A Walk Among The Tombstones

21:30 Murder By Numbers 23:30 Primal Fear

MOVIES HD **KIDS**

01:15 Mamma Moo And Crow 02:45 Worms 04:30 The Adventures Of Don Quixote

08:00 The Three Dogateers 10:00 Snow Queen 11:45 Elf: Buddy's Musical Christmas 13:00 The Three Dogateers 15:00 The Nutcracker Sweet

06:00 Savva

16:45 Elf: Buddy's Musical Christmas 18:00 Snow Queen

20:00 Jingle All The Wav 2 22:00 The Nutcracker Sweet

23:45 Elf: Buddy's Musical Christmas



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Kuwait Times

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2016



KNCC PROGRAMME FROM THURSDAY TO WEDNESDAY (22/12/2016 TO 28/12/2016)

CHADOLA 1				AL AAA AAAA AL KUOUDDALIAAA AL WALIFU AL HACCAN	11.45 DM
SHARQIA-1	12.15 DM	FANAD 3		AL MAA WA AL KHOUDRAH WA AL WAJEH AL HASSAN	11:45 PM
SING	12:15 PM	FANAR-2	44 45 444	AVENUES 2	
SING	2:30 PM	SING	11:45 AM	AVENUES-2	
SING	4:45 PM	SING-3D	2:00 PM	PASSENGERS -3D-4DX	12:00 PM
SING	7:00 PM	SING	4:15 PM	MOANA -3D- 4DX	2:45 PM
PASSENGERS	9:15 PM	SING	6:30 PM	MOANA -3D- 4DX	5:15 PM
PASSENGERS	11:45 PM	ROGUE ONE:A STAR WARS STORY	8:45 PM	PASSENGERS -3D- 4DX	7:45 PM
		ROGUE ONE:A STAR WARS STORY	11:30 PM	PASSENGERS -3D- 4DX	10:15 PM
SHARQIA-2				PASSENGERS -3D- 4DX	12:45 AM
PASSENGERS	12:30 PM	FANAR-3			
PASSENGERS	3:00 PM	ROGUE ONE:A STAR WARS STORY	12:45 PM	AVENUES-3	
MOANA	5:30 PM	13 DAYS	3:30 PM	SING	11:30 AM
PASSENGERS	8:00 PM	ROGUE ONE:A STAR WARS STORY	5:30 PM	DANGAL-Hindi	1:45 PM
PASSENGERS	10:30 PM	13 DAYS	8:15 PM	DANGAL-Hindi	5:00 PM
PASSENGERS	1:00 AM	COLLATERAL BEAUTY	10:30 PM	DANGAL-HINDI	
PASSENGERS	1:00 AW				8:15 PM
		13 DAYS	12:45 AM	DANGAL-Hindi	11:30 PM
SHARQIA-3					
DANGAL-Hindi	12:45 PM	FANAR-4		AVENUES-4	
MOANA	4:00 PM	PASSENGERS	12:00 PM	DANGAL-Hindi	11:30 AM
DANGAL-Hindi	6:15 PM	PASSENGERS	2:30 PM	ROGUE ONE:A STAR WARS STORY	2:45 PM
ROGUE ONE:A STAR WARS STORY	9:30 PM	PASSENGERS	5:00 PM	DANGAL-Hindi	5:30 PM
PASSENGERS	12:15 AM	PASSENGERS	7:30 PM	NOTHU	
		PASSENGERS	10:00 PM	Special Show "THE GIRL WITH ALL THE GIFTS"	5:30 PM
MUHALAB-1		PASSENGERS	12:30 AM	THU	
MOANA	1:00 PM			DANGAL-Hindi	8:45 PM
THU+SAT	1.001111	FANAR-5		ROGUE ONE:A STAR WARS STORY	12:05 AM
PASSENGERS	1:00 PM	MOANA	11:30 AM	HOGOE ONE, A STAIL WAILS STORY	12.03 AW
NOTHU+FRI+SAT	1.00 FW	DANGAL-Hindi	2:00 PM	AVENUES-5	
	2.20 DM				12.45 DM
MOANA	3:30 PM	DANGAL-Hindi	5:15 PM	PASSENGERS PASSENGERS AND PASSENGERS	12:45 PM
DANGAL-Hindi	6:00 PM	DANGAL-Hindi	8:30 PM	PASSENGERS -3D	3:15 PM
DANGAL-Hindi	9:15 PM	DANGAL-Hindi	11:45 PM	SING	5:45 PM
PASSENGERS	12:45 AM			PASSENGERS	8:00 PM
		MARINA-1		PASSENGERS	10:30 PM
MUHALAB-2		ROGUE ONE:A STAR WARS STORY	12:30 PM	PASSENGERS	1:00 AM
SING	11:30 AM	MOANA	3:30 PM		
SING	1:45 PM	MOANA	6:00 PM	AVENUES-6	
SING	4:00 PM	AL MAA WA AL KHOUDRAH WA AL WAJEH AL HASSAN	8:15 PM	PASSENGERS	12:15 PM
SING	6:15 PM	PASSENGERS	10:30 PM	PASSENGERS	2:30 PM
ROGUE ONE:A STAR WARS STORY	8:30 PM	PASSENGERS	1:00 AM	PASSENGERS	5:00 PM
DANGAL-Hindi	11:15 PM			PASSENGERS	7:30 PM
DANGALTING	11.1511	MARINA-2		PASSENGERS	10:00 PM
MUHALAB-3		SING	12:45 PM	PASSENGERS	12:30 AM
PASSENGERS	11.20 444	SING	3:00 PM	FASSENGERS	12.30 AIVI
PASSENGERS PASSENGERS	11:30 AM	SING		AVENUEC 7	
	2:00 PM		5:15 PM	AVENUES-7	11.45 004
PASSENGERS THE FOLLOW	4:30 PM	SING	7:30 PM	MOANA	11:45 AM
THU+FRI+SAT		ROGUE ONE:A STAR WARS STORY	9:45 PM	MOANA	2:00 PM
MOANA	4:30 PM	ROGUE ONE:A STAR WARS STORY	12:30 AM	THE GIRL WITH ALL THE GIFTS	4:30 PM
NOTHU+FRI+SAT				THE GIRL WITH ALL THE GIFTS	9:30 PM
PASSENGERS	7:00 PM	MARINA-3		THE GIRL WITH ALL THE GIFTS	12:05 AM
PASSENGERS	9:30 PM	PASSENGERS	11:30 AM		
PASSENGERS	12:05 AM	PASSENGERS	1:45 PM	AVENUES-8	
		PASSENGERS	4:15 PM	13 DAYS	11:30 AM
FANAR-1		PASSENGERS	6:45 PM	SING	1:30 PM
MOANA	12:15 PM	PASSENGERS	9:15 PM	SING	3:45 PM
THU+SAT	12.13.111	PASSENGERS	11:45 PM	13 DAYS	6:15 PM
COLLATERAL BEAUTY	12:15 PM	MOSERCEIO	LIMITOR	13 DAYS	8:15 PM
NO THU+FRI+SAT	12.13 FIVI	AVENUES-1		13 DAYS	10:30 PM
	2.45 DM		12.20 044		
MOANA	2:45 PM	COLLATERAL BEAUTY	12:30 PM	13 DAYS	12:45 AM
MOANA	5:15 PM	SING	2:45 PM	AVENUES O	
AL MAA WA AL KHOUDRAH WA AL WAJEH AL HASSAN	7:45 PM	TAHT ALTARABEZA	5:00 PM	AVENUES-9	
AL MAA WA AL KHOUDRAH WA AL WAJEH AL HASSAN	10:00 PM	al maa wa al khoudrah wa al wajeh al hassan	7:15 PM	MOANA	1:00 PM
COLLATERAL BEAUTY	12:15 AM	al maa wa al khoudrah wa al wajeh al hassan	9:30 PM	MOANA	3:30 PM

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PRAYER TIMINGS

Fajr: 05:15 Shorook 06:40 Duhr: 11:48 Asr: 14:38 Maghrib: 16:56 Isha: 18:19

14:10

14:15

Flight Schedule

OMA

UAE

645

857

Muscat

Dubai

15:35

15:45

THY

KAC

773

285

Arrival Flights on Sunday 25/12/2016

Route

Airlines

Directorate General of Civil Aviation Home Page (www.kuwait-airport.com.kw)

02:25

02:25

AXB

UAE

DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

Istanbul

Dhaka

	rit	noute	iiiie	UAE	857	Dubai	15:45	KAC	285	Dhaka	02:25	UAE	8/2	Dubai	14:15
KAC	776	Riyadh	00:20	ABY	127	Sharjah	15:50	ETH	621	Addis Ababa	03:05	KAC	693	Muscat	14:30
JZR	267	Beirut	00:30	KAC	154	Istanbul	15:55	MSC	406	Sohag	03:30	KAC	561	Amman	15:00
	539	Cairo	00:40	JZR	534							KAC	673		
						Cairo	16:10	PGT	859	Istanbul	03:35				15:00
	772		00:55	QTR	1072	Doha	16:10	UAE	854	Dubai	03:45	FDB	060	Dubai	15:05
KAC	102	London	00:55	KAC	788	Jeddah	16:20	KKK	6505	Istanbul	03:55	KAC	785	Jeddah	15:15
KAC	742	Dammam	01:00	FDB	051	Dubai	16:25	OMA	644	Muscat	03:55	GFA	222		15:25
	642		01:05	JZR	787	Riyadh	16:25	THY	765	Istanbul	04:00	QTR	1079		15:40
QTR	1086	Doha	01:15	KAC	522	Al Najaf	16:35	ETD	306	Abu Dhabi	04:10	SVA	501	Jeddah	15:45
THY	764	Istanbul	01:50	RJA	640	Amman	16:55	MSR	613	Cairo	04:10	KNE	530	Jeddah	15:55
PGT	858	Istanbul	02:00	KAC	792	Madinah	16:55	QTR	1077	Doha	04:40	KAC	1543		16:00
	555	Alexandria	02:05	KAC	118	New York	17:00	KAC	103	London	04:45	JZR	554	Alexandria	16:10
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	02:05	SVA	510	Riyadh	17:15	PGT	861	Istanbul	04:55	ETD	304	Abu Dhabi	16:20
MSC	405	Sohag	02:30	GFA	215	Bahrain	17:30	CEB	0019	Manila	05:20	KAC	357	Kochi	16:20
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:30	JZR	777	Jeddah	17:45	QTR	1087	Doha	05:50	ABY	128		16:30
	853	Dubai	02:30	UAE	875	Dubai	18:00	JZR	560	Sohag	06:05	OMA	646		16:35
QTR	8511	Doha	05:45	FDB	063	Dubai	18:10	FDB	070	Dubai	06:30	KAC	675	Dubai	17:00
THY	770	Istanbul	05:55	KAC	502	Beirut	18:20	CLX	732	Hong Kong	06:45	JZR	266	Beirut	17:05
KAC	384	Delhi	06:05	JZR	177	Dubai	18:20	KAC	153	Istanbul	06:50	JZR	240		17:15
	206	Islamabad	06:20	MSR	620	Cairo	18:30		771	Istanbul	06:50	FDB	052	Dubai	17:25
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	06:25	QTR	1080	Doha	18:50	JZR	164	Dubai	06:55	KAC	363	Colombo	17:40
BAW	157	London	06:40	ABY	123	Sharjah	19:25	RJA	643	Amman	07:05	QTR	1073		17:40
FDB	5061	Dubai	07:15	GFA	217	Bahrain	19:30	KAC	171	Frankfurt	07:05				
												JZR	538		17:45
	053		07:45	JZR	483	Istanbul	19:35	KAC	541	Cairo	07:15	UAE	858	Dubai	17:45
KAC	302	Mumbai	08:20	KAC	674	Dubai	19:45	GFA	212	Bahrain	07:15	RJA	641	Amman	17:55
SYR	341	Damascus	08:40	FDB	057	Dubai	19:50	QTR	8512	Doha	07:15	KAC			
	855	Dubai	08:40	KAC	104	London	19:50		773	Riyadh	07:30		331		18:00
		Delhi								•		KAC	353	BLR	18:15
	382		08:45	KAC	694	Muscat	20:00	FDB	5062	Dubai	07:55	SVA	511	Riyadh	18:15
	362	Colombo	09:05	OMA	647	Muscat	20:10	KAC	617	Doha	08:00	GFA	216		18:20
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:05	QTR	1088	Doha	20:35	KAC	563	Amman	08:00				
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	09:05	KAC	562	Amman	20:40	KAC	679	Dubai	08:10	JZR	184		18:40
	352	Kochi	09:10	MSR								FDB	064	Dubai	19:05
					606	Luxor	20:45	BAW	156	London	08:55	JZR	124	Bahrain	19:15
-	1070	Doha	09:30	KAC	172	Frankfurt	20:45	FDB	054	Dubai	08:55	MSR	621		19:30
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	FDB	5053	Dubai	20:50	KAC	743	Dammam	09:00				
IRA	665	Shiraz	09:40	JAI	572	Mumbai	20:55	JZR	535	Cairo	09:15	UAE	876	Dubai	19:30
	512	Riyadh	10:00	KAC	786	Jeddah	21:15	SYR	342	Damascus	09:40	QTR	1081	Doha	19:50
												ABY	124		20:05
		Ahwaz	10:05	ETD	307	Abu Dhabi	21:20	ABY	126	Sharjah	09:45				
MSC	415	Sohag	10:15	MEA	402	Beirut	21:20	KAC	101	London	09:45	GFA	218		20:15
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	ALK	229	Colombo	21:25	KAC	787	Jeddah	09:55	KAC	383	Delhi	20:30
KAC	774	Riyadh	11:05	UAE	859	Dubai	21:40		787	Jeddah	09:55	FDB	058	Dubai	20:35
	403	,										KAC	775		20:45
		Asyut	11:15	KAC	676	Dubai	21:45	KAC	501	Beirut	10:00			•	
JZR	165	Dubai	11:30	GFA	219	Bahrain	21:45	KAC	671	Dubai	10:05	OMA	648	Muscat	21:10
KAC	618	Doha	11:50	QTR	1082	Doha	22:00	ETD	302	Abu Dhabi	10:10	KAC	205	Islamabad	21:25
MEA	404		11:55	JZR	125	Bahrain	22:05		613	Bahrain	10:10	QTR	1089		21:35
	744	Dammam	12:10												
				KLM	417	Amsterdam	22:05	KAC	661	Abu Dhabi	10:35	MSR	619	Alexandria	21:45
	701	Damascus	12:30	ETD	309	Abu Dhabi	22:15	FDB	056	Dubai	10:35	KAC	741	Dammam	21:45
JZR	561	Sohag	12:40	AIC	981	Chennai/Ahmedabad	22:25	JZR	482	Istanbul	10:35	DHX	171	Bahrain	21:50
FDB	075	Dubai	12:50	JZR	241	Amman	22:45	QTR	1071	Doha	10:40	FDB	5054		21:50
	871	Dubai	12:50	JZR	185	Dubai	23:15	IRA	664	Shiraz	10:40				
												JAI	571	Mumbai	21:55
	680	Dubai	12:55	JZR	555D	Alexandria	23:20	SVA	513	Riyadh	11:00	KAC	351	Kochi	22:00
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00	KAC	156	Istanbul	23:25	IRC	529	Ahwaz	11:05	KAC	783	Jeddah	22:10
AXB	393	Kozhikode	13:10	KAC	1544	Cairo	23:30	MSC	416	Sohag	11:15	ETD			
KAC	614	Bahrain	13:30	PIA	205	Lahore	23:40		214	Bahrain	11:25		308		22:15
												KAC	413	Bangkok	22:15
	564	Amman	13:40	FDB	071	Dubai	23:45		791	Madinah	12:05	MEA	403	Beirut	22:20
	1078	Doha	14:10	JAI	574	Mumbai	23:50	KAC	791	Madinah	12:05	ALK	230	Colombo	22:25
FDB	059	Dubai	14:20	BBC	043	Dhaka	23:55	MSC	404	Asyut	12:15				
SVA	500	Jeddah	14:30					KAC	521	Al Najaf	12:50	GFA	220		22:30
	221	Bahrain	14:40		enarture Fligh	ts on Sunday 25/12/2016						KAC	301	Mumbai	22:45
				Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	MEA	405	Beirut	12:55	KAC	381	Delhi	22:45
	542	Cairo	14:45					JZR	786	Riyadh	13:10	JZR	502		22:55
KAC	672	Dubai	14:50	AIC	988	Hyderabad/Chennai	00:05	SAW	702	Damascus	13:30				
KNE	529	Jeddah	14:55	KAC	513	Tehran	00:10	JZR	176	Dubai	13:45	UAE	860		22:55
KAC	662	Abu Dhabi	15:05	FDB	072	Dubai	00:40	KAC	155	Istanbul	13:50	KLM	417	Dammam/Amsterdam	23:05
				JAI	573	Mumbai	00:50					ETD	310	Abu Dhabi	23:05
	303	Abu Dhabi	15:15						611	Cairo	14:00				
KAC	286	Dhaka	15:20	KAC	417	Manila	02:00	FDB	076	Dubai	14:05	QTR	1083	Doha	23:20

CROSSWORD 1471

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9	10		11	12	13	14
15	T	T	T		16	1	T	1	1	1		17	T	T	†
18	\top	T	\top	г		19	\top	T	T	T		20	\top	T	†
21	\top	\top	\top		22		\top	\top	\top		23		\top	\top	†
			24	25		T		26	1	27		T			t
28	29	30	1		T	1			31	T	1	T			
32	\top	T		33	T	\top		34		T	\top		35	36	37
38	T	T	39			40	41			42	1	43	1	T	T
44	T	T	T	\top	45		46	T	47	1		48	T	T	T
49	T	T	T	T	T		50	T	T	T		51		T	†
52	T	T	T		53	54	1				55	T	T		
			56	57	T	T			58	59		T		60	61
62	63	64	1	\top	\top	\top	65		66	\top		67	68		T
69		T	T	T		70	T	71		T	72		73	T	T
74	\top	\top		75	76		\top	\top	\top	T	T		77	\top	T
78	T			79	T	\top	\top		1	\top	1		80	\top	†

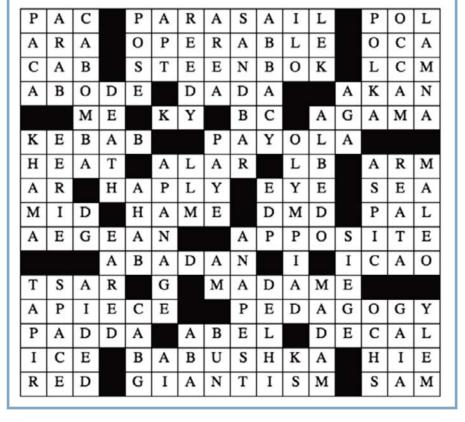
ACROSS

- 1. Thin fibrous bark of the paper mulberry and Pipturus albidus.
- 5. On a ship, train, plane or other vehicle.
- 11. Not reflecting light.
- 15. South American armadillo with three bands of bony plates.
- 16. An overwhelming feeling of fear and anxi-
- 17. An independent ruler or chieftain (especially in Africa or Arabia).
- 18. Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
- 19. Affectedly dramatic.
- 20. God of love and erotic desire.
- 21. An Arabic speaking person who lives in Arabia or North Africa.
- 24. The United Nations agency concerned with atomic energy.
- 26. Pronounce with a lowered velum.
- 28. A capacitance unit equal to one billion
- 31. (Babylonian) God of wisdom and agricul-
- ture and patron of scribes and schools. 32. Relating to or characteristic of or occurring
- on the sea or ships. 33. A sweetened beverage of diluted fruit
- juice.
- 38. A Portuguese province on the south coast of China and two islands in the South China Sea.
- 40. A nucleic acid consisting of large molecules shaped like a double helix.
- 42. Traveling on horseback. 44. Give expression to.
- 46. (Islam) The man who leads prayers in a
- 48. A city of central China.
- 49. Load anew with ammunition, "She
- reloaded the gun carefully 50. A beautiful and graceful girl.
- 51. An account describing incidents or events.
- 52. (Greek mythology) Greek god of war.
- 53. A federal agency established to coordinate programs aimed at reducing pollution and protecting the environment. 56. Informal terms for a mother.
- 58. An open vessel with a handle and a spout for pouring.
- 62. Pig-sized tailless South American amphibious rodent with partly webbed feet.
- 66. Functioning correctly and ready for action. 67. Type genus of the Alcidae comprising sole-
- ly the razorbill.
- 69. A religious belief of African origin involving witchcraft and sorcery.
- 70. A city in South Vietnam. 73. (prefix) Opposite or opposing or neutraliz-
- 74. The seat within a bishop's diocese where his cathedral is located adv.
- 75. Over the side of a boat.
- 77. Japanese ornamental tree with fragrant white or pink blossoms and small yellow
- 78. A lipoprotein that transports cholesterol in the blood.
- 79. (botany) Having stalked flowers along an elongated stem that continue to open in succession from below as the stem continues to grow.
- 80. A rapid bustling commotion.

DOWN

- 1. The basic unit of money in Bangladesh. 2. Someone who copies the words or behavior
- of another. 3. A metabolic acid found in yeast and liver
- 4. A peninsula between the Red Sea and the
- Persian Gulf. 5. A highly unstable radioactive element (the
- heaviest of the halogen series).
- 6. Having had the head cut off. 7. Toward the mouth or oral region.
- 8. German hero.
- 9. A member of a nomadic people originating in northern India and now living on all continents.
- 10. Free from liquid or moisture.
- 11. A mountain in the Himalayas in Nepal (27,790 feet high).
- 12. Italian violin maker in Cremona. 13. The circumstances and ideas of the present
- 14. Relating to or used in or intended for trade
- or commerce. 22. A small ball with a hole through the mid-
- 23. A region of Malaysia in northeastern
- 25. A river that rises in northern Colombia and flows generally eastward to the Orinoco in central Venezuela.
- 27. Highly seasoned fatty sausage of pork and beef usually dried.
- 29. The soft brown fur of the beaver.
- 30. Arrived at without due care or effort. 34. Stable gear consisting of either of two
- curved supports that are attached to the collar of a draft horse and that hold the
- 35. A male religious of an order of mendicant preachers of the gospel.
- 36. A male monarch or emperor (especially of Russia prior to 1917).
- 37. English Quaker who founded the colony of Pennsylvania (1644-1718).
- 39. Absence of the sense of smell (as by damage to olfactory nasal tissue or the olfactory nerve or by obstruction of the nasal
- 41. Monotypic genus of palms of Australasia. 43. Ruddy duck.
- 45. Swelling from excessive accumulation of serous fluid in tissue.
- 47. A chord whose notes are played in rapid succession rather than simultaneously.
- 54. A unit of astronomical length based on the distance from Earth at which stellar parallax is 1 second of arc.
- 55. A light strong brittle gray toxic bivalent metallic element.
- 57. Find repugnant.
- 59. Concerning or dwelling or situated in a wood.
- 60. (of complexion) Blemished by imperfections of the skin.
- 61. The relative magnitudes of two quantities (usually expressed as a quotient).
- 63. In bed.
- 64. British politician (1788-1850). 65. A river in north central Switzerland that
- runs northeast into the Rhine. 68. A Tibetan or Mongolian priest of Lamaism.
- 71. A belief (or system of beliefs) accepted as authoritative by some group or school.
- 72. (meaning literally `born') Used to indicate the maiden or family name of a married
- woman.
- 76. A state in the eastern United States.

Yesterday's Solution



STAR TRACK

Aries (March 21-April 19)

With your kind of discipline you are able to accomplish quite a lot this day. When it comes to the people you work with, you appreciate what is aboveboard and straightforward and have a particular distaste for anything that is secretive, intense and private. Today you may want to verbalize your disdain but perhaps it would be best to wait a few days. Give as little time to the negative as possible. It may turn out that things are not what they seem. A former business associate may contact you today and you may want to listen to what he or she has to say. After work, you may enjoy shopping. Everything is like a winter type of festival. You can purchase a gift for a birthday or wedding such as baked goods, pottery, sterling silver, etc.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

There may be a tiny lazy streak wanting to surface today which could cause you to ignore your responsibilities and do some socializing. However, reality has a way of rearing its head and getting your attention. You may not be up to your regular work this day but it-takes-what-it-takes. With resolve, you are successful in your endeavors. Before you know it, all the clues point to the exit . . . It is time to go home. After your struggle to do the very best job for your company, you may find yourself bartering with family members for a little time out tonight. You may barter to join the people that have planned a particular outing later this evening-napping first. You might not want to stay at the party for too long. For now, you have been mentally refreshed.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

We seldom recapture the past but a friend of yours may say they know just how to return to the days of the past. As it turns out, there may be a new exhibit or play or antique store in town that you didn't know about. Plan a trip to see this exhibit after work; you will be glad you did. You benefit from allowing your creative and intuitive sides to come forth as you work on an art project this evening. A new mailbox, the family crest or some other fun project has you making a list of all the things you need to show off your talents. You may find a good opportunity to draw closer to a young family member-art is the connection. A loved one really understands your need to be creative and is supportive of your rather fascinating interests.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

A co-worker shares a cooking secret and you are impressed. People have been bringing different items to work all winter and it just may be time you thought of something that others could enjoy, particularly a low-fat item. A business idea is discussed with a friend or ride-share person after work and the proposition may not be a good one. You can find a way to say no without seeming offended. This evening you are ready to enjoy a gathering of friends. In fact, your friends may have some good use for some of your talents, or it could be that in sharing talents, you will uncover the potential for a future neighborhood choir or dance group. A camera would not be a bad idea and then at the next gathering a fun show and tell can bring much laughter.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

Cleaning off a desk at work reminds you of plans to rearrange living arrangements. Today you may reassess your attitude toward marriage. If you are engaged, you may add a few more months to the wedding date. A little extra time will help you think through some ideas. If you are already married, consider a redo on a room and plan to share. One area could be for reading; another section could have an easel set up for art projects. Provide a rather large area for storage of games, art project baskets, etc. You may want to sew or write or learn a new talent and not be interrupted. Perhaps this room can have reservations so that others can enjoy a little creative time or you could work together. A faithful friend brings you encouragement this evening.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

You need freedom and action. You are an optimist. You are open to new ideas. You go through the newspapers and news on the internet and feel ready for any conversation. Your job could depend on how well you can carry on a conversation with the public about current events. You stay up-to-date with the multitude of new technologies; you can teach and demonstrate and are always in demand as an instructor, whether it is in the school system or for helping businesses to prosper. You enjoy the learning process and can be contagious when it comes to teaching others. Lately you have considered writing a children's book where you can be encouraging. Some additional education in general psychology may be very helpful here.

WORD SEARCH

Baseball

Find and circle all of the Baseball words that are hidden in the grid The remaining letters spell a secret message - a Humphrey Bogart quotation

A	Н	В	Α	T	T	E	R	0	U	T	F	1	E	L	D	E	R	0	T	
Y	R	0	Т	1	R	R	E	T	L	U	0	F	R	E	Ν	Ν	U	R	D	
0	G	Н	E	А	E	В	D	R	А	0	В	E	R	0	C	S	Т	Т	G	
L	F	C	E	S	C	V	A	Ν	E	L	L	Α	В	E	٧	1	L	Н	R	
E	Α	T	М	0	Ν	R	1	S	U	D	E	L	L	Α	В	Y	L	F	0	
Α	1	Α	Α	٧	E	E	В	R	E	0	A	Н	C	Α	0	C	0	Α	U	
G	R	С	G	E	R	Т	F	S	D	Т	М	E	L	W	0	R	Н	Т	N	
U	Т	L	E	R	E	0	R	E	Н	E	Н	L	Н	Ν	F	R	P	Α	D	
E	E	L	1	S	F	U	В	1	D	0	Ν	G	0	E	E	R	F	K	В	
1	R	А	Т	L	R	C	U	G	P	S	R	1	1	D	L	0	В	L	A	
E	R	В	Т	1	E	Н	Ν	T	I	L	Т	Т	L	L	R	В	L	E	L	
P	1	D	Н	D	Т	1	Т	Ν	U	C	E	E	S	C	F	A	U	0	L	
E	Т	Α	C	E	Ν	R	F	М	U	D	1	P	E	Т	В	Ν	F	0	Ν	
Ν	0	Е	Т	Ν	1	1	P	R	G	F	Р	Ρ	L	L	0	F	1	W	D	
А	R	D	1	Т	Ε	1	Т	A	Ν	Т	L	1	U	А	Е	P	0	S	L	
L	Υ	Н	P	L	R	S	М	1	Α	Α	U	0	Т	Ν	Y	D	K	Т	Α	
T	Ν	S	D	E	В	Е	T	Е	Υ	A	F	0	S	C	Ν	K	L	R	E	
Y	Α	F	L	0	F	0	U	L	Т	1	P	E	G	U	Н	Α	Α	1	P	
Т	L	G	1	Ρ	1	٧	0	Т	F	0	0	Т	R	U	Т	Е	В	K	P	
1	10	_	14/			**	-			-	-					7		_		

YHEWRITFAIRBALLDZREA FAIR TERRITORY INTERFERENCE RETOUCH APPEAL FLY BALL FORCE PLAY LINE DRIVE BASE RUNNER FORFEITED GAME FOUL BALL LIVE BALL BATTER

CATCH FOUL TERRITORY GROUND BALL DEAD BALL IN FLIGHT DOUBLE HEADER INFIELD FLY DUGOUT FAIR BALL INFIELDER INNING

MOUND OBSTRUCTION OUTFIELDER PENALTY PITCHER PIVOT FOOT

SCOREBOARD STRIKE THROW TIE GAME TRIPLE PLAY UMPIRE WILD PITCH

Libra (September 23-October 22)

This morning is a good time to complete unfinished tasks. Whether you are in the workplace or at home, you seem to make great headway in getting things accomplished. You have to be pushy to get to the top of the professional ladder and if that is where your dreams are headed, this next year ought to be quite beneficial. Begin now to create some goals for this next year and while you work you could jot down a few thoughts as they come to you. This afternoon you may decide to enter into some game playing. A co-worker may want to get a team together. Some highly competitive games, such as one-on-one basketball, squash, handball, etc., can be a lot of fun. Much to your sweetheart's pleasure, you turn into a passionate lover tonight.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

You know you are on the right path in order to achieve what is needed and to put you in the best line of growth with the company for which you work. You want to learn as much as you can because one day, when you are ready, you will be able to create your own business. Don't sell yourself short with the creative talents that you have. Keep stretching and learning new things. The more varied you are with your capabilities; the more likely you are to keep your job going. A co-worker may need your help this day and this is a good time to work with that person and to teach that person the work. When you are agreeable and helpful, you are in line for advancement. Keep up the good work. You have a new and positive attitude about life and your place in it.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

Financial investments are important for the future but if there is something

you want now it would be difficult if your money is in financial investments. This is something you do not want to happen, although the energies show you a bit frustrated over money. You are smart enough to have set enough funds aside for a rainy day but you may have forgotten a fun day. Get some help soon so that in the near future, some of what you earn can be enjoyed through the development of a talent, a hobby or a vacation. Another subject about money comes up when the community wants to build a memorial or do helpful things for animals, etc. A planning committee may be just where your energies are best spent this evening.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

You could be feeling like trying to keep your life a bit more low-key at this time, staying at home more and spending increased time with loved ones and family. It's probably not the best of times to offer practical advice to others, or to try and make career or vocational type of decisions. Good vibes are present today that may move you to finding the old photograph album and showing off the family pictures. Genealogy research might be fun. Knowing that you are wanted and needed on a personal level is satisfying. If you are a writer, it is time to write the next chapter-people are waiting. If you are not a writer, you will soon be creating something that others will enjoy. Real property plays a big part in your life now-perhaps an inheritance.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

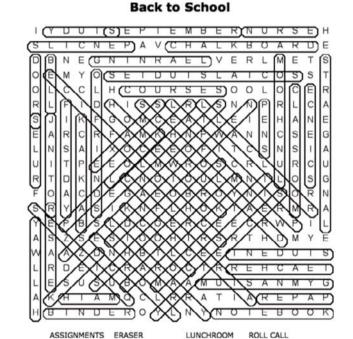
Your church or school may encourage the american field service www. Afs. Org. When the time is appropriate you can call or ask someone about the date and place for the next meeting or presentation. You can then learn the details of going to live with a family in another country for weeks, or months-or having an international student come and stay in your home. This is a way to reach out to other countries and learn more about the customs, beliefs and living habits of others and make new friends. We cannot have a one-world-at-peace until we know more about our brothers and sisters that are in other countries. This is a good time for you to check out the possibilities. You are in a good posi-



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

This day begins early and if you show up at the office early, it will allow you to take advantage of some quiet time to catch up on any unfinished projects. Clean up your space, make things look nice and then you are ready for the day. This afternoon you may have lots of fun catching up on a photo album. Calling a friend and talking about old friends brings back good memories and ideas for projects that would interest the young people around you. Creation consists of: thought, word and deed. Your day just keeps getting better and better. Chores are finished quickly this afternoon and a good movie can be enjoyed in the early evening. A friend of the opposite sex has good news to share and may need a little time to tell you all about it; patience.

Yesterday Solution



The hidden message is: I HAVE NEVER LET MY SCHOOLING INTERFERE WITH MY EDUCATION.

MATH

PENS

PRINCIPAL

QUIZZES

NEW FRIENDS NOTEBOOK

NURSE OLD FRIENDS

SCHOOL BUS SCHOOL OFFICE

SCHOOLYARD

SCIENCE

SECRETARY

STUDENT

STUDY TEACHER

BACKPACK

BATHROOM BELL

CAFETERIA

CHALKBOARD

CLASSROOM

COURSES

DESK

BINDER

EXAMS

FIRST DAY

HALLWAY

HOMEWORK

INTERCOM

LEARNING

LIBRARY

Daily SuDoku

				1	4		6	
		4		5				2
6	2							
6 7	3			6	9		2	1
		6				3		
4	9		5	2			7	8
							1	9
5				9		7		
	4		6	7				

Yesterday's Solution

8 5 6 5 3 8 2 6 9 5 3 9 6 8 4 9 3 5 8 6 3 8 4 9 6 9 3 5 4 6 8 5 8 9 6 4 3 2 6 5 9 8

For labor-related inquiries and complaints: **Call MSAL hotline 128**

Hospitals

Sabah Hospital	24812000
Amiri Hospital	22450005
Maternity Hospital	24843100
Mubarak Al-Kabir Hospital	25312700
Chest Hospital	24849400
Farwaniya Hospital	24892010
Adan Hospital	23940620
Ibn Sina Hospital	24840300
Al-Razi Hospital	24846000
Physiotherapy Hospital	24874330/9

Clinics

Cillics	
Kaizen center	25716707
Rawda	22517733
Adaliya	22517144
Khaldiya	24848075
Kaifan	24849807
Shamiya	24848913
Shuwaikh	24814507
Abdullah Salem	22549134
Nuzha	22526804
Industrial Shuwaikh	24814764
Qadsiya	22515088
Dasmah	22532265
Bneid Al-Gar	22531908
Shaab	22518752
Qibla	22459381
Ayoun Al-Qibla	22451082
Mirqab	22456536
Sharq	22465401
Salmiya	25746401
Jabriya	25316254
Maidan Hawally	25623444
Bayan	25388462
Mishref	25381200
W Hawally	22630786
Sabah	24810221
Jahra	24770319
New Jahra	24575755
West Jahra	24772608
South Jahra	24775066
North Jahra	24775992
North Jleeb	24311795
Ardhiya	24884079
Firdous	24892674
Omariya	24719048
N Khaitan	24710044
Fintas	23900322



PHARMACIES

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



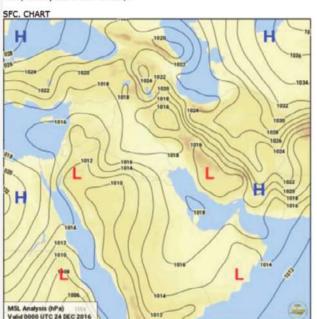
Tel: (+965) 161 Ext: 2627 - 2630 Fax: (+965) 24348714 www.met.gov.kw



Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours Issued 24/12/2016-07:00 LT UTC +3hr

Max Temperature 23 °C

By Day: Partly cloudy to cloudy with light to moderate north westerly to light variable wind, with speed of 06 - 28 km/h with a chance for scattered light rain later on By Night: Partly cloudy with light variable wind changing to light to moderate south easterly wind, with speed of 08 - 30 km/h



Four-Day	Forecast

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	
	*	*	*	*	
	4 . 4	AAAA	6 . 1		
Expected Weather	partly cloudy + scattered rain	partly cloudy + scattered rain	partly cloudy + scattered rain	partly cloudy + chance for drizzle	
Min Temp °C	10	11	09	09	
Max Temp °C	27	19	20	19	
Wind Direction	southerly to south easterly	northerly to north westerly	variable wind changing to light to moderate north westerly	northerly to north westerly	
Wind Speed km/h	15 - 40	15 - 40	08 - 28	15 - 40	

Warnings & Weather Watches no warnings or weather watches

Kuwait Forecast			
Station	MIN °C REC	Max °C EXP	
KUWAIT CITY	14	22	
KUWAIT AIRPORT	09	23	
ABDALY	09	22	
BUBYAN	09	21	
JAHRA	12	23	
FAILAKA ISLAND	10	19	
SALMIYAH	14	19	
AHMADI	15	19	
JAL ALIYAH	10	20	
QAROH ISLAND	17	19	
UMM AL-MARADEM	17	19	
NUWAISIB	11	21	
WAFRA	10	22	
MANAGISH	10	20	
SALMY	10	23	
MUTRIBA	09	22	

Recorded Yesterday at Kuw	ait Airport
Max Temp (°C)	21
Min Temp (°C)	09
Max Rel Hum (%)	71
Min Rel Hum (%)	22
Max Wind Speed (km/h) and Direction	25 N
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR	0 mm

Prayer Times	
Fajr	05:15
Sunrise	06:39
Zuhr	11:48
Asr	14:37
Sunset	16:56
Isha	18:18

ON 24 HRS DUTY

NTERNA CAL		
jhanistan	0093	Lithua
ania	00355	Luxem
jeria	00213	Macau
dorra	00376	Maced

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Afrikanistan	0000 =	Lithuania	00270
Afghanistan Albania	0093	Luxembourg	00370 00352
Algeria	00213	Macau	00853
Andorra	00376	Macedonia	00389
Angola Anguilla	00244	Madagascar Majorca	00261
Antiga	001268	Malawi	00265
Argentina	0054	Malaysia	0060
Armenia Australia	00374	Maldives Mali	00960
Australia	0061 0043	Malta	00223 00356
Azerbaijan	00994	Marshall Islands	00692
Bahamas	001242	Martinique	00596
Bahrain	00973	Mauritania Mauritius	00222
Bangladesh Barbados	00880 001246	Mayotte	00269
Belarus	00375	Mexico	0052
Belgium	0032	Micronesia	00691
Belize Benin	00501 00229	Moldova Monaco	00373
Bermuda	001441	Mongolia	00976
Bhutan	00975	Montserrat	001664
Bolivia	00591	Morocco	00212
Bosnia Botswana	00387	Mozambique Myanmar (Burma)	00258 0095
Brazil	0055	Namibia	00264
Brunei	00673	Nepal	00977
Bulgaria Burkina	00359	Netherlands Netherlands Antilles	0031
Burundi	00257	New Caledonia	00687
Cambodia	00855	New Zealand	0064
Cameroon	00237	Nicaragua	00505
Canada Cape Verde	001 00238	Nigar Nigeria	00227 00234
Cape verde Cayman Islands	00238	Niue	00234
Central African	00236	Norfolk Island	00672
Chile	00235	N. Ireland (UK)	0044
Chile China	0056 0086	North Korea Norway	00850 0047
Colombia	0057	Oman	00968
Comoros	00269	Pakistan	0092
Congo Cook Islands	00242 00682	Palau Panama	00680 00507
Costa Rica	00506	Papua New Guinea	00675
Croatia	00385	Paraguay	00595
Cuba	0053	Peru	0051
Cyprus (Northern)	00357	Philippines Poland	0063 0048
Czech Republic	00420	Portugal	00351
Denmark	0045	Puerto Rico	001787
Diego Garcia	00246	Qatar	00974
Djibouti Dominica	00253 001767	Romania Russian Federation	0040
Dominican Republic		Rwanda	00250
Ecuador	00593	Saint Helena	00290
Egypt El Salvador	0020 00503	Saint Kitts Saint Lucia	001869 001758
England (UK)	00303	Saint Pierre	00508
Equatorial Guinea	00240	Saint Vincent	001784
Eritrea	00291	Samoa US	00684
Estonia Ethiopia	00372 00251	Samoa West San Marino	00685 00378
Falkland Islands	00500	Sao Tome	00239
Faroe Islands	00298	Saudi Arabia	00966
Fiji Finland	00679	Scotland (UK) Senegal	0044 00221
France	0033	Seychelles	00284
French Guiana	00594	Sierra Leone	00232
French Polynesia Gabon	00689 00241	Singapore Slovakia	0065 00421
Gambia	00241	Slovenia	00386
Georgia	00995	Solomon Islands	00677
Germany	0049	Somalia	00252
Ghana Gibraltar	00233	South Africa South Korea	0027 0082
Greece	0030	Spain	0034
Greenland	00299	Sri Lanka	0094
Grenada Guadeloupe	001473 00590	Sudan Suriname	00249 00597
Guam	001671	Swaziland	00268
Guatemala	00502	Sweden	0046
Guinea Guyana	00224 00592	Switzerland Syria	0041 00963
Guyana Haiti	00592	Serbia Serbia	00381
Holland (Netherlands)		Taiwan	00886
Honduras	00504	Tanzania Theiland	00255
Hong Kong Hungary	00852 0036	Thailand Togo	0066 00228
Ibiza (Spain)	0034	Tonga	00228
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 Italy	00353	Ukraine United Arab Emirates	00380
Ivory Coast	0039	United Kingdom	00976
Jamaica	001876	Uruguay	00598
Japan	0081	USA	001
Jordan Kazakhstan	00962 007	Uzbekistan Vanuatu	00998 00678
Kazaknstan	007	Venezuela	00582
Kiribati	00686	Vietnam	0084
Kuwait	00965	Virgin Islands UK	001284
Kyrgyzstan Laos	00996 00856	Virgin Islands US Wales (UK)	001340 0044
Latvia	00371	Yemen	00967
Lebanon	00961	Yugoslavia	00381
1.11		7	0000
Liberia Libya	00231	Zambia Zimbabwe	00260
Liberia Libya Lesotho		Zambia Zimbabwe	00260 00263

PRIVATE CLINICS

All times are local time (GMT+3) unless otherwise stated

Ophthalmologists				
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			
Dr. Mahmoud Al-Booz General Practition				
General Practition Dr. Mohamme Y Majidi				
General Practition	ners			
General Practition Dr. Mohamme Y Majidi	ners 24555050 Ext 123			
General Practition Dr. Mohamme Y Majidi Dr. Yousef Al-Omar	24555050 Ext 123 24719312			
General Practition Dr. Mohamme Y Majidi Dr. Yousef Al-Omar Dr. Tarek Al-Mikhazeem	24555050 Ext 123 24719312 23926920 25730465			
General Practition Dr. Mohamme Y Majidi Dr. Yousef Al-Omar Dr. Tarek Al-Mikhazeem Dr. Kathem Maarafi	24555050 Ext 123 24719312 23926920 25730465			
General Practition Dr. Mohamme Y Majidi Dr. Yousef Al-Omar Dr. Tarek Al-Mikhazeem Dr. Kathem Maarafi Dr. Abdallah Ahmad Eyadah	24555050 Ext 123 24719312 23926920 25730465 25655528			
General Practition Dr. Mohamme Y Majidi Dr. Yousef Al-Omar Dr. Tarek Al-Mikhazeem Dr. Kathem Maarafi Dr. Abdallah Ahmad Eyadah Dr. Nabeel Al-Ayoobi	24555050 Ext 123 24719312 23926920 25730465 25655528 24577781			
General Practition Dr. Mohamme Y Majidi Dr. Yousef Al-Omar Dr. Tarek Al-Mikhazeem Dr. Kathem Maarafi Dr. Abdallah Ahmad Eyadah Dr. Nabeel Al-Ayoobi Dr. Dina Abidallah Al-Refae	24555050 Ext 123 24719312 23926920 25730465 25655528 24577781			
General Practition Dr. Mohamme Y Majidi Dr. Yousef Al-Omar Dr. Tarek Al-Mikhazeem Dr. Kathem Maarafi Dr. Abdallah Ahmad Eyadah Dr. Nabeel Al-Ayoobi Dr. Dina Abidallah Al-Refae Urologists	24555050 Ext 123 24719312 23926920 25730465 25655528 24577781 25333501			
General Practition Dr. Mohamme Y Majidi Dr. Yousef Al-Omar Dr. Tarek Al-Mikhazeem Dr. Kathem Maarafi Dr. Abdallah Ahmad Eyadah Dr. Nabeel Al-Ayoobi Dr. Dina Abidallah Al-Refae Urologists Dr. Ali Naser Al-Serfy	24555050 Ext 123 24719312 23926920 25730465 25655528 24577781 25333501 22641534 22639955			
General Practition Dr. Mohamme Y Majidi Dr. Yousef Al-Omar Dr. Tarek Al-Mikhazeem Dr. Kathem Maarafi Dr. Abdallah Ahmad Eyadah Dr. Nabeel Al-Ayoobi Dr. Dina Abidallah Al-Refae Urologists Dr. Ali Naser Al-Serfy Dr. Fawzi Taher Abul	24555050 Ext 123 24719312 23926920 25730465 25655528 24577781 25333501 22641534 22639955 ii 22616660			

Psychologists

/Psychotherapists

Plastic Surgeons					
Dr. Mohammad Al-Khalaf	22547272				
Dr. Abdal-Redha Lari	22617700				
Dr. Abdel Quttainah	25625030/60				
Family Doctor					
Dr Divya Damodar	23729596/23729581				
Psychiatrists					
Dr. Esam Al-Ansari	22635047				
Dr Eisa M. Al-Balhan	22613623/0				
Gynaecologists & Obstetricians					
DrAdrian arbe	23729596/23729581				
Dr. Verginia s.Marin	2572-6666 ext 8321				
Dr. Fozeya Ali Al-Qatan	22655539				
Dr. Majeda Khalefa Aliytam	i 25343406				
Dr. Ahmad Al-Khooly	25739272				
Dr. Salem soso	22618787				
General Surg	General Surgeons				
Dr. Amer Zawaz Al-Amer	22610044				
Dr. Mohammad Yousef Bash	ner 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				

info@soorcenter.com

25716707

Tel: 2290-1677

Fax: 2290 1688

Paediatricians Paediatricians		Endocrinologist	
Dr. Khaled Hamadi	25665898	Dr. Abd Al-Naser Al-Othman	25339330
Dr. Abd Al-Aziz Al-Rashed	25340300	Dr. ADU Al-Naser Al-Othman	25559550
Dr. Zahra Qabazard	25710444	Dr. Ahmad Al-Ansari 25658888	3
Dr. Sohail Qamar	22621099	Dr. Kamal Al-Shomr 25329924	ı
Dr. Snaa Maaroof	25713514		
Dr. Pradip Gujare	23713100	Physiotherapists	&VD
Dr. Zacharias Mathew	24334282	Dr. Deyaa Shehab 25722291	l
Dermatolog	Jy .	Dr. Musaed Faraj Khamees	22666288
Dr. Mohammed Salam Bern University	23845955	Rheumatologi	sts:
Dentists		Dr. Adel Al-Awadi 25330060)
Dr Anil Thomas	3729596/3729581	Dr. Khaled Al-Jarallah	25722200
Dr. Shamah Al-Matar	22641071/2	Dr. Knaled Al-Jaralian	25722290
Dr. Anesah Al-Rasheed	22562226	Internist, Chest &	Heart
Dr. Abidallah Al-Amer	22561444	DR.Mohammes Akkad	24555050 Ext 210
Dr. Faysal Al-Fozan	22619557	Dr. Mohammad Zubaid	2 1333030 EXC210
Dr. Abdallateef Al-Katrash	22525888	MB, ChB, FRCPC, PACC	
Dr. Abidallah Al-Duweisan	25653755	Assistant Professor Of Medici	ne
Dr. Bader Al-Ansari	25620111	Head, Division of Cardiology	
Neurologis	ts	Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital	25339667
Dr. Sohal Najem Al-Shemeri	25633324	Consultant Cardio	logist
Dr. Jasem Mola Hassan	25345875	Dr. Farida Al-Habib	2611555-2622555
Gastrologists		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	

23845955

11555-2622555 **Noor Clinic** William Schuilenberg, RPC 2290-1677 Zaina Al Zabin, M.Sc. 2290-1677

GOSSIP



Taylor Swift is calling for parts of her groping lawsuit to be edited for her 'safety'

■he 27-year-old singer filed a lawsuit back in July regarding an alleged groping incident involving radio DJ David Mueller - who allegedly groped the 'Bad Blood' hitmaker's behind underneath her dress during a meet-and-greet in 2013 - and has now called for parts of her statement to be redacted due to "safety and privacy concerns" before they are publicly released. In documents obtained by E! News, the pop megastar's lawyers claim: "The transcript contains confidential and sensitive personal information that, if publicly released, could jeopardize the safety of the Parties in this action and run the real risk of tainting the jury pool at the upcoming trial." Taylor's team also state they are concerned that if the statements go public without being edited to protect her, people who doubt her side of the story may "threaten" her. The lawyers added: "The same people who have threatened Ms. Swift in the past, as well as copy cats, may be emboldened by public attention." The 'Blank Space' singer said in her videotaped deposition - which was obtained by E! News in

October - that David's actions were "completely intentional" as he allegedly put his hand up her dress when the pair posed for a photo. She said at the time: "Right as the moment came for us to pose for the photo, he took his hand and put it up my dress and grabbed onto my ass cheek and no matter how much I scooted over it was still there," she revealed. "It was completely intentional, I've never been so sure of anything in my life." And the 'Shake It Off' musician recalled feeling "violated". She added: "I remember being frantic, distressed, feeling violated in a way I had never experienced before. "A meet-and-greet is supposed to be a situation where you're thanking people for coming, you're supposed to be welcoming people into your home, which is the arena for that day, and for someone to violate that hospitality in that way, I was completely stunned."

JENNIFER LOPEZ AND DRAKE ARE REPORTEDLY DATING

he 47-year-old singer and the 30-year-old 'One Dance' rapper are said to be "smitten" with one and other and are not "bothered" by their 17-year age gap. A source said: "Jen and Drake have tried to keep their romance under wraps by suggesting they are just working together, but the truth is they are an item. "They have been seeing each other for a number of weeks and her friends are saying she is already smitten. "The age gap doesn't bother them. "They have fun together and that's all that matters." However, one person who is not so pleased with the 'On The Floor' hitmaker's romance with Drake is his former flame Rihanna, 28. An insider told The Sun newspaper: "People in Rihanna's circle are saying she is very unhappy about the whole thing. "Only a few months ago she and Drake were still together. "Jen is one of her friends in the industry which made her all the more surprised." It comes after the pair were rumored to have gotten close after reportedly working on music together. The 'Hotline Bling' hitmaker was spotted at Jennifer's Las Vegas show on December 10 and also made an appearance at her 'All I Have' concert in Las Vegas. Taking to Instagram both Drake and Jennifer shared a selfie together at the Vegas show. Alongside the photo, the Latino beauty wrote: "Look who rolled up to my show tonight to say hi!! @champagnepapi #lovehim #jlovegas #ALLIHAVE (sic)" Both the 'Boy Next Door' actress and the hip-hop star are both single after Drake and the 'Work' hitmaker ended their on-off romance in October. And the bronze-haired beauty - who has six-year-old twins Max and Emme with her ex-husband Marc Anthony - called off her relationship with her 29-year-old backing dancer, Casper Smart earlier this year, after four years together.



Blac Chyna and Rob Kardashian have shared a loved up snap confirming they are back together

one-month-old daughter Dream Kardashian together - have been feuding this week after 28-year-old Chyna split from her fiance Rob over the weekend, but it seems the pair have reconnected for the holidays as they took to Snapchat on Friday night (23.12.16) to share a cute selfie. The picture, posted to Chyna's Snapchat account, sees the model - who has donned the adorable deer filter - cuddled up to 29year-old Rob. She captioned the photo: "Happy Holidays" The news comes after it was reported that Chyna was "not invited" to spend Christmas with the Kardashian clan, as the rest of the famous family were tired of her and Rob constantly fighting. A source said at the time: "Rob's family is over Chyna. She is not invited to Kris' holiday party. "Rob's family is trying to distance themselves from Chyna. They can't stand the toxic relationship. They very much care about baby Dream though. It's just come to the point when they think Rob is better off

■he 'Rob & Chyna' stars - who share without being in a relationship with Chyna." A second source, however, later claimed that Chyna had nothing to "apologize" for, and was standing her ground on the feud with the 'Keeping Up with the Kardashians' stars. They said: "Chyna thinks Rob and his family have a lot of nerve if they think she needs to apologise for anything that she's done in this relationship. "What should she be sorry for? Getting Rob out of his cave and bringing him into the light? Giving him a daughter? Helping him lose weight? Getting him a reality show? "Rob's the one who admitted to having issues, and has since gotten from Chyna. She's so proud of their shared accomplishments, and thinks her behaviour and attitude are completely fine. She's not changing or apologising." It is not yet known if the couple's holiday reconciliation will land her an invite to Kris Jenner's Christmas bash.

Nadine Coyle

wants a lie-in for Christmas

■he former Girls Aloud singer - who has twoyear-old daughter Anaiya with fiance Jason Bell wants a quiet time over the festive season, and is looking forward to getting chance to relax. She said: "I really want a lie-in for Christmas this year. "I want some peace and quiet, just to relax. "For the past few years, we've celebrated in Ireland, I've never actually done Christmas in England before." But the 31-year-old beauty is unlikely to be able to relax for long, as she is cooking Christmas dinner for her entire extended family. She said: "I always cook Christmas dinner and have the family round. "I couldn't possibly do it without everyone coming over. I'll have friends, family, people from my team. Everyone is invited." And Nadine thinks Christmas is even more magical now her daughter is old enough to understand the special day and can't wait to begin the festivities on Saturday (24.12.16). She said: "Now that I have a two year old, Santa has to visit on Christmas Eve. "So we're putting out biscuits and milk. That's the best bit."





LEAST WE WON'T BE ALL SUBJECTED TO her within 10 feet of a stove top, I've kind YOUR NO TALENT ILLITERATE HUSBAND of just come to expect it." (sic)." But Chrissy refused to let the argument go and was quick to point out that her chart-topping husband - who she married in 2013 - actually attended the same

Chrissy Teigen has ridiculed a Twitter troll who

claimed her husband John Legend was 'illiterate'

academic institution as the soon-to-be US

President. She wrote on the social media

site, referring to the University of

Pennsylvania: "John went to the same uni-

versity as the Donald, silly billy. "Only differ-

ence was John went at the young age of

16." Meanwhile, Chrissy recently opened up

about the criticism she receives over social

media, admitting it can be especially

severe when it relates to her daughter. She

said: "I can see things coming a mile away. I know that when I post something, if she's

in a car seat, I've got to be ready for the

million people telling me she's in the car seat wrong, even though she's in there cor-

rectly. "At this point, I know what they're

going to say before they say it. If I'm hold-

ing her while I'm cooking, or if I'm holding

he 31-year-old beauty - who shares

her eight-month-old daughter Luna

with the musician - recently ignited

controversy when she blasted US

President-elect Donald Trump, who said in

a tweet that he wanted to make his

upcoming Presidential inauguration all

about "the PEOPLE" and not celebrities.

Chrissy said: "Hi - we are people. You are

our president too. I don't want you to be,

but you are. Also we ALL know you are

dying without the approval, dear. "But have fun with DJ Buttcrack spinning the

hot s**t and Lil Banana dropping bars at

your inauguration. (sic)" Her outspoken

comments prompted one Twitter user to

fire back at the model, accusing her hus-

band of being "illiterate". They wrote: "AT

Tamara Ecclestone and her family wear matching Christmas jumpers

■he 32-year-old socialite - who has two-year-old daughter Sophia with husband Jay Rutland - insists the festive season is more about being comfortable than looking glamorous, even if her spouse doesn't always agree. She said: "People think I'll be tottering around in a bodycon dress but I spend most of Christmas Day in my pyjamas - I don't even brush my hair. "Before Christmas, I go on Amazon and buy the family lots of matching onesies and Christmas jumpers - the cheesier the better. "I got Jay one with a big reindeer in silly glasses, but he's refusing to wear it. "On Christmas Day, we usually eat way too much and end up falling asleep on the sofa watching TV. We're planning to watch The Queen's Christmas mes-

sage and then my favourite movies, 'Love Actually' and 'The Holiday'. Despite being from one of the world's richest families, Tamara insists they don't exchange extravagant gifts. She said recently: "There's nothing I can buy my parents that they don't already have so we stick to giving sentimental presents from the heart. "I like making my family collages with photos of Sophia. "The best present I ever received was last year. Jay have me a DVD filled with video clips of the past year of our lives together. "It was so cute - he gave it to me on Christmas Eve and I just sat there bawling my eyes out. I don't think I can watch it again."

Kelly Osbourne is 'sickened' by how much her parents love each other



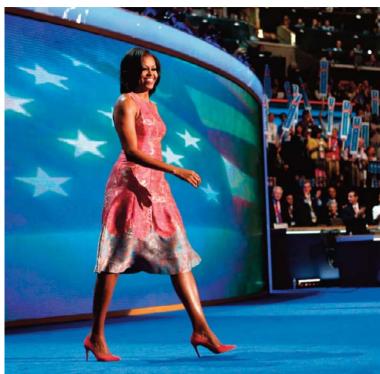
he 32-year-old star thinks it is amazing seeing Ozzy and Sharon Osbourne "fall so deeply in love with each other" time after time. She quipped: "They love each other so much. It's almost sickening. And if they make out in public one more time, I think I'm going to throw up. You should've seen them last night: They have this huge massive mansion house, and they're tucked in a little corner in the kitchen on the couch cuddling and watching TV. "I was like, 'I'm just gonna drop this off and leave you guys to it. I'll see you later!' It's really nice to watch. Everyone goes through hard times, but they're the definition of true love. To see them fall so deeply in love with each other all over again time and time again, it makes me realise how special my family is." And Kelly is looking forward to seeing her parents renew their vows once more and

joked she would love to be a flower girl for the ceremony. She told Wonderwall: "I definitely want to be a flower girl and do like an impromptu dance routine down the aisle ... It's not about me. It's about them." It comes after Sharon revealed the couple plan to renew their wedding vows after they briefly split from in May after she found out he had cheated on her. She shared: "I'm happy and to be honest that's all I want for Christmas this year. Ozzy has asked me to renew our wedding vows and I'd like to ... "In my life I have been so blessed but when one side of your life is so brilliant other things can suffer. It is hard when you are both successful and both working away. It is easy to take each other for granted. We have been married for 35 years and been together 38 years. You have to have some ups and downs."

FEATURE



In this June 3, 2008 file photo, Democratic presidential hopeful, Sen. Barack Obama D-III. arrives for a election night rally with Michelle Obama in St Paul, Minnesota.

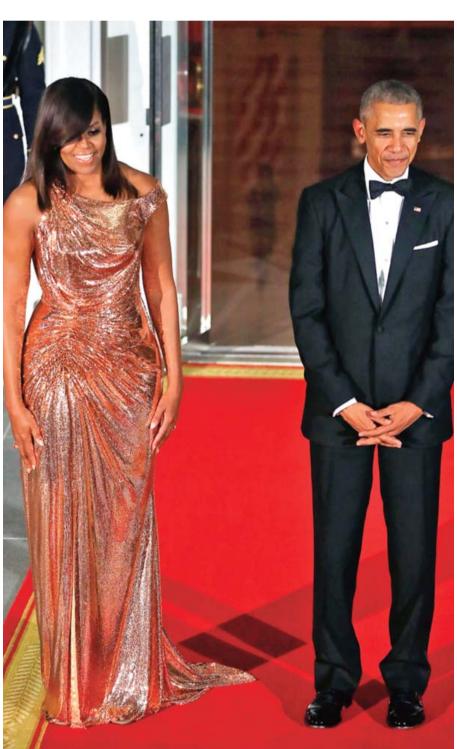


In this Sept 4, 2012 file photo, first lady Michelle Obama, dressed in a Tracy Reese pink silk jacquard dress, walks on the stage at the Democratic National Convention in Charlotte, North Carolina.



In this Aug 25, 2008 file photo, Michelle Obama, wife of Democratic presidential candidate, Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., and daughters Malia, left, 10, and Sasha, right, 7, wave to the audience at the Democratic National Convention in

Michelle Obama loved fashion, and fashion loved her back



US President Barack Obama and first lady Michelle Obama wearing Atelier Versace at the final state dinner at the White House in Washington in honor of Italian Prime Minister

he morning after Michelle Obama's big speech at the Democratic National Convention in 2012, in which she argued passionately for a second term for her husband, designer Tracy Reese's phone was ringing. And ringing.

Mrs Obama's powerfully delivered speech had attracted much attention - but these phone calls were about her dress. A shimmering sleeveless sheath in rose and silvery gray, it was pretty universally considered a fashion slam dunk. And customers wanted it.

There was only one problem, Reese recalls: "We didn't have inventory - we had made that dress custom." And so the label went into production. "And people waited," Reese says. "You know, so many people admire Mrs Obama and they want to dress like her. We sold quite a few of those dresses." She estimates the number at over 2,000.

Reese, who hails from Detroit, is one of the first lady's favored designers - Mrs Obama has been photographed in her clothes some 20 to 30 times. But unlike some past first ladies who favored one or two big-name designers, Mrs. Obama has spread her fashion choices among a huge stable of them - often promoting lesser-known names, and taking care to promote American designers at such high-profile events as inaugurations, conventions and state dinners.

Which is why so many designers and fashion watchers will miss her when she steps away from her post after eight fashionconscious years, and why they consider her one of the most influential first ladies in fashion, perhaps even more so than Jacqueline Kennedy, because of her broad appeal. "Michelle Obama embraced everyone," says Andre Leon Talley, a fashion editor at Vogue magazine. "She embraced black designers, Asian designers, European designers. ... She was very democratic in her choice of clothes."

Affordable fashion

And that includes wearing fashion that ordinary women could potentially afford - like cardigans from the retailer J Crew. "She's made an effort to wear accessible fashion," Reese says. "I think Jackie (Kennedy) was a great role model but she wore a lot of couture, and things that most Americans could not afford." Mrs Obama, she says, has worn both high-end and moderately priced fashion.

Reese, who is African-American, is particularly proud that one of her designs - a black dress printed with bright red flowers - is on display at the National Museum of African American History and Culture. The first lady wore it to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the March on Washington.

Mrs Obama set the stage for her broad-based fashion choices with her first inauguration. Previous first ladies had often gone with established luxury designers like Oscar de la Renta. Mrs. Obama wore a two-piece lemongrass-hued ensemble by Cuban-American designer Isabel Toledo for day, and a oneshouldered white gown by New York-based, Taiwanese-Canadian designer Jason Wu at night.

For her husband's second inauguration, she wore a sleek coat and dress by American designer Thom Browne, known for his eclectic talents, and in the evening Jason Wu again. "It was an honor to have the opportunity to dress Mrs Obama," Browne said in an email message. "She is such a stylish individual because of her confidence and intelligence."

For Browne, Toledo, Reese and others, it was never clear until the moment Mrs Obama actually appeared whether she would be wearing their designs. "We would get calls periodically from her team," says Reese. "But we never knew exactly what things were for and when she would be wearing them. And I think that that's just necessary, because you don't know when plans will change!



However it unfolded, it certainly could change a designer's career. "We've been brought to the attention of millions more people than we ever would have reached," Reese says.

David Yermack, a professor of corporate finance at New York University, studied the financial impact of Mrs. Obama's fashion choices in her first year as first lady. He says he found an immediate spike in stock prices of companies whose apparel she wore (he only examined publicly traded companies). "There was a very strong and immediate reaction in the stock prices of the design firms and also the retailers," Yermack says. For major appearances, this could run into the tens of millions of dollars: "That's happened many times with her."

And the public, Yermack says, remembers what Mrs Obama wears. "Do you remember what Pat Nixon or Laura Bush wore? She has the ability to hold the interest of the consumer in a way that almost no one else does. I've looked far and wide - Kate Middleton, Carla Bruni. Nobody begins to approach Mrs. Obama on this."

Yermack thinks what's different about Mrs Obama is that first ladies "have traditionally tried to be nondescript in the way they dressed - they didn't want to overshadow their spouses ... or be seen as spending a lot on clothing. But she had no inhibitions in that sense.

"She really had an impact on how professional women dressed, and how you could have fun with fashion, in a way that you couldn't imagine Rosalynn Carter or Barbara Bush ever doing," he says. "It's a very short list of first ladies who are going to leave that kind of legacy."— AP

In this July 25, 2016, file photo, first lady Michelle **Obama blows kisses after** speaking to delegates during the first day of the **Democratic National Convention in** Philadelphia.



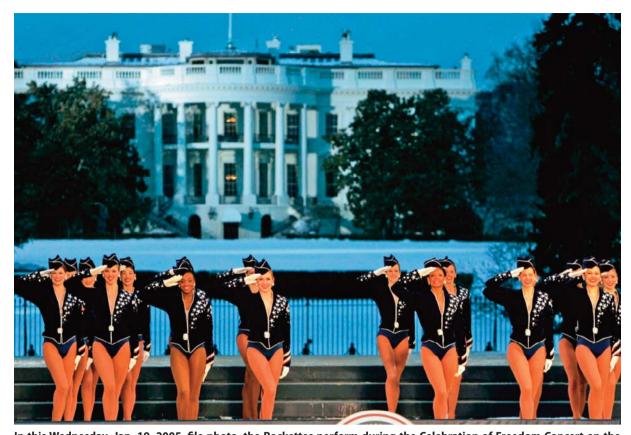
lady Michelle Obama, wearing a black dress printed with bright red flowers by designer Tracy Reese, as former President Bill Clinton and former President Jimmy Carter, left, arrive at the Let Freedom Ring ceremony at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom.



In this Aug. 28, 2016 file photo, President Barack Obama, right, holds hands with first This Jan 20, 2009, file photo shows President Barack Obama with first lady This Jan. 20, 2009 file photo shows President Barack Obama, left, and Michelle Obama wearing a two-piece lemongrass-hued ensemble by Cuban- first lady Michelle Obama, in a one-shouldered white gown by design-American designer Isabel Toledoon on their way to the White House in er Jason Wu, at the Neighborhood Inaugural Ball in Washington.



FEATURES



In this Wednesday, Jan. 19, 2005, file photo, the Rockettes perform during the Celebration of Freedom Concert on the Ellipse, with the White House in the background in Washington.



In this June 7, 2016, file photo, dancers from the Radio City Rockettes promote their "New York Spectacular" show by performing on the marguee of Radio City Music Hall in New York. — AP photos

Rockettes' inauguration performance is 'Voluntary,' union confirms

ust when you thought the hullabaloo surrounding who will perform at President-elect Donald Trump's inauguration was dying down, it's now turned into a whole

Following an announcement on Thursday that the Radio City Rockettes would be performing at the Jan. 20 event, one dancer took to Instagram to express her "embarrassment" and "disappointment" at what she described as a forced commitment.

"I usually don't use social media to make a political stand but I feel overwhelmed with emotion," Rockette Phoebe Pearl wrote in a now-deleted post on her personal account. "Finding out that it has been decided for us that Rockettes will be performing at the Presidential inauguration makes me feel embarrassed and disappointed. The women I work with are intelligent and are full of love and the decision of performing for a man that stands for everything we're

against is appalling. I am speaking for just myself but please know that after we found out this news, we have been performing with tears in our eyes and heavy hearts. We will not be forced! #notmypresident."

Talk of boycotting

According to BroadwayWorld, the American Guild of Variety Artists, which represents the Rockettes, sent an email to its members that stressed "any talk of boycotting this event is invalid." The email reportedly concluded with the bolded, underlined statement: "If you are not full time, you do not have to sign up to do this work. If you are full time, you are obligated. Doing the best performance to reflect an American Institution which has been here for over 90 years is your job. I hope this pulls into focus the bottom line on this work." The email, authenticated by BroadwayWorld, was reportedly sent by a high-ranking member of the union's administration.

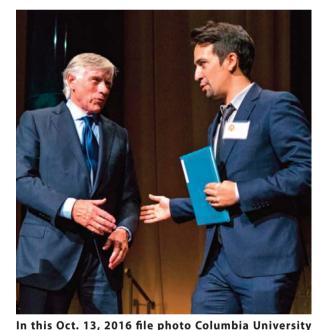
The union has since clarified its position, and confirmed that all members who participate in Trump's inauguration performance will do so voluntarily. In a statement, the AGVA writes that when concern arose from their members and the general public they "immediately contacted Radio City for a meeting" to address the situation.

"Fortunately, the Company has agreed that all participation in this particular event will be voluntary," the statement says, going on to dispute "misinformation" regarding the union's position. "There is a small group of year round Rockettes who are contractually obligated to perform at scheduled events throughout the year. We are pleased that Radio City has agreed that for those Rockettes with yearround employment, participation in this event will be voluntary as well," the union's statement reads.

Madison Square Garden Company, which oversees the Radio City Rockettes, also insists that participation is up to the performers, the company said in a statement on Friday.

"For a Rockette to be considered for an event, they must voluntarily sign up and are never told they have to perform at a particular event, including the inaugural," the statement, obtained by multiple outlets, reads. "It is always their choice. In fact, for the coming inauguration, we had more Rockettes request to participate than we have slots available. We eagerly await the inaugural celebrations."

The drama unfolded hours after Trump tweeted that "socalled A-list celebrities" want tickets to his inauguration. "The so-called 'A' list celebrities are all wanting tixs to the inauguration, but look what they did for Hillary, NOTHING," he wrote. — Reuters



President Lee Bollinger, left, reaches out to Lin-Manuel Miranda, who was recognized for the Pulitzer Prize in Drama for "Hamilton," during the Pulitzer Prize awards at Columbia University in New York.



In this March 14, 2016 file photo shows actors, from left, Okieriete Onaodowan, Lin-Manuel Miranda and Christopher Jackson perform the song "Alexander Hamilton" from the Broadway play "Hamilton" in the East Room of the White House in Washington.

– AP photos

Lin-Manuel Miranda named

AP Entertainer of the Year

inning a Pulitzer Prize and a clutch of Tony Awards in a single year would be enough for anyone. Not Lin-Manuel Miranda. Not in 2016. The "Hamilton" writercomposer picked up those honors and also earned a Golden Globe nomination, won the Edward M. Kennedy Prize for Drama Inspired by American History, wrote music for a top movie, and inspired a best-selling book, a best-selling album of "Hamilton" covers and a popular PBS documentary.

A new honor came Wednesday when Miranda bested Beyonce, Adele and Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson, among others, to be named The Associated Press Entertainer of the Year, voted by members of the news cooperative and AP entertainment reporters. "There's been more than a little good luck in the year itself and the way it's unfolded," Miranda said after being told of the honor. "I continue to try to work on the things I've always wanted to work on and try to say yes to the opportunities that I'd kick myself forever if I didn't jump at them."

Previous winners

Miranda joins the list of previous AP Entertainer of the Year winners who in recent years have included Adele, Taylor Swift, Jennifer Lawrence, Lady Gaga, Tina Fey and Betty White. The animated Disney juggernaut "Frozen" captured the prize in 2014, and "Star Wars" won last year. (By the way, Miranda wrote one of the songs in "The Force Awakens.")

When he hosted "Saturday Night Live" in October, he somewhat tongue-in-cheek acknowledged the rarity of having a theater composer as host, saying: "Most of you watching at home have no idea who I am."

They surely must by now. Miranda was virtually everywhere in popular culture this year stage, film, TV, music and politics, while engaging on social media as he went. Like a lyric he wrote for Alexander Hamilton, it seemed at

times that the non-stop Miranda was working as if he was "running out of time."

Julio D. Diaz, of the Pensacola News Journal, said Miranda "made the whole world sing, dance and think. Coupled with using his prestige to become involved in important sociopolitical issues, there was no greater or more important presence in entertainment in 2016."

Among the things Miranda did this year are asking Congress to help dig Puerto Rico out of its debt crisis, getting an honorary doctorate from the University of Pennsylvania, performing at a fundraiser for Hillary Clinton on Broadway, lobbying to stop gun violence in America and teaming up with Jennifer Lopez on the benefit single "Love Make the World Go Round."

He and his musical "Hamilton" won 11 Tony Awards in June, but perhaps his deepest contribution that night was tearfully honoring those killed hours before at an Orlando nightclub with a beautiful sonnet: "Love is love is love is love is love is love, cannot be killed or swept aside," he said. "Now fill the world with music, love and pride." He started the year onstage in the Broadway hit "Hamilton" (which in 2015 had won a Grammy and earned Miranda a MacArthur genius grant) and ended it with a Golden Globe nomination for writing the song "How Far I'll Go" from "Moana," which was on top of the box office for three weeks this month, earning \$165 million. "I've been jumping from thing to thing and what's been thrilling is to see the projects that happen very quickly kind of exploding side-by-side with the projects I've been working on for years," Miranda said.

Cherishing his fluency

Though theater fans have long cherished his fluency in both Stephen Sondheim and Tupac, "Hamilton" helped Miranda break into the mainstream in 2016. The groundbreaking, biographical hip-hop show tells the true story of an orphan immigrant from the Caribbean who rises to the highest ranks of American society, told by a young African-American and Latino cast.

The cast went to the White House in March to perform songs from the show for the first family and answer questions from school children. A version of the show opened in Chicago in October and a production is slated to land in California next year and in London soon.

When the gold-winning US women's aymnastics team returned from the Rio Olympics, where do you think they wanted to go? "Hamilton," naturally, which they did in August. The show's effects were felt across the nation this year, cheered by politicians, stars and rappers alike and even helping shape the debate over the nation's currency (Hamilton stays on the \$10 bill, in part due to Miranda's show.)

But the musical also sparked controversy when the cast delivered a pointed message about diversity to Vice President-elect Mike Pence while he attended a performance in November. President-elect Donald Trump demanded an apology, which did not come.

That kerfuffle was part of a "Hamilton"-heavy fall that included an album of celebrity covers and songs called "The Hamilton Mixtape," as well as a documentary on the show that aired on PBS and attracted more than 3.6 million television viewers.

Erin O'Neill of The Marietta Times said Miranda dominated entertainment news this year but, more importantly, "opened a dialogue about government, the founding of our country and the future of politics in America.'

There's more Miranda to come in 2017, including filming Disney's "Mary Poppins Returns" with Emily Blunt (due out Christmas 2018) and an ambitious TV and film adaptation of the fantasy trilogy "The Kingkiller Chronicle."

"I'm back in a planting mode after a harvest," Miranda said, laughing. — AP

'SUICIDE SQUAD' TOPS HOME-VIDEO CHARTS

was one of four new releases that debuted among the top 1. Suicide Squad (new) 20 titles on the NPD VideoScan First Alert sales chart, which tracks combined DVD and Blu-ray Disc unit sales, the week ended Dec. 18.

The comic-book actioner, which earned \$325.1 million in U.S. theaters, also topped VideoScan's dedicated Bluray Disc sales chart for the week. The top five on both charts were identical.

Dropping a spot to No. 2 was the previous week's top seller, Universal Pictures' animated "The Secret Life of Pets." Appearing at No. 3 was another new release, 20th Century Fox's "Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children." The fantasy film, directed by Tim Burton based on the novel of the same name, earned \$86.7 million domestically.

No. 4 on both charts was Universal's action sequel "Jason Bourne," followed by Walt Disney Studios' "Finding Dory" at No. 5, both dropping two spots from the previous week. The other new releases in the overall top 20 were Paramount's "Ben-Hur" remake at No. 14, and Universal's "Bridget Jones's Baby," the third "Jones" movie and the first in 12 years, at No. 20.

Blu-ray Disc accounted for 60% of total "Suicide Squad" unit sales, compared with 47% for "Miss Peregrine" and 51% for "Ben-Hur," which was No. 10 on the Blu-ray sales chart. "Bridget Jones's Baby" was the No. 25 Blu-ray, with just 37% of sales in the high-def format.

On Home Media Magazine's rental chart for the week, "Ben-Hur" debuted at No. 1. Universal's "Bad Moms" dropped to No. 2 after three weeks in the top spot. Rounding out the top five rentals were Disney's "Pete's Dragon" at No. 3, Lionsgate's "Mechanic: Resurrection" at No. 4, and "Finding Dory" at No. 5.

John Latchem is Managing Editor of Home Media Magazine. Top 20 NPD VideoScan First Alert, powered by

arner Bros.' "Suicide Squad" Nielsen, chart for the week ended

12/18/16:

2. The Secret Life of Pets 3. Miss Peregrine's Home for

Peculiar Children (new)

4. Jason Bourne

5. Finding Dory

Pete's Dragon (2016)

7. Elf Star Wars: Episode VII-The Force

Awakens

The BFG 10. National Lampoon's

Christmas Vacation

11. The Polar Express

12. How the Grinch Stole Christmas

(live-

action) 13. Home Alone

14. Ben-Hur (2016) (new)

15. A Christmas Story

16. Captain

America: Civil War 17. How the Grinch Stole Christmas

(cartoon)

18. Deadpool 19. Star Trek Beyond

20. Bridget Jones's Baby (new)

Top 10 Home Media Magazine rental

chart for the week ended 12/18/16:

1. Ben-Hur (2016) (new)

2. Bad Moms

3. Pete's Dragon (2016) 4. Mechanic:

Resurrection

Finding Dory 6. Don't Breathe

Sausage Party

8. Nine Lives

9. Central Intelligence

10. The BFG For complete sales and rental charts,

visit HomeMediaMagazine.com. —Reuters



The cast of 'Suicide Squad' in promotional shot.

FEATURES

Carrie Fisher in Intensive Care after suffering heart attack on plane

arrie Fisher has been hospitalized and is in intensive care—airport police arrived. She was transported to a local hospital for after suffering a full cardiac arrest on Friday while aboard an airplane headed from London to Los Angeles.

The actress was in critical condition earlier in the day, an emergency official told Variety on Friday afternoon. She was moved from the emergency room to the Intensive Care Unit hours later, her brother, Todd Fisher, said Friday evening. The actor and filmmaker said his sister is not in stable condition, despite previous reports. "She's in the ICU and everybody's praying for her," he told Variety in a phone interview. "There's nothing new from the doctors. There's nothing new at all. ... There's no good news or bad news."

Todd Fisher said media outlets are "writing between the lines" in reporting that she's now in stable condition. The Associated Press reported earlier today that Todd Fisher said Carrie Fisher was in stable condition and "out of emergency."

'May the Force Be With You'

Airport police responded at approximately 12:15 p.m. PT to a woman with a medical emergency on a plane at LAX International Airport's Terminal 7, public information officer Alicia Hernandez told Variety. Los Angeles County Fire Department paramedics were already on the scene, performing CPR on a female victim who had gone into cardiac arrest, when medical treatment. Fisher, 60, reportedly went into cardiac arrest about 15 minutes before the plane landed following the 11-hour flight, TMZ first reported. She was reportedly taken to UCLA Medical Center and placed on a ventilator.

LAFD spokesman Erik Scott said paramedics were standing by for the plane's arrival at 12:11 p.m., and immediately provided "advanced life support, aggressively treated, and transported" the patient to a local hospital.

United Airlines released a statement on Friday afternoon. "Medical personnel met United flight 935 from London to Los Angeles upon arrival today after the crew reported that a passenger was unresponsive," the statement reads, which was obtained by Variety. "Our thoughts are with our customer at this time, and any requests for additional information should be directed to local authorities."

According to air traffic control conversation between the tower and the pilot of United 935, at 12:13 pm, passengers and nurses were assisting the unresponsive passenger before the plane landed. Reps for Fisher did not respond to Variety's request for comment. Her "Star Wars" costars, fellow actors, and others in Hollywood took to social media to send the actress well wishes. "Sending all our love" to Fisher, Mark Hamill tweeted. Peter Mayhew, who played Chewbacca in the "Star Wars"

franchise, wrote on Twitter, "Thoughts and prayers for our friend and everyone's favorite princess right now."

Several people who say they were on board the airplane with Fisher broke the news on Twitter. "Don't know how else to process this but Carrie Fisher stopped breathing on the flight home. Hope she's gonna be OK," wrote filmmaker and YouTuber Anna Akana.

Comedian Brad Gage wrote, "I'm in complete shock. Anna Akana and I sat in front of Carrie Fisher on our flight from London and she was just taken off the plane by EMTs.'

Fisher, known for playing Princess Leia in the "Star Wars" franchise, has recently been on tour promoting her memoir "The Princess Diarist." She had been filming the Amazon series "Catastrophe," starring Sharon Horgan and Rob Delaney, a few days earlier in London. Fisher plays Delaney's caustic mother, Mia, on the show. She recently reprised her role as Princess Leia (now General Leia) in last year's box office phenomenon "Star Wars: The Force Awakens." — Reuters

In this Sunday, Jan 25, 2015 file photo, Carrie Fisher presents the life achievement award on stage at the 21st annual Screen Actors Guild Awards at the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles. — AP





In this Thursday, Nov 10, 2016 photo, a display shows the bottom and back of boots at the KickSpike store in Anchorage, Alaska.



In this Tuesday, Nov 11, 2016, photo, Stewart Valladolid, boot buyer at B&J Sporting Goods, demonstrates a boot by Korkers featuring interchangeable outer soles with and without studs in Anchorage, Alaska.

In icy Alaska, footwear options abound to stay upright



esidents of Alaska's largest city grapple with icy streets up to seven months a year. Fortunately, there are a number of footwear options for staying upright.

A Canadian entrepreneur is offering a new style: boots with a button on the heel that triggers popout cleats on the sole. Click the button again and the cleats retract. Darrell Bachmann has opened a store in Anchorage that sells his Kickspike boots. Other Anchorage stores offer running shoes with cleats, overshoes with cleats or cleats that strap onto regular shoes.

The shoe buyer for Anchorage athletic store Skinny Raven says Alaskans embrace any tool that allows them to not only survive longer winters, but to conquer them. — AP

In this Tuesday, Dec 14, 2016, photo, a runner jogs on a trail at Westchester Lagoon in Anchorage, Alaska.

— AP photos

Serbian stewardess who survived jet crash in 1972 dies at 66

esna Vulovic, a Serbian stewardess who miraculously survived a plunge from 10,000 meters (33,000 feet) after her plane exploded in mid-air in 1972, has died. She was 66.

Serbia's state TV said Saturday Vulovic was found dead by her friends in her apartment in Belgrade. The cause of death was not immediately known. Vulovic was working as a Yugoslav Airlines flight attendant on Jan. 26, 1972, when the Douglas DC-9 airliner she was aboard blew up high above the snowy mountain ranges of Czechoslovakia. All 27 other passengers and crew aboard perished.

Vulovic entered the Guinness Book of Records in 1985 for "the highest fall survived without a parachute." It was suspected that a bomb was planted inside the jet during a scheduled stopover in Copenhagen, Denmark, but no arrests were ever made.

Trapped in the plane's tail cone, she plummeted to earth in sub-freezing temperatures and landed on a steep, heavily wooded slope near a village. The fuselage tumbled through pine branches and into a thick coating of snow, softening the impact and cushioning its

descent down the hill, crash investigators said

Vulovic was rescued by a woodsman who followed her screams in the dark forest. She was rushed to a hospital, where she fell into a coma for 10 days. She had a fractured skull, two crushed vertebrae and a broken pelvis, ribs and leas.

Initially paralyzed from the waist down, Vulovic eventually made a near-full recovery and even returned to work for the airline in a

She never regained memory of the accident or her rescue. She told the AP in an interview in 2008 that she could only recall greeting passengers before takeoff from the airport in Denmark - and then waking up in the hospital with her mother at her side.

An instant national heroine, she went on to put her celebrity at the service of political causes, protesting against Slobodan Milosevic's rule in the 1990s and later campaigning for liberal forces in elections. — AP



In this Friday, Feb. 15, 2008 file photo, Vesna Vulovic, an ex-air stewardess, and survivor of a fall from 10,000 meters when in 1972 her plane was blown up in mid-fight by a bomb, gestures as she gives an interview to the Associated Press in Belgrade, Serbia. —AP

ROGUE ONE' HEADING FOR DOMINANT \$120 MILLION AT US HOLIDAY BOX OFFICE

ogue One: A Star Wars Story" is the king of the US holiday box office with early projections of a \$160 million haul over the six-day Dec. 21-26 period-though Disney's Friday night projections were significantly more conservative.

Disney's forecast said the six days would top \$120 million. Even at that level, Should the projections pan out, the eighth "Star Wars" movie will hit \$350 million by the end of the holiday break, which would be its 11th day of release. Disney had announced Friday morning that "Rogue One" wound up its first week with \$221.9 million domestically, including \$15 million on Wednesday and \$16.7 million on Thursday. Friday's take was estimated at about \$30 million.

Illumination-Universal's animated comedy "Sing" is projected to come in a solid second with about \$71 million over the six days, followed by Sony's Jennifer Lawrence-Chris Pratt sci-fier "Passengers" at about \$31 million and Fox's videogame adaptation "Assassin's Creed" at \$28 million.

James Franco's romantic comedy "Why Him?," which opened with \$975,000 in Thursday night preview showings, is forecast to finish the four-day weekend with about \$16 million. The number for the Fox release is comparable to the ensemble comedy "Office Christmas Party," which generated \$950,000 in Thursday night previews for Paramount on its way to an opening weekend of \$16.9 million on Dec. 9-11.

Location, location

"Rogue One: A Star Wars Story," playing at 4,175 locations, is already the 10th largest domestic grosser of the year after its first week, surpassing "Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them." By the middle of next week, it could be in the fifth spot, eclipsing "Doctor Strange" (\$227 million), "Suicide Squad" (\$325 million), "Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice" (\$330 million), and "Zootopia" (\$341 million).



This file photo taken on December 13, 2016 shows British actress Felicity Jones (C) as she poses with cast members upon arrival at the UK launch event of Lucasfilm's "Rogue One: A Star Wars Story", at the Tate Modern in central London. — AFP

"Rogue One" was released a year after Disney-Lucasfilm's "Star Wars Episode VII: The Force Awakens" set a record with a \$248 million opening weekend on its way to \$948 million domestic total-also a record. It grossed \$571 million in its first 11 days.

"Sing," playing at 4,022 sites, is performing in line with expectations with an impressive \$14 million projected take

on Friday. The movie centers on a group of animals in a singing competition and has a voice cast that includes Matthew McConaughey, Reese Witherspoon, Seth MacFarlane, Scarlett Johansson, John C. Reilly, Taron Egerton, and Tori Kelly.

The film is the sixth collaboration between Illumination and Universal, the team behind the "Despicable Me" franchise and last summer's "The Secret Life of Pets." "Sing" cost a relatively modest \$75 million to produce.

"Passengers" had been projected to land in third in the \$30 million to \$40 million range at 3,478 sites during the six days. The movie, set in a futuristic world in which the characters played by Lawrence and Pratt are awakened early from suspended animation on a deep space journey, carries a price tag of \$110 million with financing from LStar Capital, Village Roadshow Pictures, and Wanda Pictures.

Action-adventure "Assassin's Creed" had been projected to pick up around \$30 million in its six-day opening at 2,902 sites. Michael Fassbender stars as a criminal sent back by a corporation to the Spanish Inquisition to relive the memories of his ancestors. New Regency produced "Creed" with a budget of \$120 million.

Paramount is opening Martin Scorsese's historical drama 'Silence," starring Liam Neeson, Andrew Garfield, and Adam Driver, in a platform release Friday at four sites. Focus is also launching fantasy drama "When a Monster Calls," starring Felicity Jones and Neeson, in four locations Friday.

Paramount is also expanding Denzel Washington's drama 'Fences" from four theaters to about 2,200 sites on Sunday. The film has grossed \$175,182 in its first six days. Lionsgate's "La La Land," currently playing at 200 locations, will also widen on Sunday to 733 screens.

Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst with comScore, said that "Rogue One" should give the 2016 box office enough to finish even or slightly above last year's total of \$11.2 billion. He said 2017 is likely to be a record setter with titles including "The Fate of the Furious," "Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2," "Spider-Man:

Homecoming," "Fifty Shades Darker," "Wonder Woman," "Despicable Me 3," and "Star Wars: Episode VIII," to close out the year. — Reuters

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Carrie Fisher in Intensive Care after suffering heart attack on plane

3



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2016



In a picture taken from the village of Savigny, western Switzerland, light shines through fog and black clouds over the Swiss Alps yesterday. — AFP

Scans unveil secrets of world's oldest mumnies

The world's oldest mummies have just had an unusual check-up. More than 7,000 years after they were embalmed by the Chinchorro people, an ancient civilization in modern-day Chile and Peru, 15 mummies were taken to a Santiago clinic last week to undergo DNA analysis and computerized tomography scans. The Chinchorro were a hunting and fishing people who lived from 10,000 to 3,400 BC on the Pacific coast of South America, at the edge of the Atacama desert. They were among the first people in the world to mummify their dead. Their mummies date back some 7,400 years-at least 2,000 years older than Egypt's.

Now, researchers are hoping to use modern medical technology to reconstruct what they looked like in life, decode their genes and better understand the mysteries of this ancient civilization. The 15 Chinchorro mummies, mostly children and unborn babies, were put through a CT scanner at the Los Condes clinic in the Chilean capital. "We collected thousands of images with a precision of less than one millimeter," said chief radiologist Marcelo Galvez. "The next phase is to try to dissect these bodies virtually, without touching them, which will help us preserve them for another 500,000 years."

Using high-tech computer processing, researchers are busy reconstructing the mummies' muscles and facial features. "We

want to see what they physically looked like, to reconstruct them and bring to life someone who died thousands of years ago," said Galvez.

Researchers are also hoping to learn more about how the Chinchorro mummified their dead. The Chinchorro, who apparently had a complex understanding of human anatomy, would carefully remove the skin and muscles of the deceased.

Using wood, plants and clay, they reconstructed the body around the remaining skeleton, then sewed the original skin back on, adding a mouth, eyes and hair. A mask was then placed over the face. The result looks like something in between a statue and a person-eerily lifelike even after thousands of years.

All in the family

Mummification was an intimate process for the Chinchorro, said Veronica Silva, the head of the anthropology department at Chile's National Museum of Natural History. "The family itself would make the mummy," she told AFP. The earliest mummies were unborn fetuses and newborns, she said. The mummies were all made using the same basic process, but each one shows unique "technological and artistic innovations," she said.

It was a process that evolved over time. The newest mummies are the most elaborate. Some 180 Chinchorro mummies have been discovered since 1903. All were found outdoors, placed near the beach. The Chinchorro apparently did not build pyramids or any other structures to house them.

In fact, the Chinchorro civilization left no trace besides its mummies. "We are effectively talking about the oldest artificially mummified bodies in the world," said Silva. "The Chinchorro mummies date to 7,400 years ago. That is to say, this system... existed 2,000 years before the first mummifications even began in Egypt."

Surprises have already begun to emerge from the CT scanner. The smallest mummy, it turns out, was not a mummy at all. "There was no bone structure inside. It was just a figurine, possibly a representation of an individual who could not be mummified," said Silva.

Researchers also took skin and hair samples from the mummies to analyze their DNA, in hopes of identifying genetic links with the modern-day population. "We want to better understand their way of life-from their diet to whether we Chileans still carry their genes," said Silva. — AFP



Chilean anthropologist Veronica Silva shows one of the mummies from the ancient Chinchorro culture at the National Museum of Natural History. — AFP photos



Chilean anthropologist Veronica Silva shows one of the mummies from the ancient Chinchorro culture at the National Museum of Natural History in Santiago, on December 16, 2016.

Inmates bring Christmas cheer to Philippine prison with beauty pageant

nmates dressed as beauty queens pranced on a makeshift stage for a mock beauty pageant at a Philippines jail yesterday, bringing Christmas cheer to one of the country's most overcrowded prisons.

Thousands cheered and whistled as 11 gay and one transgender prisoner danced and sang at the "Miss Universe" pageant at the Quezon City Jail courtyard, wearing wigs, make-up, gowns and elaborate Mardi Gras attire.

The decaying Manila jail, housing about 3,800 inmates, is infamous for congestion. Men take turns sleeping in the cells, an open-air basketball court and even on stairways of the facility, built to hold 800 prisoners. "It's lonely in here but I'm happy that I won," the winner called Gwen, whose real name cannot be used due to prison policy, told AFP.

Gwen, arrested nearly two years ago and on trial for drug dealing, said his victory had brought "acclaim for my brigade", referring to his gang. All 12 of the gangs in the prison were allowed to enter one contestant to the gay beauty pageant, organized by a jail contractor. "This is part of inmate welfare development. Once they join activities like this they get less jail time through the good conduct time allowance law," said the service provider, Ferdinand Abejon.

The Quezon City Jail holds defendants of criminal cases but who have not yet been convicted. Due to overburdened courts many of the inmates have been locked up there for years. The Philippine penal system is the third most congested in the world, according to the University of London's Institute for Criminal Policy Research.

Jails nationwide have nearly five times more inmates than they were built for, government data shows. The situation is set to get much worse with police having arrested more than 40,000 suspects since Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte launched a war on drugs that has also left more than 5,300 people dead since but

The real Miss Universe pageant is a popular contest in the Philippines, with Filipina beauty queen Pia Wurtzbach winning the crown last year. Manila is hosting the annual contest next month. — AFP