

Maliya underpass scrapped over fears of immoral acts



Iran awards medals of honor to its nuclear team



India regulator deals blow to Facebook in Internet row



Manning fairytale as Denver stun Carolina



SALEH: CURRENT CONSUMPTION PATTERNS ARE UNSUSTAINABLE

POWER TARIFFS MAY REACH 19FILS/KW FOR HEAVY USERS



Min 05°
Max 20°
High Tide 13:16
Low Tide 06:55 & 18:44



150 FILS
NO: 16781
40 PAGES

GAS BLAST IN SALMIYA FLAT KILLS WOMAN



KUWAIT: Firemen rescue a woman after a gas explosion caused a fire and extensive damage to a building in Salmiya yesterday. — Photos by Fouad Al-Shaikh

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: An Asian woman was killed while two others sustained burns of various degree when a fire caused by a gas leak broke out in a three-storey building in Salmiya yesterday, said security sources. The fire started when three cooking gas cylinders exploded in a ground-floor apartment, blowing off part of the ceiling, wall and spreading to a vehicle that was parked outside the building.

Security sources added that firemen from Salmiya rushed to the scene, where they found a dead woman

inside the flat on fire and managed to rescue another pregnant woman trapped under the debris. Firemen also managed to control the fire that extended to parts of the adjacent building.

Separately, an Asian was seriously injured when a cooking gas cylinder exploded in a three-storey Hawally building, said security sources, noting that firemen rushed to the scene and found that the explosion happened in a ground floor annex. The sources added that a gas leak and explosion caused a fire in a room adjacent to the annex.



An injured man with his clothes in shreds is led by a paramedic after a gas explosion in Hawally.



By B Izzak

KUWAIT: Finance Minister Anas Al-Saleh yesterday presented to the National Assembly details of the government's plan to cut subsidies and raise prices of fuel and public services as part of efforts to finance the budget deficit and reform the economy in the face of the sharp fall in oil revenues. Saleh said the price hikes will be implemented shortly, but provided no specific details to reporters about the size of the planned increases other than saying "they are like the figures published in the press".

The minister was speaking after he met with the Assembly bureau in the presence of Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem and 16 MPs. Parliamentary sources however said the government plans to raise the price of low-grade 90-octane petrol from 60 fils to 85 fils a litre and the price of high-grade 95-octane petrol from 65 fils to 105 fils a litre, while completely lifting subsidies on the ultra-grade petrol.

Regarding electricity, the plan proposes to keep the charges unchanged at 2 fils per kilowatt for consumption of up to 5,000 KW per month, raise the tariff to 5 fils a kilowatt for monthly consumption of between 5,000 and 10,000 KW and as high as 19 fils a kilowatt for any consumption above 10,000 KW. The minister only confirmed that the price hike for electricity will be gradual without providing figures, saying that it is not acceptable to charge millionaires the same tariffs like low-income people.

Saleh said the cut in subsidies is only a small part of the economic reform program, which also includes privatization and boosting the role of the private sector in the national economy. The minister said the main aim of the program is to "rationalize" the pattern of consumption in the country as the "current pattern is unsustainable amid the sharp decline in oil prices".

The minister said that he felt understanding from the lawmakers over the government's proposals, which will be gradually implemented to minimize their expected negative impact. He said MPs also spoke about the government's need to rationalize expenditure, adding that the government is working to stop squandering of public funds and cut spending.

Continued on Page 13



BANGALORE: An Indian man with a tranquilizer gun looks on as a leopard attacks a man identified by Indian media as wildlife conservationist Sanjay Gubbi at a private school yesterday. — AFP

'METEORITE' KILLS BUS DRIVER IN SOUTH INDIA

LEOPARD INJURES 5 IN SCHOOL

CHENNAI/BANGALORE: Indian authorities say a falling object that killed a bus driver and injured three others was a meteorite. If proven, it would be the first such death in recorded history. Experts said other explanations were possible for the incident Saturday in the southern state of Tamil Nadu. The impact of the

object left a large crater in the ground and shattered window panes in a nearby building, killing the driver who was walking past.

Images in local media showed a bluish rock, which Tamil Nadu's Chief Minister Jayalalitha Jayaram described as a

Continued on Page 13

UAE TO PRIVATIZE GOVT SERVICES OMAN TO BORROW \$5-10BN FROM ABROAD

DUBAI: The United Arab Emirates plans to outsource most government tasks to the private sector and cut the number of ministries, Prime Minister and Dubai ruler Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al-Maktoum said yesterday. The announcement comes as energy-rich Gulf Arab states have been hit by low oil prices, encouraging them to streamline institutions and attract more foreign investment.

"We will have a road map to outsource most government services to the private sector... The new government will have a smaller number of ministries and more ministers to deal with national and strategic issues," the prime minister said on his official Twitter account. He announced the formation of a single education ministry, abolishing the ministry of higher education, and fused several other state bodies into related ministries. No time frame was given for the changes. Gulf Arab oil exporters have for years subsidized food, fuel, electricity and water, keeping prices very low in an effort to maintain social order, though the UAE economy is less reliant than some of its neighbors on oil revenues.

Separately, Oman plans to borrow between \$5 billion and \$10 billion from abroad to help finance a budget deficit caused by low oil prices, central bank executive president Hamood Sangour Al-Zadjali told Al Arabiya television yesterday.

Continued on Page 13



DUBAI: Emirati officials watch US President Barack Obama's keynote address at the opening ceremony of the World Government Summit yesterday. — AP

OBAMA URGES ARABS TO SET UP INCLUSIVE GOVTS

DUBAI: US President Barack Obama urged Arab countries yesterday to establish inclusive governments to ensure security in a region rocked by turmoil. "When governments truly invest in their citizens, their education, skills, and health, and universal human rights are upheld, countries are more peaceful, more prosperous and more successful," he told the opening day of the World Government Summit in Dubai. "As we have seen in the tumult across the Middle East and North Africa, when governments do not lift up their citizens, it's a recipe for instability and strife," he said in a video address to the conference.

Obama recalled discussing with leaders of the six Arab monarchies of the Gulf at Camp David last year how "true and lasting security requires an inclusive government that serves all citizens". Several Middle East and North African countries have been rocked by a wave of uprisings demanding reforms that started in Tunisia and led to the 2011 Arab Spring. Some of the uprisings, such as those in Syria, Libya and Yemen, have morphed into civil wars prompting the rise of extremists such as the Islamic State

jihadist group as well as an exodus of millions of refugees to Europe.

The president of the World Bank Group, Jim Yong Kim, echoed Obama at the Dubai summit, urging leaders to "build inclusive governments". "Good governance is the foundation of all development," Kim told participants. "Many parts of the world are becoming more fragile, making quality leadership and good governance ever more important." He called for governments to be "transparent in their actions and fully engage with citizens". "Governments must invest in their people to give them the opportunity to reach their full potential... create business environments that encourage innovation, competition and private sector investments which will in turn create jobs."

More than 3,000 participants from 125 countries, including world leaders and top experts, are attending the three-day summit on governance. "Please note, across this region and around the world, those of you who embrace reform and truly invest in the lives of your people will continue to have a partner and friend in the United States," Obama told the forum. — AFP

QATAR WANTS TO HOST SUMMER OLYMPICS

DOHA: Qatar has a "vision and target" of hosting a Summer Olympics and will bid to hold future games, a senior member of the Gulf country's Olympics committee said yesterday. Thani Al-Kuwari added that the country would undoubtedly bid to host an Olympics, maybe as early as the 2028 games. "The vision and the target is to host one of the Olympics, one day," he said on the fringes of a sports reporters' conference in the Qatari capital, Doha. Asked if Qatar would bid in the future, he replied: "Of course."

Kuwari pointed to the fact that Qatar is busy building facilities which could be used at an Olympics, for such events as the World Athletics Championships in 2019, the football World Cup in 2022 and the 2023 FINA world swimming championships. In addition, Qatar has in the past 12 months hosted a world handball cham-

ampionships and the Paralympics athletics world championships. "All the facilities are going to be ready for everything, especially after 2022, the facilities almost 99 per cent are ready," he added. "Also, the logistics for those facilities are completed, so why not? He added: "So we are hoping to have one day, you never know, Maybe 2028."

One of the stadiums which will host World Cup games in 2022, the Khalifa International Stadium, will also be the site of the 2019 athletics championships. Outside stadiums, Qatar is undergoing a massive multi-billion dollar building program for the World Cup, including the building of a metro system in Doha. Qatar, which has come under huge international criticism for alleged corruption and its record on workers' rights since being awarded the football World Cup, previously

unsuccessfully bid to host the 2020 Summer Olympics, which will be hosted in Japan.

Doha was strongly expected to bid for the 2024 games but in the end decided against running. Kawari added that that decision was taken because Qatar wanted to ensure "we are strong in every aspect" of the bid. If the Summer Olympics were to be awarded to Qatar it will almost certainly reignite the debate on the desert country's climate. When Qatar was awarded football's biggest tournament, it was initially meant to host it in the summer months, when temperatures can reach up to 50 degrees Celsius. Despite pledges from Qatar that stadiums would be air-conditioned for players and spectators, football's governing body, FIFA, last year decided to switch the tournament to be played in November and Dec 2022. —AFP



KUWAIT: This file photo shows His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah during a meeting with engineer Faisal Al-Jehaim, designer of Al-Barayeh smart city environmental project.— KUNA photos

AL-BARAYEH SMART CITY PROJECT WINS FIRST RANK IN GULF REGION

KUWAIT: Al-Barayeh smart city environmental project, designed by Kuwaiti engineer Faisal Al-Jehaim, won first rank in the best environmental project prize in the Gulf region. The prize was offered by the 19th Gulf Engineering Forum, organized by Kuwait Society for Engineers in Kuwait.

Barayeh in Arabic is the open area in Kuwait in the past where family members and children in particular used to gather offering the nucleus of social communications. Jehaim said in remarks to KUNA that his environmentally-friendly project won the first rank, while all other projects did not qualify. Kuwait achieved a great success with this project which reflects the Kuwaiti youth's potentials which contribute to raising the status of Kuwait and place it among the developed nations, he said.

Barayeh is a smart city, designed according to standards of future cities. The project has received a great support by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah for its perfect environmentally-friendly layout, he added. The city offers 22,000 jobs and investment opportunities, besides more than 25,000 residential units, he said.

It works in decreasing energy consumption rates as well as using its alternatives, and works in fulfilling a high quality of life that cherishes sustainability elements, including the social and economic environment, he said.



This 35-million-cubic meter project, located in southern Kuwait, opposite to Sabah Al-Ahmad residential area, came in line with the governmental and parliamentary plans to find proper solutions for the residential problem, he added. A total of 45 percent of the city is allocated for private family residence including 13 blocks, besides seven percent for investments residence, along with three percent for a central park, while the remaining is distributed over commercial

interests and public services, he said. This city will also include a university on an area of a million cubic meters, and will be the first of its kind in offering alternative energy majors, along with a specialized research center, Jehaim added. This city will be ready to be inhabited after three years, to welcome a total of 85,000 people and will serve all of their daily basic needs and means of transportation as it will reduce usage of cars, including a metro station. — KUNA



CROWN PRINCE RECEIVES GERMAN BUNDESTAG PRESIDENT

KUWAIT: His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received at Seif Palace yesterday National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanem and President of the German Bundestag Norbert Lammert and his accompanying delegation. The meeting was also attended by Protocol Chief at His Highness the Crown Prince's Diwan Sheikh Mubarak Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah and Kuwaiti-German Friendship Committee head MP Faisal Al-Shaya.

Later, Ghanem and Lammert held official talks on means of enhancing bilateral relations and mutual cooperation at diverse levels. The discussions also dealt with regional, international issues, topics of common concern, means of enhancing bilateral parliamentary coordination at international quarters toward key issues such as boosting democracy, human rights, women and youth affairs. MPs Shaya, Askar Al-Enezi, Kamel Al-Awadhi, Dr Mohammad Al-Hwailah and Majed Moussa Al-Mutairi attended the meeting. His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah also received Lammert and his delegation separately on the occasion of their visit to the country.

Also yesterday, His Highness Sheikh Nawaf received Deputy Chairman of the Ruling Family Council Sheikh Dr Ibrahim Al-Duajj Al-Sabah,



KUWAIT: His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets President of the German Bundestag Norbert Lammert. — KUNA photos

and Head of the National Security Bureau Sheikh Thamer Ali Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah. Meanwhile, His Highness the Prime Minister received editor-in-chief of Al-Hayat newspaper

George Semaan. The meeting was attended by the Assistant Undersecretary for Foreign Media at the Ministry of Information, Faisal Nahar Al-Mutlaqem.— KUNA



National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem is pictured with the German Bundestag President Norbert Lammert.



First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah meets Speaker of the German Bundestag Norbert Lammert

FM CONGRATULATES CROWN PRINCE ON ANNIVERSARY

KUWAIT: First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, on behalf of the Foreign Ministry and all of its staff, addressed a cable of congratulations to His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, marking the 10th anniversary since he assumed the Heir Apparent post.

Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled expressed best wishes and appreciation to His Highness the Deputy Amir and the Crown Prince for the achievements made throughout this decade-masterminded by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. The Foreign



Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled

Minister renewed commitment and support to continue serving the country's interests on international arena. — KUNA

KUWAIT UNDERSCORES KEENNESS ON SOLID BONDS WITH JORDAN

AMMAN: Kuwait's Army Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Mohammad Khaled Al-Khoder said yesterday that current meetings at the level of the Kuwait-Jordan Military Committee "embodies mutual keenness on cementing the distinctive bilateral bonds and cooperation in various sectors, based on solid brotherhood and joint destiny."

Lieutenant General Khoder said in a statement to Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) that the meeting was convened in "shadow of events in the region which warrant bolstering such cooperation for service of the two brotherly countries' interests," as well as for sake of realizing outlook of the sagacious leaderships of the State of Kuwait and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

"The brotherly meeting is complementary to the distinctive meetings that had been held at the level of the supreme Kuwaiti-Jordanian commission, aimed at realizing highest level of cooperation in the realms of planning, joint training and expertise swap among various units of our armed forces," the Kuwaiti chief of staff added.

He lauded General Mishal Al-Zaben, Jordan's King's Military Advisor and Armed forces Chief of Staff, for his leading role in ensuring "success of the meeting as well as his hospitality which distinguish the brethren in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan."

Meanwhile, the Military Attaché of the State of Kuwait to Jordan, Colonel Turki Al-Meshaal, said in a statement to KUNA that the Kuwaiti and Jordanian military chiefs would sign, at conclusion of the committee meeting on Tuesday, a cooperation pact, including a protocol, also designed to enhance military coordination.

Holding these meetings is stipulated in the Kuwaiti-Jordanian Military Cooperation Pact, with aim of enhancing mutual cooperation in the field. The joint commission started the meeting on Sunday, held as

part of its 11th session. The Kuwaiti military delegation arrived in the Kingdom on Saturday.

Donor meetings

Earlier, Jordanian Prime Minister Abdullah Ensour expressed gratitude for His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah for hosting three donor meetings for Syrians, and co-chairing the fourth, held recently in London.

Kuwait hosted three pledging conferences to help the Syrian people, which raised some \$7.6 billion. His Highness the Amir co-chaired the recently-held donors' meeting in London, which raised around \$11 billion.

Ensour thanked His Highness the Amir while meeting with the ministers of interior, planning, labor, information and industry Sunday. The meeting aimed at discussing outcome of the London meeting, where Jordan urged donors to help it cope with growing demands of the Syrian refugees.

Jordan, said Ensour, succeeded during the London meeting to shed further light on the refugee issue and its impacts on the Jordanian citizens. He thanked the donors for their support. He said Jordan did not close its doors for the Syrian refugees, but there were around 16,000 Syrians kept in a no-mans land in northern Jordan who came from northern Syria, an area filled with so-called Islamic State (IS) militants. "Their security status should be examined before entry," he added.

Minister of Planning Emad Fakhoury said donors in London pledged \$8.7 billion for Jordan for years 2016-18 in grants and easy loans. There are 1.265 million Syrians in Jordan, half of them sought refuge in the Kingdom after the conflict broke out in March 2011 while the rest were already settling in Jordan. — KUNA



AMMAN: Jordan's Prime Minister Abdullah Ensour meets with Kuwait's Army Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Mohammad Khaled Al-Khoder and his accompanying delegation. — KUNA

AMBASSADOR DISCUSSES BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH AUSTRALIAN FM

CANBERRA: Kuwait's Ambassador to Australia Najeeb Al-Bader discussed yesterday with Australian Foreign Minister Julie Bishop issues of common concern and bilateral relations. During their meeting, the two sides also delved into bilateral cooperation and current developments on the region and international arena, namely the Syrian crisis and the humanitarian situation, namely efforts exerted by Kuwait and Australia to aid Syrian refugees in neighboring countries.

In a telephone call with KUNA, Ambassador Bader said the talks also focused on ways to improve investment, economic, and trade relations between the two countries. The ambassador expressed satisfaction at volume of trade exchanges between the two countries which reached more than one billion Australian Dollars, as well as Kuwaiti investments in Australia, estimated at \$12 billion. — KUNA



CANBERRA: Kuwait's Ambassador to Australia Najeeb Al-Bader is pictured with Australian Foreign Minister Julie Bishop. — KUNA

Crime

Report

FOUL PLAY SUSPECTED IN QURAIN HOUSE FIRE

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: A Kuwaiti family narrowly escaped death when a fire broke out in their house in Qurain. The fire started in the early hours of morning when all residents were asleep, said security sources, noting that the fire started in the diwaniya. According to the sources, firemen managed to control the fire within 25 minutes and rescued five family members plus a housekeeper. Initial reports showed that the fire was an act of arson. A case was filed and further investigations are in progress. In other cases, a fire recently broke out in a house in Ahmadi, said security sources, noting that initial reports suggested that the fire was caused by an electric short circuit. The fire was controlled and no casualties were reported. Separately, Jleeb Al-Shuyiukh firefighters controlled a fire that broke out in an electric transformer outside a house, said security sources, noting that no casualties were reported.

Closed companies

Residency affairs department detectives found that 351 laborers were sponsored by 15 companies supposedly headquartered in Sharq that were later found already closed, said security sources. They noted that the 15 companies were blacklisted and the owners are being summoned for failure to follow proper legal procedures after the companies' closure.

Inspection campaigns

Ahmadi detectives recently launched an inspection campaign in Fintas, Fahaheel and Sabahiya, which resulted in arresting five people who had been wanted for various cases and impounding the vehicle of a reckless driver, said security sources. Adding that another campaign in Mahboula resulted in arresting three fugitives, impounding three vehicles and filing five traffic citations. Meanwhile, Ahmadi traffic police yesterday launched an inspection campaign in the governorate's areas that resulted in arresting 25 juveniles driving without driving licenses.

Environmental law

In collaboration with Environment Public Authority (EPA) and Ministry of Public Works (MPW), environment police recently referred a commercial tower's administration in Kuwait City to public prosecution for violating architectural conditions and the environment protection law, said security sources. Case papers indicate that the MPW had filed a complaint against the tower's administration for violating environmental regulations by connecting the tower's drainage system directly to seawater, which poses considerable pollution to seawater and damage to national fish resources. A case was filed.

'Prison riot' explained

Commenting on recent media reports about an alleged riot in which a female inmate attacked prison guards, the Ministry of Interior's assistant undersecretary for correctional facilities Maj Gen Khaled Al-Deyyeen stressed that what happened was an individual incident committed by a woman sentenced for 20 years for drug trafficking, assault, robbery, threats and physical assault. Deyyeen explained that prison guards were in the process of a routine search in the ward and found a mobile phone with the prisoner. He added that on confiscating it, she started a fight, assaulting them and other inmates as well as nurses who were medically examining them, taking advantage of the open ward doors. Deyyeen added that this prisoner had been known to be a very violent and aggressive person and that she was charged while in prison for assault, assault with a fire extinguisher, suicide attempt and destroying public property by arson.

Impounded cars' auction

The Ministry of Interior's traffic directorate announced its intention to hold a public auction to sell a number of vehicles that had been impounded at the ministry's yards at Kuwait Public Transportation Company, Mina Abdullah and Ahmadi. The auction will be held at 4:00 pm on Feb 17, 2016 at the impoundment section. The directorate added that involved vehicles' license plate numbers and owners' names had been published in local press, radio and TV on Monday, Dec 7, 2015, giving the owners a fortnight to check with the committee. Those interested to take part in the auction have to check with the impoundment garage at least one day prior to the auction day to examine the vehicles.



KUWAIT: Kuwait Municipality announced yesterday that its branches in Hawally, Asima (capital) and Farwaniya issued 12 licenses to candidates running for by-elections in the third constituency, which are set to take place on February 20, 2016. The number makes up 29 percent of the total number of candidates, which stands at 41.

INFO MINISTER PRESENTS SPORTS REVAMP STRATEGY

CABINET OKS SENIOR OFFICIALS' APPOINTMENT

KUWAIT: Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah yesterday presented a report to the Cabinet on the strategy of the Public Authority for Sports (PAS) to develop Kuwaiti sports.

PAS's strategy consists of six aspects: the private sports sector, public sports sector, educational sector, sports facilities, sports medicine and privatization, the minister said in a statement following the cabinet's customary weekly meeting, held at Seif Palace under chairmanship of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

The report included practical steps taken to put this strategy in place through the government's development program and plan, mainly supporting technical programs purposed to upgrade the level of athletes in local and external competitions, to support the sports of women and people with special needs, to open new sports clubs in north and south Kuwait, to provide clubs with appropriate financial aid in order to apply partial professionalism in sports, and to restructure the PAS's sectors, he elaborated.

The PAS and the Ministry of Education will also work together to establish joint sports training centers through cooperation between schools and clubs as well as cooperation between public and private universities and colleges, the minister added. Furthermore, top priority is to be given to developing sports facilities, applying health insurance to national teams and

privatizing public clubs, he pointed out.

Letters

At the onset of the cabinet's weekly meeting, the ministers were apprised of a couple of letters sent to His Highness the Amir by Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz and Iranian President Hassan Rouhani on bilateral relations.

They were then briefed on a letter sent to His Highness the Prime Minister by UK Prime Minister David Cameron on the latter's planned visit to Kuwait, together with another letter to His Highness the Prime Minister from his Albanian counterpart Edi Rama, thanking Kuwait's support to significant projects in his country.

Afterwards, First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah briefed the cabinet on the outcomes of the recent international donors conference on Syria in London, in which he was part of His Highness the Amir's accompanying delegation to the gathering. He also kept them posted on the outcomes of the meeting held between His Highness the Amir and Queen Elizabeth of the United Kingdom and Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, which reflected deep historical relations between both friendly countries.

In this context, the cabinet appreciated His Highness the Amir's participation in the London conference, which reflected His Highness the Amir's much care for the humanitarian tragedy of the Syrian people. Finally, the cabinet discussed several political reports on the current Arab and interna-



KUWAIT: His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah chairs the Cabinet's meeting yesterday. —KUNA

tional developments.

Senior officials

Also yesterday, the Cabinet has approved a draft decree appointing Dr. Samira Ahmad Asem Director-General of the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR), Sheikh Salman announced. Another draft decree handpicking Abdulrahman Al-

Mutairi as Director-General of the Public Authority for Youth (PAY) was approved during the cabinet's weekly meeting, the minister said to KUNA following the meeting. The Cabinet also consented to a third draft decree appointing Eman Al-Mutairi Assistant Secretary-General of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development (SCPD), he added. — KUNA

LAWMAKER TO GRILL LABOR MINISTER OVER TRAFFICKING

MALIYA UNDERPASS SCRAPPED OVER 'IMMORALITY' FEARS

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: MP Mohammad Tana Al-Enezi announced intentions to file a new grilling motion against Minister of Social Affairs and labor, Minister of Planning and Development Hind Al-Subaih, inquiring about an interview she gave to Al-Majlis TV channel. Enezi added that his grilling motion would also focus on visa traffickers and demands to name and expose them before the entire Kuwaiti society. He also said he demanded that the minister reveals the name of a lawmaker she claimed had asked her to approve a residency transaction. "The minister will take the podium soon and I dare her to expose the names of visa traffickers," he underscored. Last October, the parliament debated a grilling motion that Enezi filed against Subain on alleged violations in four sectors under the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor - the public authority for the disabled, the public manpower authority, the cooperative societies sector and the social care homes sector. On a different concern, Enezi told reporters that the parliament's foreign affairs committee had approved a bill on passing the amended agreement on Arab cooperation in relief aid operations. He added that the committee also approved a bill allowing Kuwait to join the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT).

Underpass scrapped

Kuwait Municipality cancelled a previous decision to build a pedestrian tunnel near the Sheraton roundabout at the end of Fahd Al-Salem Street and decided to build a pedes-



Minister Hind Al-Subaih



MP Mohammad Tana Al-Enezi

trian overpass in order to avoid the tunnel being used for immoral acts.

KOTC fleet

Sheikh Talal Al-Khaled Al-Sabah, CEO of Kuwait Oil Tanker Company (KOTC) announced that KOTC will complete the final phase of its five-year plan during which its fleet will have 35 tankers by 2020. Speaking in an interview with Robban Assafina magazine, a bimonthly Middle Eastern Arabic/English magazine specialized in maritime shipping, ships, offshore and marine technology, Sheikh Talal stressed that the construction of a giant crude oil tanker, three giant liquefied gas tankers and four medium range oil tankers was already in progress with the ultimate goal of developing Kuwait's fleet of oil tankers and serve KPC's regional and international strategic goals.

Commenting on KOTC winning international awards in 2015, Sheikh Talal stressed that KOTC considers being nominated for awards as important as winning them, because this is only done according to tangible achievements. He also attributed winning the Naval Commander award more than once to the efforts exerted by his colleagues in KOTC as a whole team. Sheikh Talal also discussed the company's scholarship programs through which many citizens were dispatched to study maritime majors in international academic institutions as a means to encourage more Kuwaiti young men to take up this profession. Environmentally speaking, Sheikh Talal noted that the new oil tankers had been equipped with the latest environment-friendly machinery and equipment that reduce both air and sea pollution rates.

COUNCIL ALLOCATES 2 SQ KM AREA FOR TIRE RECYCLING

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: The Municipal Council yesterday agreed to allocate a two-square-kilometer area in Sheqaya to be used by Public Authority for Industry for recycling used tires. During its weekly meeting, the council also agreed to adjust the allowed building areas at Abu Fatira and Ardiya industrial areas to be 100 percent of the total area including basements and ground floors, and 80 percent starting from the first floor

upwards. In this regard, deputy director for Ahmadi and Hawally affairs Faisal Sadeq said that a special committee had been formed including elements from various ministries to discuss and approve the new amendments. Speaking at the meeting, council member Hassan Kamal slammed the Minister of State for Municipal Affairs Essa Al-Kandari's rejection of the council's proposal to hire retired citizens and accused him of looking down upon the entire council. "He seemed as if he was say-

ing that is none of your business," he underlined.

Case adjourned

The court of misdemeanor yesterday adjourned hearing a case filed against 13 people, including Kuwaiti citizens and Asian nationals, for harboring former MP Musallam Al-Barrak. The next hearing was set for April 11, when state security detective in charge could be summoned for testimony.



KUWAIT: A view of the Municipal Council's meeting yesterday. — Photo by Fouad Al-Shaikh

KUWAIT BANS LIVE BIRDS FROM UK OVER H5N1

KUWAIT: The Public Authority for Agriculture and Fish Resources Affairs (PAAFRA) banned yesterday imports of live birds, eggs and one-day-old chicks from the UK because of the outbreak of the pathogenic H5N1 bird flu.

PAAFRA in a statement stressed the importance of subjecting all incoming consignments to PAAFRA's requirements and restrictions, in line with the relevant procedures of the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), the veterinary quarantine systems in Kuwait and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

The statement further said in case infectious or epidemic diseases are spotted, a shipment will be rejected and the importer will be committed to return it. The decision was taken against the backdrop of OIE's recent reports on the outbreak of H5N1 bird flu in the United Kingdom.

PAAFRA also imposed a temporary ban on livestock imports from Armenia, except the one-hump camel. It noted in an official statement that all imported livestock be subjected to regulations issued by PAAF's Animal Health Department, and in line with rules of the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) and animal quarantine authorities in Kuwait and GCC. It underlined that imported animals which turned out to be sick following laboratory tests, would be sent back to where they came from and at the expense of the importer. —KUNA

WORKERS INJURED IN CONSTRUCTION ACCIDENT RECOVER

KUWAIT: All persons who were injured in an accident at a school construction site that happened on January 24th have recovered, the Public Authority for Housing Welfare said yesterday. A number of people were injured during construction of a school ceiling in Sabah Al-Ahmad district. They had to be whisked to hospitals aboard special helicopters and ambulances. The authority official spokesman, Ibrahim Al-Nashi, said that all the injured had recovered and discharged from hospitals, noting that a special panel had been formed to investigate circumstances of the accident. Results of the investigations would be publicized next week. — KUNA

ELEVATED U-TURNS TO SAVE LIVES

KUWAIT: Nuwaiseeb highway will get four elevated u-turns in a bid to reduce fatal accidents. The \$19.3 million plan will provide for the u-turns at various points along the road, also known as 120km Highway 40, which runs from Kuwait's border with Saudi Arabia all the way until it meets Highway 30, (also known as the Fahaheel Expressway).

More than 160 fatalities caused by the existing ground-level U-turns in 2013, according to the Kuwait Central Statistical Bureau (KCSB). The road serves as a route to Wafra, Khairan, Al Zour Refinery as well as the main travel route for Kuwait-Saudi traffic.

The Ministry of Public Works is undertaking a series of road upgrades and developments in 2016 to ease pressure on clogged streets and outdated road networks and reduce Kuwait's traffic congestion.



KUWAIT: Deputy Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Ali Jarrah Al-Sabah attends Kuwait's 5th Arabian Horse Festival. —KUNA photos



Deputy Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Ali Jarrah Al-Sabah (right) and Assistant Undersecretary for Arabian Horse Affairs Sheikha Sarah Fahad Al-Sabah.



ARABIAN HORSE FESTIVAL HELD UNDER AMIR'S AUSPICES

KUWAIT: Under the auspices of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Kuwait's 5th Arabian Horse Festival kicked off Sunday night at the Arabian Horse Center in Bait Al-Arab, with a competition titled 'Cup of Nations for Egyptian Horses.'

His Highness the Amir deputized Deputy Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Ali Jarrah Al-Sabah to attend the festival. Upon arrival, Sheikh Ali was received by Assistant Undersecretary for Arabian Horse Affairs Sheikha Sarah Fahad Al-Sabah and members of the committee.

The festival kicked off with the national anthem, followed by a demonstration of the participating horses in the festival. Awards were presented at the end of the festival for the winners by representative of His Highness the Amir.

Earlier, Kuwait's Arabian Horse Beauty Festival concluded its events in Bait Al-Arab Arabian Horse Center, ending a competition held under auspices of His Highness the Amir. Sheikha Sarah, also Assistant Undersecretary for Arabian Horses, told KUNA the festival included the Egyptian-breed horses. She said participation of horses from Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Egypt and Jordan contributed to the success of the four-day festival, which featured 419 Arabian horses. Sheikha Sarah expressed gratitude for His Highness the Amir for patronizing the festival. —KUNA

TOURISTS FLOCK TO KUWAIT'S SHOPPING MALLS

KUWAIT: The bustling indoor malls have emerged in the past years as one of the most popular attractions to foreign visitors to Kuwait, especially those from the neighboring Gulf countries.

This fact has spurred the government and private sector to invest more in developing this sector to meet the demands and satisfy the diverse tastes of the visitors. Several new shopping malls have opened in Kuwait in recent years including Al-Hamra mall, 360 Mall, Symphony Mall, The Avenues, The View Mall, The Gate Mall, Miral Complex, the Cube mall and others. "Due to the tough desert weather of Kuwait, malls have become a default destination to both tourists and Kuwait residents," noted the Mabanee Company, the owner of the Avenues shopping mall, said in statement yesterday. It pointed out that the number of Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti visitors to shopping malls is steadily growing especially in the peak times, summer and national vacations. Mudon Ahlia Real Estate Company Chief Executive Office Omar Najem echoed a similar view. Shopping malls come at the top of list of tourist destinations in Kuwait for Gulf nationals, particularly in weekends and vacations, Najem said. He explained that visitors wander the air-conditioned malls seeking refuge from the scorching heat and satisfying their appetite for material goods. —KUNA



The Avenues Mall

KUWAIT TAKES PART IN CAIRO INT'L BOOK FAIR

CAIRO: Kuwait is keen on partaking in all Egypt's cultural events, including Cairo International Book Fair, a Kuwaiti official said. The Kuwaiti pavilion's coordinator and Information Ministry official Anoud Al-Saeed praised in a statement to KUNA the deep-rooted Kuwaiti-Egyptian relations in various cultural fields.

She stressed keenness of the Kuwaiti Ministry of Information, represented by the Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah, to participate in this prestigious cultural event and provide all Kuwaiti production to contribute to the dissemination of Arab culture.

Meanwhile, Publication official of Kuwait's Information Ministry Fahad Al-Harbi, in a similar statement affirmed to KUNA Kuwait's keenness to participate in all cultural events in the Arab countries, especially in Egypt because of its significant cultural role in the region. He stressed the importance of distinctive publications presented in the Kuwaiti pavilion, which provides information about Kuwait's past, present and the country's stages of development.

He praised the cultural events and activities varied in the exhibition, noting that it includes more than 560 events in addition to more than 34 countries participated, including Kuwait and 850 publishers. The 47th edition of the Cairo International Book Fair is themed "Culture on the Frontline." The annual cultural event concludes on February 10, and The Kingdom of Bahrain is this year's guest of honor. —KUNA



CAIRO: A visitor stops by Kuwait's pavilion at the Cairo International Book Fair. —KUNA

ARTS CRUCIAL TO CULTURAL ENLIGHTENMENT: MINISTER

KUWAIT: Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah said Sunday Kuwait believes in the role of arts and culture in preparing an enlightened generation who are capable of contributing to the progress and development of their homeland.

Speaking at the opening ceremony of the seventh international forum of Islamic Arts, Sheikh Salman said the forum coincides with the Kuwait celebrating its selection as Capital of Islamic Culture 2016. The forum is being organized by the Kuwait Islamic Arts Center of the Ministry of Awqaf at the Grand Mosque until February 14 under auspices of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.



KUWAIT: Minister of Information Sheikh Salman Al-Humoud Al-Sabah and Minister of Awqaf Yaqoub Al-Sane open the 7th international forum of Islamic Arts. —KUNA

"The creative works of art on display at, and the activities of, the event sends a message about the grandeur of the Islamic civilization which impacted all aspects of our daily life," Sheikh Salman pointed out. "The exhibits shed light on the great aesthetic appeal of the Islamic civilization and the bright humanitarian aspect of noble and moderate Islam," he went on. Sheikh Salman added that Arts and Letters (NCCAL) shoulders a great responsibility for promoting public awareness,

particularly among the young people, about the Islamic arts and civilization.

Minister of Justice, and Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Yaqoub Al-Sane said the forum contributes to the status of Kuwait as center of Islamic arts and the status of the Grand Mosque as one of the country's landmarks.

"Over the last seven years, the forum rose to prominence and became a global cultural beacon providing a networking opportunity for scholar and researchers in, and lovers of, the Islamic arts," the minister said.

The forum features two categories of activities, namely Arabic calligraphy and Islamic ornamentation and its applications on metals, in addition to the participation of 120 paintings. Also on the agenda are daily workshops on calligraphy, needles artwork, workshops for young people, water paint art. The forum gathered a galaxy of artistic celebrities, intellectuals and public figures from across the Muslim world. —KUNA



CLUB TO ORGANIZE MUSTANG 'BEAUTY CONTEST' ON FEB 12



Saif Awadh Al-Mutairi

KUWAIT: The Basil Al-Sabah Cars and Motorcycles Club will organize in cooperation with Mustang Racing Q8 team a competition on February 12 for the most glamorous Mustang for the 2016 season. Competitors will park their vehicles at Kuwait Towers on February 12 afternoon and evaluation

by experts will afterward, the Club's Director General Saif Awadh Al-Mutairi said. Mutairi added the evaluation will be conducted on Mustang GT-LX Cobra production cars for the year 1979 till 1993, Mustang GT-Cobra production year 1994 till 2004, Mustang

GT-Shelby 2005-2009, and Mustang GT-Shelby production 2010-2014. Mutairi noted that the first three winners will receive awards from the Public Authority for Sport (PAS), stressing that such cooperation is the first of its kind in Kuwait. —KUNA



Kuwaiti pavilion's coordinator and Information Ministry official Anoud Al-Saeed.



Publication official of Kuwait's Information Ministry Fahad Al-Harbi

STATE AUDIT BUREAU ASSERTS RIGHT TO OVERSEE PROJECTS

KUWAIT: Undersecretary of the State Audit Bureau (SAB) Ismail Al-Ghanim stressed yesterday the significance of prior surveillance over projects, saying it cannot impede the implementation of ventures.

Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of a meeting of the INTOSAI Development Initiative (IDI) and Arab Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (ARABOSAI) with supreme control bodies and stakeholders, Ghanim said prior surveillance has several advantages for governmental agencies, primarily proper execution of procedures, fair competition and legal awarding.

Despite low oil prices, 2015 was a milestone year for the government-funded projects with more than KD 9.7 billion worth of contracts being awarded during the year, marking a 20 percent growth over the previous year, according to a recent National Bank of Kuwait analysis. Furthermore, the year 2016 is likely to be a bumper year, as the

authorities plan to sign a variety of mega project deals worth KD 16.7 billion by the year-end.

Asked if the SAB has a special agenda with the start of the new fiscal year in April, he said his agency would continue working in line with the instructions of the Cabinet, Ministry of Finance and His Highness the Amir for retrenchment measures due to the current circumstances.

Oversight and investigations

All state bodies, authorities and agencies are subject to the control of the State Audit Bureau, he said, regretting that some departments fail to cooperate with the SAB properly. In January, lawmakers called on the Kuwait Investment Authority to cooperate with the National Assembly and the State Audit Bureau over an investigation into a real estate sale conducted by the KIA.

The SAB undersecretary also noted that repeated violations by state bodies could be due to reshuffles of senior officials, urging all authorities to exert more concerted efforts in the coming period in light of the continuing fall in oil prices.

During the one-day meeting, Ghanim said the SAB cooperates with the IDI, which is a non-profit organization that acts as the capacity building secretariat of the International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (INTOSAI), which today comprises 189 Supreme Audit Institutions (SAIs). The IDI works to enhance the institutional capacity of SAIs in developing countries through needs-based, collaborative and sustainable development programs in INTOSAI regions and groups of SAIs to meet the emerging and existing needs of stakeholders.

Deputy Director General and Head of Capacity Development of the IDI Archana P Shirsat told Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) that ID appreciated the SAB's hosting of the meeting.



KUWAIT: A group photo of participants of INTOSAI Development Initiative (IDI) and Arab Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (ARABOSAI) with supreme control bodies and stakeholders. —Photos by Fouad Al-Shaikh



Undersecretary of the State Audit Bureau (SAB) Ismail Al-Ghanim speaks at the meeting.

NEW VISA CENTER FOR HUNGARY IN KUWAIT

KUWAIT: Hungary has opened a new visa application center in Kuwait. Officials hope the new visa center will simplify and expedite the visa process for visitors to Hungary coming through Kuwait and provide a boost to Kuwait-Hungary tourism.

"Hungary has always had a special relationship with Kuwait," Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Laszlo Szabo said. "It was the first Gulf country which established diplomatic ties with Hungary and helped us to sell Hungarian products to other countries of this region. Our cooperation is distinguished with deep mutual understanding, excellent cooperation in both political and economic fields, as well as with excellent people-to-people relations."

The center will feature staff fluent in local languages, automated queue management, door-to-door delivery of documents and a lounge. It is located on the first floor of the Albanwan Building on Ali Al-Salem St., in the Al-Qiblah neighborhood of Kuwait City.

The new location follows the opening of a similar application center in the United Arab Emirates and is expected to be followed by two more in Saudi Arabia and Bahrain in the next few months.

RESEARCH, SCIENCES IMPORTANT FOR PEOPLE'S DEVELOPMENT: MINISTER

DUBAI: Kuwait's Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs and Acting Minister of Electricity and Water Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah yesterday stressed the importance of research and scientific efforts to ensure countries' welfare and progress of people, especially the State of Kuwait.

The World Government Summit stressed importance of human development due to its positive impact on peoples' future, said the minister in statement to KUNA and Kuwait TV on Monday after his participation at the Summit opening held in Dubai.

Arabs and Muslims were proactive in scientific researches in the past, and now they should restore this outstanding position to build developed societies, he said. Youth need to be encouraged by their governments in the field of scientific creativity, he added. Economic stability is very important for the Gulf governments that are now trying to increase their sources of income instead of relying on oil as a main source of income, he added.

A senior Kuwaiti delegation participated at the Summit, headed by Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah and included Minister of Social Affairs and Labor and Minister of State for Planning and Development Dr Hind Al-Subaih.

The World Government Summit is a primary global forum dedicated to shaping the future of governments worldwide. Each year, the Summit sets an agenda for the next generation of governments with focus on how they can harness innovation and technology to solve universal challenges facing humanity.

It is a gateway to the future as it functions as an analysis platform for the future trends, issues and opportunities facing humanity. It is also an opportunity to showcase innovations, best practice and smart solutions to inspire creativity to tackle these future challenges. —KUNA

KNPC SEEKS TO CUT SPENDING ON MAINTENANCE BY 15%

KUWAIT: The Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC) works on cutting spending on maintenance up to 15 percent, in light of a sustained low oil price, an official said yesterday. In remarks to reporters on sidelines of the second annual meeting on maintenance, Mohammad Saud Al-Shammari, a maintenance manager at KNPC's Shuaiba Refinery, stressed that the cut will not be at the expense of the company's security and safety.

The company spends about \$200 million for maintenance works at its three refineries, he said. He underlined importance of curbing unscheduled suspensions of refineries across the globe as resumption of their production needs up to six days, indicating that this process causes a big loss. —KUNA

Hala February...

Enjoy the Lowest Installments



CHANGAN
شانجان



Monthly installment starting from **KD 95**

S75
4 Cylinder Turbo
1.8 Liter
177 hp



Stylish Interior



Push Start Button



Steering Wheel Controls



Powerful AC



Monthly installment starting from **KD 74**

S35
Full Option
4 Cylinder
1.6 Liter
123 hp



Advanced & Elegant Interior



Sunroof



Airbags



Rear Sensor



Monthly installment starting from **KD 69**

EADO
Full Option
4 Cylinder
1.6 Liter
123 hp



Elegant Interior



Automatic Transmission



Airbags



Halogen Headlights

10 years warranty or 500,000 KM

- Free Registration
- Free 3rd party insurance for 3 years
- 24/7 Roadside Assistance



5th Ring Road, Street 9, Mohammad Bin Qasem Str., 4th Ring Road

Rai - Moh. Bin Qasem St. - Beside Volvo Showroom - Phone: 24968888 - Ext. 6502

KFH Showroom: 24397746

/ChanganKuwait | Changan_kwt | www.aalmutawa.com



شركة القرين لتجارة السيارات
Al-Qurain Automotive Trading Company

مجموعة شركات عبد العزيز العلي المطوع
Abdulaziz Al-Ah Al-Mutawa Group of Companies

Crime

Report

GOOD SAMARITAN SAVES WOMAN FROM KIDNAPPERS

KUWAIT: A citizen recently rescued a Filipina woman who had been kidnapped by three people in Fintas, said security sources. The man told police that he was heading to his vehicle when he heard the woman scream for help. He added that he ran towards the suspects, who appeared to be of Asian nationalities, but they let the woman go and drove off the scene. The citizen then took the woman to the police station to file a complaint. Further investigations are in progress.

Drug possession

Two men, Kuwaiti and Egyptian, were recently arrested in Maidan Hawalli with possession of drugs, said security sources. Patrol officers had ordered the suspects to pull their vehicle over, then discovered that they were under the influence. Searching the suspects, policemen found the drugs in their possession. A case was filed and further investigations are in progress.

Officers insulted

An Egyptian woman was recently arrested at Salmiya police station for insulting policemen, said security sources. Case papers indicate that the woman went to the station to report an accident that happened in Sharq. When told that she had to file the report at Sharq police station, she thought policemen were reluctant to serve her and insulted them. According to reports, the woman allegedly made fun of a detective dressed in civilian clothes and called another 'bald'. The woman is facing charges of insulting a public officer on duty.

Body found

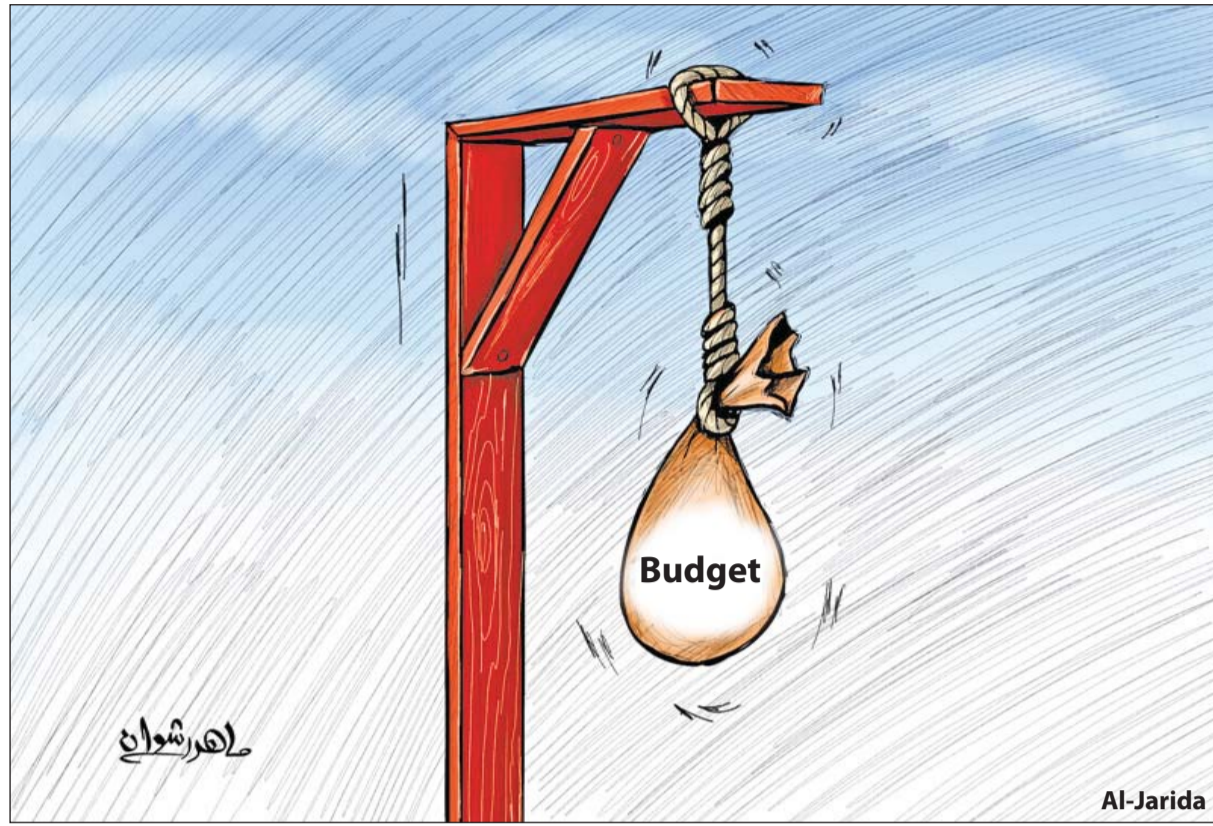
A body was taken to the forensic department to identify the victim and determine the cause of death after it was found near the Seventh Ring Road. Initial examination suggests that the man had been dead for three days before his body was found on Sunday. A case was filed for investigations.

Car thieves caught

Five Asians were recently arrested for committing several car robberies as they had specialized in stealing vehicles from outside of their owners' doorsteps, said security sources. Case papers indicate that while detectives were investigating several complaints received about stolen vehicles, they suspected a garage owner who, on being arrested, admitted to dismantling the stolen vehicles and selling them to his compatriots as cheap spare parts. He also led police to his accomplices.

Student injured

A Jahra primary school kid recently lost his right eye when a classmate attacked him using a piece of broken glass, said security sources. —Al-Rai, Al-Anbaa



Al-Jarida

News

in brief

HIGH COST COULD DELAY EUROFIGHTERS DEAL

KUWAIT: A deal by which Kuwait plans to purchase 28 Eurofighter aircrafts at around 7 billion euros could be delayed in light of the State Audit Bureau's reservations on its high cost. While the bureau okayed the planes' purchase deal, it showed reservation on the maintenance, training and logistic support contract which is estimated at around 2 billion euros, Al-Rai reported yesterday quoting sources familiar with a recent meeting between the bureau's acting chief Adel Al-Saraawi and Kuwait's Defense Minister Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah. —Al-Rai

Govt has KD 2 billion in uncollected dues

KUWAIT: State department's failure to collect dues could cost the state's budget around KD 2 billion, the State Audit Bureau said in a report on the 2014/2015 budget. The Ministry of Electricity and Water has the largest amount of uncollected dues with nearly KD 83 million, followed by Kuwait Municipality with KD 58 million. Meanwhile, the Ministry of Justice came in last place with just KD 10,000 in uncollected dues. —Al-Qabas

40% developmental projects rejected

KUWAIT: The General Secretariat for Planning and Development has rejected 200 out of 500 developmental projects included in the government's annual plan for the fiscal year 2016/2017, Al-Qabas reported yesterday quoting sources. The sources explained that the rejected projects, which make up 40 percent of the total projects, fail to achieve the development plan's strategic goals, and do not have any direct or indirect investment returns. —Al-Qabas

Projects excluded from supervision

KUWAIT: The parliament's housing committee approved a proposal to exclude housing projects from auditing and supervision carried out before their execution. This helps speed up the process of executing major projects carried out by the Public Authority for Housing Welfare, the committee's rapporteur MP Saud Al-Huraj said. Meanwhile, head of the budgets committee MP Adnan Abdulsamad said that the panel sent a letter to Parliament Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem regarding the failure of the National Fund for Small and Medium Enterprises to subject its budget to the State Audit Bureau's supervision. —Al-Jarida

Fees for expats medical services

KUWAIT: The parliament's legislative committee on Sunday passed a proposal to amend article 12 of the expatriates' health insurance law, in order to impose fees on health services provided to foreigners in Kuwait. The proposal was presented by Deputy Speaker Mubarak Al-Khuraifej. —Al-Rai

الانباء

Al-Anbaa

WHO SAID NAZISM IS DEAD?

By Thaar Al-Rasheedi

One of the main reasons why Nazism collapsed was that it began as a political, racist, ethnological, nationalistic idea to exclude others, whoever they were, and look down upon any non-Aryan races. It was from such racist ideas and goals that Adolf Hitler acted to impose his expansionist domination.

The same idea was also adopted by German doctors and scientists who started Nazi eugenics, which were Nazi Germany's racial-based social policies that placed the biological improvement of the Aryan or Germanic race at the center of Nazi ideology. Those policies did not only aim at excluding Jews, but also aimed at excluding all those considered by the Nazi Party as 'aliens' or strangers. Moreover, those policies considered any healthy person from those races a threat to German nationalism and thus a law was passed in 1935 banning marriage of healthy people to unhealthy or unfit ones even if those unfit were pure Aryans.

Though political analysts and historians justify the fall of Nazism by World War II and German fighting on more than one front at the same time, noting that this was the cause of defeat and dividing Germany into two states, I believe that it was those policies that caused the fall of Nazi dreams. I also believe that even if Hitler did not commit that

fatal strategic mistake or even had not waged the war in the first place, Nazism would have anyway fallen without any interference from the Soviets, US nor the Allies, simply because no state can be built on excluding others and classifying its citizens according to their race, religion or doctrine. Such states are doomed to die out without even knowing it.

How long could Nazi Aryan nationalistic Germany have lasted if it had not gone to wage World War II? The answer is simply that it would not have lasted more than half a century, which means it was doomed to fall and collapse by the end of the 1980s or the beginning of the 1990s.

Theoretically speaking, any state's attempt to create a single form of people and religion is a suicidal one and leads to failure. Any state that does not believe in ethnic, religious and doctrinal pluralism, and classifies its subjects accordingly will surely fail.

The Third World countries and those of the Middle East will never stabilize and become real productive states unless they abandon calls to exclude others. Nazism does not only lie in the Nazi swastika or the domination of the Aryan race. It is based on racial exclusion of others - ideas that flourish in the minds of many Third World peoples.

—Translated by Kuwait Times



KUWAIT: The Ministry of Interior participated in a cultural forum organized by the Qurtoba High School for Girls. First Lieutenant Sarah Yousuf from the ministry's Relations and Security Media Department gave a lecture on the requirements for enrolling in the policewomen academy.



KUWAIT: The Commercial Bank of Kuwait (CBK) presented a donation to the labor union of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation in support of its social activities.

QUAKER
كويكر
1877

- بدون ألوان اصطناعية
- بدون إضافة غلوتومات أحادي الصوديوم
- بدون مواد حافظة اصطناعية

IT'S HERE
The SOUP you've always wanted

شوربة الدجاج بالشعيرية مع الشوفان
Chicken Noodle with oats

شوربة خضار بالكومون مع الفلفل
Vegetable Cumin with oats

شوربة كريمة الدجاج مع الشوفان
Cream of Chicken with oats

شوربة كريمة مع الشوفان
Creamy Mushroom with oats

Find some great valuable recipes on our social media accounts at [QUAKER_KW](#) [QUAKERARABIA](#)

Altco W.L.L
General Trading and Contracting

ص.ب. 23987 ص.ب. 13100 الكويت تليفون: 22475115 - 22474994 - 22498090 فاكس: 22478118



40,000 starving to death as S Sudan teeters on famine

SURVIVORS BEING PULLED ALIVE FROM QUAKE RUBBLE

GERMANY, TURKEY SEEK NATO HELP WITH MIGRANTS

ANOTHER REFUGEE BOAT SINKS, 11 CHILDREN DIE OFF TURKEY COAST

ANKARA: Germany and Turkey said yesterday they would ask NATO to help police Turkey's shores as 24 more migrants drowned en route to Greece and tens of thousands of others remained stranded at the Turkish-Syrian border. In the latest in a grim litany of migrant boat sinkings, 24 people, 11 of them children, drowned when their boat went down off the northwestern coast of Turkey, the Dogan news agency reported. The migrants, whose nationalities were not known, were trying to reach the Greek island of Lesbos. Two people were rescued by the Turkish coastguard, which were still scouring the sea for other victims. The drownings came as German Chancellor Angela Merkel held talks with Turkish leaders on reducing the influx of migrants to Europe, and as 30,000 more Syrians fleeing the civil war massed along Turkey's border in the hope of receiving sanctuary. Merkel said Turkey and Germany would ask NATO to help police the Turkish coast to prevent traffickers from packing migrants into overloaded boats for the perilous crossing to Greece.

The two countries would ask a meeting of NATO defense ministers starting Wednesday to discuss the situation in Syria "as well as whether, and to what extent, NATO can help in monitoring the situation at sea and lend support to Frontex and Turkish coastguards", she said after meeting Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu in Ankara.

'Shouldering burden alone'

Turkey has been receiving mixed messages from Europe on how to handle the migrant tide. Ankara, which has already taken in an estimated 2.7 million Syrian refugees, is under pressure to prevent migrants continuing across the Mediterranean to Europe while also being urged to open its doors to another batch of arrivals. An estimated 30,000 Syrians who fled a Russian-backed regime offensive on opposition

strongholds in northern Aleppo region have been camped out for days around the Bab al-Salama border gate, across from Turkey's Oncupinar crossing. So far Turkey has only allowed medical emergencies through.

"Obviously, as always, we will provide for our Syrian brothers and accept them when necessary," Davutoglu said. But he warned: "No one should assume that just because Turkey is taking in all the refugees that it should be expected to shoulder the refugee burden alone."

'Safe areas' inside Syria

Ankara has long pushed for a safe zone inside Syria, where people could seek shelter while waiting for the war to end instead of piling across the border. Yesterday, Turkish aid groups began distributing tents to refugees on the Syrian side of the border and sent in truckloads of aid. Merkel, whose country has received over one million migrants in the past year, said she was "horrified" by the suffering of the families stranded in the cold and wet around the border gate. Many refugees are reportedly sleeping in fields and on roads in the area, which lies only about 30 kilometers north of Aleppo. The Turkish Humanitarian Relief Foundation, which is providing food for 20,000 refugees, said it had set up a camp with a capacity of 10,000 near Bab al-Salama, on top of eight camps for the internally displaced already run by Turkish agencies in the area.

"Our operations are aimed at taking care of people inside Syria," Serkan Nergis, a spokesman for the foundation, told AFP by phone. Kerem Kinik, vice president of the Turkish Red Crescent, said there was "a de facto safe zone near the Turkish border". "Since February 5 we have sent roughly 2,000 tents and 6,000 blankets, as well as food," he added.

Mohammad Rahma, a 15-year-old who was blinded in a Russian air strike a month ago and



Syrian families line-up waiting to go back to Syria, yesterday at the Turkish Oncupinar border gate near Kilis, southern-central Turkey. — AFP

wore bandages on his eyes, was among the few allowed cross into Turkey for medical treatment, accompanied by his father Ahmad. "We've been living out in the open because we don't have any place to stay," Ahmad said.

Regime gains

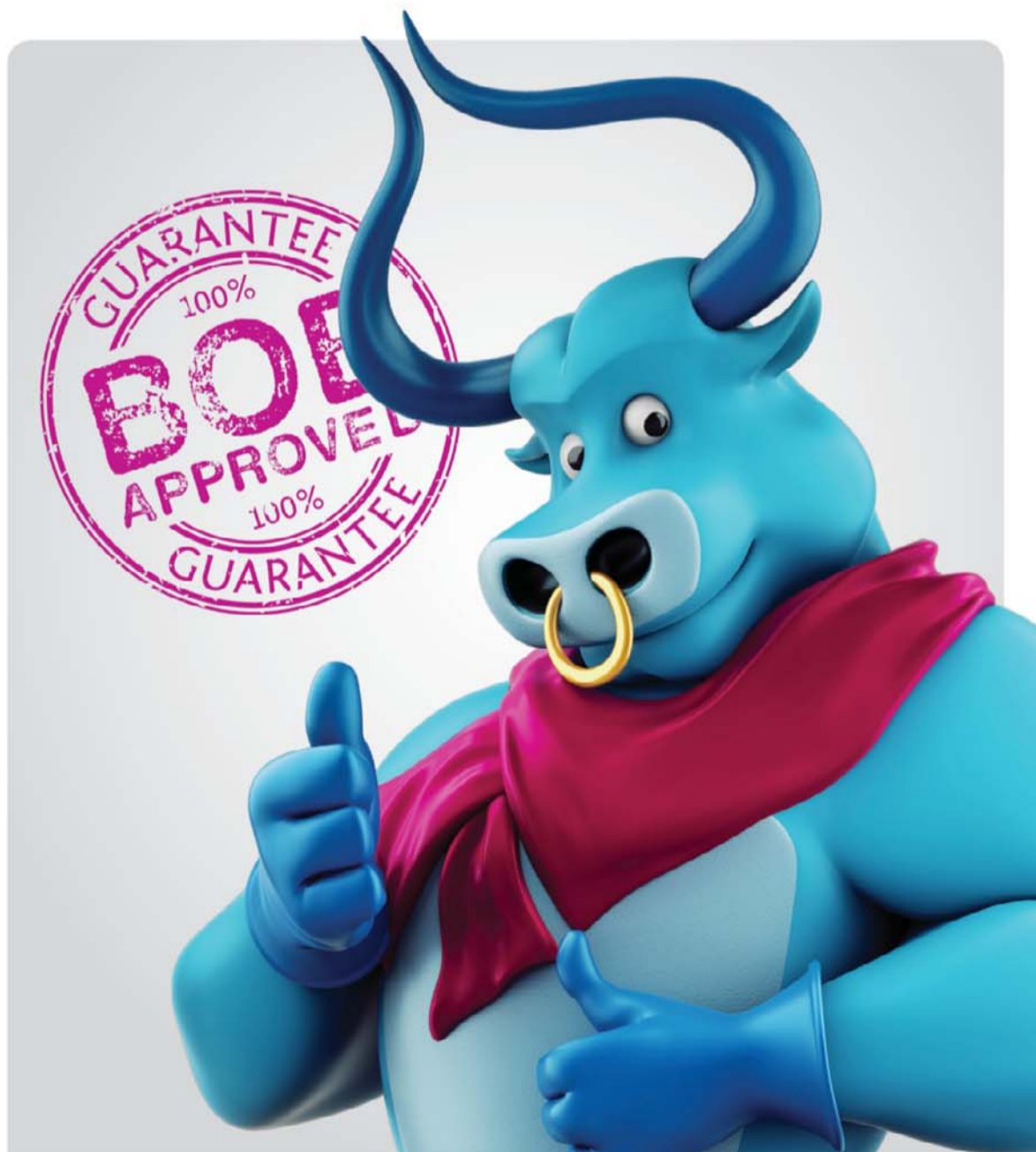
Top diplomats from countries trying to resolve Syria's five-year conflict, which has

claimed 260,000 lives and displaced half the population, are set to meet on February 11 after peace talks in Geneva collapsed last week.

The talks foundered as Syrian government forces closed in on Aleppo city in their biggest push since Russia intervened in September in support of President Bashar Al-Assad, which has left mainstream rebels in disarray.

Regime troops have set their sights on Tal

Rifaat-one of the last rebel strongholds in Aleppo province, which lies 20 kilometers from the Turkish border. Late Sunday night, regime forces seized control of Bakfeen, a village just five kilometers south of Tal Rifaat. The roughly 350,000 civilians trapped inside rebel-held parts of Aleppo face the risk of a government siege, a tactic employed to devastating effect against other former rebel bastions. — AFP



HI, I'M BOB YOUR BEC BUDDY AND I'M HERE TO HELP, GUARANTEED!

Visit me online at bec.com.kw or at any branch for great rates on money transfers and currency exchanges, guaranteed!

[/BECKuwait](https://www.facebook.com/BECKuwait) [/BECKuwait](https://www.twitter.com/BECKuwait) Tel: 1824000 | bec.com.kw



LENOVO A7000

UNLEASH THE POWER OF VIDEO

- 4G LTE Connectivity
- DUAL SIM (Micro SIM)
- BUNDLED WITH COVER & SCREEN PROTECTOR

- 5.5" HD IPS display
- 1.5 GHz True8Core™ Processor
- 2GB RAM
- 8GB ROM, up to 32GB microSD
- 8MP Autofocus Rear Camera
- 5MP Front Camera
- Android™ 5.0, Lollipop
- Dolby Atmos™ 360° Surround Sound

56.9KD

10 KD Cash Back

LENOVO A6000

LISTEN TO MUSIC AT ITS VERY BEST

- 4G LTE Connectivity
- DUAL SIM (Micro SIM)
- BUNDLED WITH COVER & SCREEN PROTECTOR

- 5.0" HD IPS display
- 1.2GHz Quad Core Processor
- 1GB RAM
- 8GB ROM, up to 32GB microSD
- 8MP Rear Camera
- 2MP Front Camera
- Android™ 4.4, Kitkat
- Dolby™ Digital Plus Sound

43KD

8 KD Cash Back

LENOVO K3 NOTE

A TRUE THRILLER, FROM ALL ANGLES

- 4G LTE Connectivity
- DUAL SIM (Micro SIM)
- BUNDLED WITH COVER & SCREEN PROTECTOR

- 5.5" Full HD IPS display (1080x1920)
- 1.7 Octa-core Processor
- 2GB RAM
- 16GB ROM, up to 32GB microSD
- 13MP Rear Camera
- 5MP Front Camera
- Android™ 5.0, Lollipop
- Dolby Atmos™ 360° Surround Sound

64KD

5 KD Cash Back

LENOVO VIBE P1m

LETS YOU DO MORE FOR LESS

- 4G LTE Connectivity
- DUAL SIM (Micro SIM)
- 4000mAh Battery

- 5.0" HD IPS Display
- 1.0GHz Quad-Core Processor
- 2GB RAM
- 16GB ROM, up to 32GB microSD
- 8MP Autofocus Rear Camera
- 5MP Front Camera
- Android™ 5.1, Lollipop
- 4000mAh Battery
- Quick Charge Feature
- Charges other devices

50KD

4 KD Cash Back

HUGE BATTERY! 4000mAh BATTERY

HYPERMARKETS, SUPERMARKETS, DEPARTMENT STORES.

Buy better.

IRAQ DEPLOYING THOUSANDS OF TROOPS TO RETAKE MOSUL

KIRKUK: The Iraqi army is deploying thousands of soldiers to a northern base in preparation for operations to retake the Islamic State group's hub of Mosul, officials said yesterday. IS seized Mosul in June 2014 and except for air strikes has held Iraq's second city largely unopposed for more than 18 months as the country's security forces battled the jihadists in other areas.

"Units from the Iraqi army have begun arriving to a military base near the Makhmur district to start launching initial military operations toward Mosul," a staff brigadier general said on condition of anonymity. Makhmur lies around 70 kilometers southeast of Mosul.

"There are three brigades located in

that base now," and their number will eventually reach 4,500 soldiers, said the officer, who is part of the security command tasked with retaking Nineveh province, of which Mosul is the capital. Iraqi forces recaptured Ramadi, the capital of Anbar province, west of Baghdad, in December in a major blow to the jihadists.

But Mosul is expected to be the most difficult battle of Iraq's war against IS due to its size, the presence of large numbers of civilians in the city, and the long period the jihadists have had to prepare defences. It is the largest city held by IS, and along with Raqa in Syria is one of the two main hubs for the jihadists' operations.

The initial aim is to sever IS supply lines between Mosul and areas farther south including Hawijah in Kirkuk province and areas near Baiji in Salaheddin, the army officer said. Iraqi forces have worked slowly and deliberately to isolate other IS-held cities such as Tikrit and Ramadi before launching assaults to retake them, and cutting off Mosul will likely take longer than either.

\$10 million base

Lieutenant General Sean MacFarland, the commander of the US-led operation against IS, has said that Iraqi generals do not think they will be able to recapture Mosul until the end of 2016 or early 2017 at the earliest. A Kurdish official

said that most of the soldiers deployed to Makhmur, which is located within territory controlled by Iraqi Kurdistan, are ethnic Kurds from the Iraqi army.

"These forces came with the approval of the presidency and government of the Kurdistan region of Iraq," said Halgurd Hekmat, a spokesman from the ministry responsible for the autonomous region's peshmerga forces. The base will be for both soldiers and aircraft, Hekmat said.

Shakhwan Abdullah, a Kurdish lawmaker on the federal parliament's security and defense committee, confirmed that Baghdad and Iraqi Kurdistan had coordinated on the deployment. "Establishing this base cost around \$10

million," said Abdullah, adding that the base would be turned over to Kurdish peshmerga forces after the recapture of Mosul.

Defence Minister Khaled Al-Obeidi visited the Makhmur base on Saturday, ordering that all measures be taken to speed up the completion of the site, the ministry said. Multiple Iraqi divisions collapsed during the early days of IS's 2014 offensive, abandoning thousands of vehicles as well as weapons and other equipment to the jihadists. IS ultimately overran around a third of the country, but Iraqi forces have since regained significant areas from the jihadists, with the help of US-led air strikes and training. —AFP

SYRIA REBELS LOSE FURTHER GROUND TO KURDS, REGIME

BEIRUT: Syrian rebels have withdrawn from three villages threatened by Russian strikes in the northern province of Aleppo that borders Turkey, allowing Kurdish fighters to overrun them, a monitor said yesterday.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said the rebels abandoned the villages of Aqlamiyah, Deir Jamal and Mareanar on Sunday at the insistence of residents who feared their homes would be bombed. That enabled the Kurdish People's Protection Units (YPG) to move in to seize the three villages, in another setback for the rebels only days after they lost three nearby towns to the Kurds.

Aqlamiyah and Mareanar lie near the strategic Minnigh military airbase, held by rebel groups since August 2013. Opposition factions north of Syria's second city Aleppo have been increasingly stuck "between the pincers" of YPG forces on one side and pro-government fighters on the other, a military source said.

After some clashes between rebels and the YPG, residents pressured rebels in some villages to hand over control to the Kurds so that Russian warplanes would not target their homes, Observatory head Rami Abdel Rahman said. Since September, the Russian air force has been carrying out strikes against groups of fighters opposed

to Syrian President Bashar al-Assad.

Its aerial campaign has intensified in recent weeks in Aleppo province, allowing government and allied forces to make significant gains while forcing tens of thousands of Syrians to flee to the border with Turkey. The government has set its sights on Tal Rifaat, a rebel bastion in northern Aleppo that lies 20 kilometers south of the frontier.

Late Sunday night, regime forces seized control of Bakfeen, a village just five kilometres south of Tal Rifaat. "Regime forces are advancing towards the north to seize control of Tal Rifaat, then Azaz, in a bid to reach the Turkish border and to stop fighters and weapons from entering Syria," said Abdel Rahman. The government's week-long offensive in Aleppo province has secured key gains. It broke a rebel siege on the villages of Nubol and Zahraa, cut the rebel supply route to the Turkish border and expanded government control to the north of Syria's second city. Aleppo city, once Syria's commercial hub, is divided between government forces in the west and rebels in the east. Anti-regime militants are now in control of only one route of the neighborhoods under their control in the city, but it is regularly bombarded by loyalist forces. —AFP



CAIRO: A woman takes part in a rally in memory of Italian student Giulio Regeni, on February 6, 2016, outside of the Italian embassy. — AFP

ITALY DEMANDS ANSWERS AS ANGER RISES OVER STUDENT SLAIN IN EGYPT

CLAIMS OF TORTURE BY EGYPTIAN SECURITY SERVICES

ROME: Italy yesterday warned Egypt it would not allow the fate of Giulio Regeni to be brushed under the carpet as anger mounted over the Cambridge University student's torture and killing in Cairo. With the media publishing gruesome details of Regeni's treatment and pointing the finger at Egyptian security services, Prime Minister Matteo Renzi was under pressure to authorize a state funeral for the slain 28-year-old. Regeni disappeared on January 25 and was found dead on February 3. An Italian autopsy carried out following his corpse's repatriation at the weekend concluded that he was killed by a violent blow to the base of his skull having already suffered multiple fractures all over his body.

Foreign Minister Paolo Gentiloni said that Egypt appeared to be collaborating with a team of Italian detective and forensic investigators dispatched to Cairo. But he warned: "We will not settle for alleged truths."

Gentiloni, in an interview with daily La Repubblica, added: "We want those really responsible identified and punished on the basis of law." La Repubblica reported that, as well as

being systematically beaten, Regeni had his finger and toe nails pulled out in a pattern of torture which the daily said suggested that his "death squad" killers believed him to be a spy.

Regeni was in Egypt working on a doctoral thesis on Egyptian trade unions. It has emerged since his death that he was also writing, under a pseudonym, for a communist Italian daily Il Manifesto, fuelling speculation that links to local opposition figures may have resulted in him being targeted. Italian officials' anger over Regeni's death was exacerbated by their being initially informed the student had been killed in a road accident.

Punch in the stomach

Interior Minister Angelino Alfano has been particularly outspoken, describing seeing the results of the autopsy as a "punch in the stomach" and Regeni's killers as "inhuman and animalistic." Alfano said he was in favour of Regeni being given a state funeral later this week.

"There is a protocol to be respected and the President of the Council of Ministers (Renzi) decides, but I would say this is about the death

of a young man who honored all of Italy and the idea of a state funeral should be taken very seriously."

Renzi faces a difficult balancing act in handling the fallout from Regeni's death. Too much overt criticism from Rome of the military-backed regime in Cairo could jeopardize the hopes of the murder inquiry ever getting to the truth.

Italy also has major business interests in Egypt and will need Cairo's support if a planned Italian-led peacekeeping force is sent into neighboring Libya to help stabilize the country, if and when a new national unity government is established there. "Egypt is our strategic partner and has a fundamental role in the stabilization of the region," Gentiloni said.

"But here we are confronted with a different problem, the duty of Italy to defend its citizens and to ensure that when they are victims of crime, the guilty are brought to justice." Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry has insisted Cairo is committed to finding the killers. "People are jumping to the conclusion that he was interrogated but that has not been proven," he told Corriere della Sera's Sunday edition. — AFP

IRAN AWARDS MEDALS OF HONOR TO NUCLEAR TEAM

TEHRAN: Iran awarded medals of honor yesterday to its nuclear negotiators, who helped clinch a landmark deal with world powers last year. President Hassan Rouhani presented the "Medal of Merit" to Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif and the "Medal of Courage" to Defense Minister Hossein Dehghan and Vice President Ali Akbar Salehi, who is also the country's nuclear chief.

The July 14 agreement brought about the lifting of international sanctions last month after the United Nations certified that Iran had met all its commitments to curbing its nuclear activities. "We passed behind us difficult days, difficult hours and nights," Rouhani said at the ceremony. "But we did not lose the right path and God did not leave us alone."

The agreement was a major accomplishment for Rouhani, who was elected in 2013 on a platform promising constructive engagement with the world and an end to Iran's international isolation. His allies are hoping for a strong showing in Feb. 26 parliamentary elections.

Rouhani expressed gratitude for the support he received from Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who has the final say on all major policies. "Without the supreme leader, there was no national unity. Without the supreme leader, our (nuclear) accomplishment would have not been as great as it is today and maybe we would not have had such an achievement," he said.

Iran's nuclear negotiators attended yesterday's historic ceremony with their families. Zarif said after receiving the medal that the nuclear accord is "an agreement based on removing concerns of all parties. That's why it's in the inter-

ests of all to comply with the deal."

'Major issues'

Meanwhile, Supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said yesterday Iranian officials should not let this month's parliamentary polls distract them from building a strong economy. Speaking to hundreds of air force staff and officers, Khamenei said the February 26 election is crucial to preserving Iran's "integrity".

But "the elections should not distract officials from the major issues, (particularly) the economy," Khamenei said in comments broadcast on state television. Building a strong economy will "discourage Iran's enemies from pursuing economic pressure and imposing their will" on the Islamic republic, he said, in an apparent reference to decades of international sanctions.

Nuclear-related sanctions on Iran were lifted last month, after UN inspectors said the Islamic republic had met commitments given under a deal last July to scale back its atomic program. Khamenei had warned against American "deceit" just days after the end of sanctions and yesterday he reiterated his concerns and called for "vigilance". "The enemy smiles, you smile as well but vigilance (is needed to confront) the deceit that lies behind the enemy's smile," he said. The February 26 parliamentary election will take place on the same day as the election of Iran's highest clerical body, the Assembly of Experts which monitors the work of the supreme leader. Khamenei said it was every Iranian's "duty" to vote, saying the election "injects fresh blood and... guarantees the integrity and dignity of Iran and the system." "That's why I insist that everyone should participate," he said. —Agencies



TEHRAN: Iranian President Hassan Rouhani, (left) Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif (centre) and Vice President and head of Iran's Atomic Energy Organization, Ali Akbar Salehi pose for a photograph after Zarif and Salehi were awarded medals of honor in a ceremony. — AP

GAZAN KILLED IN TUNNEL NEAR EGYPTIAN BORDER

GAZA CITY, Palestinian Territories: A Palestinian died yesterday when a tunnel he was trying to restore collapsed near Gaza's border with Egypt, Palestinian medical and security sources said. The death brings to 10 the number of Gazans killed in three separate tunnel collapses in two weeks.

The man was killed "as a result of a collapse of a mass of sand" inside a tunnel previously used to smuggle goods, a security source said. He had been trying to restore the damage caused by Egypt flooding the tunnel, the source added. A medical source identified him as Mussa Jaber Al-Maadi, 24 and from Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip.

Nine other Palestinians died in two unrelated tunnel collapses in the past two weeks, all of them members of the Al-Qassam Brigades—the military wing of the Hamas Islamist movement which controls Gaza.

In late 2014, Egypt began setting up a buffer zone on its border with Gaza, and destroyed hundreds of tunnels it says are used for smuggling weapons and other items. In September 2015, Egyptian forces carried out digging work that Palestinians say led to the flooding of the last remaining tunnels there.

On Saturday Israeli Energy Minister Yuval Steinitz said the tunnels were flooded by Egypt at Israel's request, before his office claimed the remarks were misinterpreted. Hamas official Naeem Ghul said in a statement yesterday that the situation on the border with Egypt was "getting worse day after day".

Ghul accused the Egyptian authorities of "pumping large quantities of sea water" into the ground-leaving the soil prone to collapse. An Israeli blockade severely restricts the movement of people and goods into and out of the territory, and Egypt's sole border with Gaza has also remained largely closed since 2013. Hamas has accused Egypt of adding to the siege of Gaza by destroying tunnels which have long been used to transport people and goods in and out of the enclave of some 1.8 million inhabitants. —AFP



RAFAH, Palestinian Territories: Friends and relatives mourn next to the body of Palestinian Mussa Jaber Al-Maadi, who died after a tunnel collapsed, during his funeral. — AFP

BAHRAIN CHARGES 11 WITH FORMING IRAN-TRAINED 'TERRORIST' GROUP

DUBAI: Bahrain's prosecution service said yesterday it has charged 11 suspects with forming a "terrorist" group, including a number trained by Iran's Revolutionary Guards and the Hezbollah branch in Iraq. The group, including four suspects on the run, has been charged with "establishing and joining a terrorist group; possessing explosives, weapons and firearms; and receiving training for terrorist purposes", Advocate General Ahmed Al-Hamadi said.

He said four suspects "attended military training camps operated by Iran's Revolutionary Guards and the Iraqi branch of (Shiite movement) Hezbollah", although it was unclear if they were the fugitives. The charges were filed after a probe into a weapons cache found in a warehouse in the Shiite village of

Nuwaidrat, he said in a statement.

"In excess of 1.5 tons of high-grade explosives, including C4-RDX, TNT and other powerful chemical explosives were discovered in the counter-terrorism operation in September last year," he said. The Sunni-ruled kingdom, home to the US Fifth Fleet, has witnessed unrest since the repression of a protest movement launched in 2011 by members of the Shiite majority demanding political reforms.

Bahrain has repeatedly accused Shiite-dominated Iran of meddling in its internal affairs, a charge denied by Tehran. Scores of opponents have been detained, with many facing trial, while others convicted of involvement in violence have been handed heavy sentences, including loss of citizenship and life in prison. — AFP

BERNIE'S CAMPAIGN SPARS WITH POLITICAL REALITIES

PORTSMOUTH: Bernie Sanders promises voters a "political revolution" that will fundamentally remake the American economy and its education and health care systems. "That's what our campaign is about. It is thinking big," Sanders said during a debate last month in Charleston, South Carolina. "We are going to have a government that works for all of us, and not just big campaign contributors."

Often left unsaid by Sanders, but increasingly at the center of Hillary Clinton's arguments against her rival for the Democratic presidential nomination, is that the political reality of achieving such goals is likely to be a whole lot more complicated. It would require Sanders not only to win the White House, but to sweep a wave of Democratic lawmakers into office along with him. While Democrats may be able to gain the four or five seats necessary to win back control of the Senate in November, they need 30 seats to recapture power in the House.

But even with majorities in both houses of Congress, Sanders would face challenges. Clinton's advisers often point out how difficult it was for President Barack Obama to convince a Democratic-led Congress to support the Affordable Care Act in 2010. Sanders' plan - called "Medicare for All" - would go significantly further by establishing a national health care system run entirely by the government.

Uniformly opposed

Sanders also wants to raise the federal

minimum wage to \$15 an hour, break up the biggest Wall Street banks, pour \$1 trillion into the country's infrastructure, expand Social Security benefits and make college free at all public universities by raising taxes on Wall Street. All of those ideas are nearly uniformly opposed by Republicans and would face strident opposition in Congress.

Many of those plans would require tax increases on corporations, wealthy taxpayers and middle-class families - a difficult political sell for lawmakers of both parties. Campaigning at a union hall in Las Vegas on Saturday, former President Bill Clinton called Sanders' ideas politically unviable, giving the realities of divided government and ability of the Senate minority to block proposals that lack the support of 60 members.

"You can't get 60 votes!" he exclaimed. "Why, when we've got all this gridlock, would we waste any time trying to do something we know we can't do when there's so much we can do to get the show on the road? Don't go down a blind alley." Sanders does frequently acknowledge that it will take more than just winning the White House to accomplish his goals.

"No president can walk in there and make changes unless millions of people become engaged in the political process in a way that we have not seen for a very, very long time," he told more than a thousand supporters gathered in a community college gymnasium in Portsmouth, New Hampshire on Sunday. — AP



HENNIKER: Republican presidential candidate, Sen Ted Cruz, R-Texas speaks at a town hall campaign event. — AP



PORTSMOUTH: Democratic presidential candidate Sen Bernie Sanders, I-Vt, smiles during a campaign stop at Great Bay Community College. — AP

CRUZ SEEKING SUPPORT ON THE FRINGE OF GOP

PASSIONATE CONSERVATIVES DECIDE PRIMARY CONTESTS

PETERBOROUGH: Some politicians run from polarizing endorsements. Ted Cruz seeks them out. The Texas senator's strength in the 2016 Republican presidential primary is drawn, at least in part, from the backing of high-profile figures from his party's far-right fringe. They are people, like his national co-chairman Iowa Rep Steve King, who may be popular among the passionate conservatives who usually decide primary contests, but could turn off the swing voters and independents who typically decide general elections.

King is a leading voice on immigration, having compared those who cross the border illegally to drug mules and livestock. Cruz has also embraced endorsements from an evangelical leader who described Hitler as a hunter of Jews sent by God, and B-list entertainers like Phil Robertson, the anti-gay patriarch of the Louisiana duck hunting family featured on the popular cable show "Duck Dynasty."

Defining marriage

"When a fellow like me looks at the landscape and sees the depravity, the perversion - redefining marriage and telling us that marriage is not between a man and a woman? Come on low!" Robertson told an adoring crowd in Iowa City, Iowa, the day before last Monday's caucuses. Many

in the crowd blew duck hunting whistles as a sign of support.

"How about Phil Robertson. What an extraordinary human being," Cruz declared when taking the stage. As the campaign shifted this week to New Hampshire, which hosts the nation's second primary contest on Tuesday, Cruz continued to promote King's backing and a fresh group of divisive figures.

"I'm all the way in supporting Ted Cruz for president," King declares in a video played before his Sunday afternoon town hall-style meeting in Peterborough. Cruz was then introduced by former New Hampshire House Speaker Bill O'Brien, a Republican leader who was essentially deposed because he was too polarizing.

"That's a November conversation," O'Brien said when asked whether he and other headline conservatives might alienate some voters. "This is a Republican conversation." Former New Hampshire Republican Party Chairman Fergus Cullen, who last week endorsed Ohio Gov. John Kasich, described Cruz backers as "a collection of misfits." He called King "my least favorite member of Congress."

"His rhetoric on immigration has been appalling," Cullen said. Yet Cruz, who infuses his pitch to voters with readings from scripture and exhortations to "awaken the body of Christ," is bet-

ting that aligning himself with the stars of his most conservative wing will ultimately deepen his base of support in the primary election and November's general election alike.

'Voice of truth'

That helps explain why Cruz called Robertson a "joyful, cheerful, unapologetic voice of truth." Robertson faced a backlash for declaring in 2014 that gays are sinners and that African-Americans were happy under Jim Crow laws.

Cruz also celebrates the backing of Tony Perkins, president of the Family Research Council, an organization the Southern Poverty Law Center has labeled as a hate group largely because of its anti-gay positions. The organization remains influential and well-respected among social conservatives. Cruz also has the backing of Troy Newman, president of the Kansas-based anti-abortion group Operation Rescue, who serves as a board member of the Center for Medical Progress. The organization was widely praised by conservatives for producing information that set of an investigations by Congress and Republican efforts to cut off funding for Planned Parenthood. Two members of the group were also indicted in Texas last month after a grand jury investigated the Planned Parenthood videos. — AP

BEFORE PRIMARY, TRUMP SHOWS MELLOWER SIDE

PLYMOUTH: US Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump came to the small town of Plymouth in the New Hampshire mountains on Sunday and promised to lower prescription drug prices, improve education and help heroin addicts get treatment.

It was a day after he told a Republican debate audience that he did not want to leave poor people "dying in the streets," and won praise by some pundits for delivering a restrained performance in which he largely avoided skewering his rivals.

It is not as if Trump, notorious for his inflammatory, demolition-derby style, has suddenly gone soft. At the same event in Plymouth, he reaffirmed his support for reviving the waterboarding of terrorism suspects and, if necessary, doing "much worse." He mocked "poor Jeb Bush" and talked about the "stupid people" running the government.

But the past week has revealed a mellow Trump who seems less interested in slashing and burning his way to his party's nomination for the Nov. 8 election and more willing to view his competitors with equanimity.

His campaign has been working to moderate his image, showing another side of the boastful billionaire businessman whose candidacy has alarmed the Republican establishment and been marked by calls for the deportation of illegal immigrants and temporarily banning Muslims from entering the United States.

The effort began in earnest in Iowa, when Trump brought in an evangelical leader as a character witness, used his children as surrogates and stood on stage with his wife, Melania, who has been rarely seen on the campaign trail. He told Reuters in Iowa he was nervous about the result of the caucuses, where he

ended up second to Ted Cruz, the US senator from Texas, in the first of the state-by-state nominating contests.

Ahead of New Hampshire's pivotal primary on Tuesday in which Trump leads in opinion polls, he has shared painful personal stories, stopped at diners to shake hands with patrons, and tried sending the message that despite his massive wealth and brash manner, he is a regular Joe. Trump even admitted on CNN on Sunday that Saturday's debate was "a lot of pressure." "He's much more of an ordinary guy than (voters) would ever expect," Trump's son, Donald Trump Jr., said at a campaign stop in Tipton, New Hampshire. "He's a down-to-earth guy."

Emotional connection

New Hampshire voters have rewarded candidates for emotional directness before. In 1992, they gave Democrat Bill Clinton's flagging campaign new life when he went on television with his wife, Hillary, amid denied having an extramarital affair. Sixteen years later, they handed Hillary Clinton a much-needed win after she broke down at an event and cried. The blunt-spoken Republican John McCain won the state's primary twice, in 2000 and 2008.

Despite leading in polls in several early voting states, Trump could use some image enhancement. National polls almost uniformly show that more than 50 percent of Americans view him unfavorably. During his last weekend in Iowa, Trump abandoned his usual campaign format in which he stands a podium and addresses the crowd in favor of a sit-down with Jerry Falwell Jr., son of the late evangelical activist, in which Trump answered his questions with little bombast.

Falwell vouched for Trump's generosity, telling of a couple who helped Trump after his limousine broke down in rural New York and how he in turn paid off their mortgage. At those events, Trump made a show of presenting a giant fake check, sweepstakes-style, to groups that aid disabled veterans. "I watch all these candidates," he said of his rivals. "I'm nicer than all of them."

In New Hampshire, Trump has opened up about the loss of his older brother to alcoholism in 1981. "My brother Fred was a great guy. I mean, he had everything," Trump said. "The most handsome guy. And then he got hooked - and there was nothing, there was nothing we could do about it."

Trump picked up that thread on Sunday in Plymouth, saying: "We're going to take the people who are badly addicted. We're going to work to make them better." Trump's motorcade stopped earlier at a diner in Manchester, where he greeted star-struck patrons, drank hot chocolate and ordered eggs and bacon.

During his appearance in Plymouth, he barely mentioned his competitors and did not mention building a wall along the border with Mexico until someone in the crowd shouted it out. He also resisted taking aim at Marco Rubio, the US senator from Florida, whose faltering performance at Saturday's debate seemed tailor-made for the back of Trump's hand. Instead, Trump told the audience: "I love you folks. You're amazing people. On Tuesday, go out and vote," he said, adding with a grin: "If you're not going to vote for me, do not vote." — Reuters







SHOOT & WIN KUWAIT IN OUR EYES 2016
FROM 5th JAN. TILL 17th MAR.

First prize

- Canon Camera Eos 70D + Canon EF-S 18-200mm f/3.5-5.6 IS.
- Free Camera Bag.
- One Economy class ticket Kuwait - Dubai-Kuwait.

Second prize

- Canon Camera Eos 70D + Canon EF 20mm f/2.8 USM.
- Free Camera Bag.
- One Economy class ticket Kuwait - Dubai-Kuwait.

Third prize

- Canon Camera Eos 70D + Canon EF-S 18-135 mm.
- Free Camera Bag.
- One Economy class ticket Kuwait - Dubai - Kuwait

Fourth prize

- Canon Camera EOS 760D + Canon EF 85 mm f/1.8 USM.
- Free Camera Bag.
- One Economy class ticket Kuwait- Bahrain- Kuwait

Fifth prize

- Canon Camera EOS 760D + Canon EF 70-300mm f/4.5-5.6 DO IS USM.
- Free Camera Bag.
- One Economy class ticket Kuwait - Bahrain - Kuwait

Sixth prize

- Canon Camera PowerShot G15.
- Free Camera Bag.
- One Economy class ticket Kuwait - Bahrain - Kuwait

Rules & Conditions:

- The competition is open to individuals of all ages.
- The submitted photos should be taken by the participant.
- Every participant is allowed to submit maximum five entries.
- The photos can be black and white or colour size 40X30 cm.
- All entries should be provided a hard copy and Soft Copy on a CD (in high resolution)with photo of the participant needs to be included in the CD.
- The original coupon should be attached to the back of each photo and should include a complete information about the participant.
- The coupons are advertised at Kuwait Times and Al Anba newspapers during the period of competition.
- All submitted photos will become property of Kuwait Times newspaper and can be used for different purposes.
- The winners will be chosen by a panel of judges.
- All photos must be original and should not be doctored with any design program, such as Photoshop.

Kuwait Times
THE LEADING INDEPENDENT DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF

PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION 2016

Name: _____

Email Address: _____

Civil ID: _____

Tel: _____

In Corporation:









For a Limited Time Only All Participants Can Get A Special Discount Of 50% For A High Definition Prints, Including Delivery To Their Door Step . Act Now And Use Discount Code (SHOOTWIN) During Checkout. Download Our Free App For Mac and Pc at www.albumii.com. For More Information Contact Albumii At (69302526)



Urgently requires the following:

- 1. Marketing Representative**
Who is fluent in English. No previous Experience required.
Salary: KD 300 per month + Commission/Bonus
- 2. Company Driver**
Who is dedicated and hardworking and with Kuwaiti driving license
Salary: KD 250 per month

Email your CV in confidence to: applykuwait@haward.org

ICC APOLOGIZES FOR WITNESS BLUNDER AT GBAGBO TRIAL

THE HAGUE: The International Criminal Court yesterday apologized for an embarrassing blunder during the trial of former Ivorian leader Laurent Gbagbo which led to the unmasking of several protected witnesses, and ordered a formal inquiry. "What happened on Friday afternoon... is of utmost and inexcusable gravity for which the chamber, but I would say the whole ICC, apologizes," presiding judge Cuno Tarfusser said, offering a formal apology. "It is of such gravity that the chamber has ordered an internal investigation in order to find out how this could have happened," a visibly upset Tarfusser said.

He was speaking as the second full

week of Gbagbo's crimes against humanity trial began in the international tribunal based in The Hague. On Friday the prosecutor mentioned the names of several witnesses whose identities have been ordered to be kept secret, thinking the microphones were off. But the incident was relayed live to the public gallery, and recordings have since spread widely on social media, including YouTube. The judge added he did not know whether Friday's incident happened because of "recklessness, superficiality (or) stupidity," adding he did not want to "speculate about something else." "We are awaiting a detailed report," Tarfusser added. Protecting witnesses is

one of the key promises of the ICC as it seeks to bring to justice those responsible for the world's worst crimes. The tribunal, set up in 2002, goes to enormous lengths to shield the identities of sensitive witnesses from the public, pixelating their faces and disguising their voices. In some cases, witnesses who fear reprisals are moved to a new country and given a new identity.

The trial of Gbagbo, 70, and his firebrand youth militia leader Charles Ble Goude, 44, opened on January 28, and is set to last three to four years. The two men have denied four charges arising out of their alleged roles in post-election violence that ravaged the West African

country in 2010-11.

Criminal offence

But on Friday prosecutor Eric MacDonald inadvertently gave the names of at least three witnesses, in a blunder which made headline news in the Ivory Coast. It provoked outrage from Gbagbo's supporters and those of his bitter rival, Ivorian President Alassane Ouattara, over the weekend. Tarfusser urged everyone to "calm down as we don't want to ignite anything."

We just want to do our jobs as best as possible." He also warned that any attempt to interfere with or unmask witnesses was a criminal offence, reminding

all involved "to do nothing to reveal or continue to publish... the identities of protected witnesses."

On Wednesday, witness P547 also accidentally gave his name as he recounted how forces loyal to Gbagbo allegedly fired on unarmed protesters. Some 3,000 people were killed after the disputed Ivory Coast presidential vote in late 2010, when Gbagbo refused to cede victory to Ouattara, who was backed by international powers after snatching a narrow victory. After the apology, Gbagbo's trial resumed with defense lawyers continuing a cross examination of the prosecution's first witness, known only as "P547". —AFP

MARTELLY LEAVES OFFICE WITH HAITI IN DEEP CRISIS

PORT-AU-PRINCE: Michel Martelly ended his presidential term Sunday without handing power to a successor, in an electoral crisis highlighting Haiti's long struggle to keep democracy on track in the 30 years since the Duvalier dictatorship ended. Martelly was able to leave office thanks to a last-minute agreement hours before to install a transitional government after prolonged protests that sometimes turned violent.

"During its long road to the Promised Land, Haiti will remember that a certain Michel Joseph Martelly, Micky for his people, loved, gave, built," he said during his last address as president. Speaking before lawmakers at parliament in French and Creole, the outgoing president thanked those who accompanied him during the five years of his mandate. He also defended his family against accusations of embezzlement.

But he also acknowledged that history "will recall my failures, for which I take sole responsibility, among them the delay of presidential elections." The electoral process was stopped after challenges from the opposition, which condemned an "electoral coup d'etat" masterminded by the executive power.

In the first round of presidential voting in October, Moïse officially won 32.76 percent of the vote, to 25.29 percent for Celestin, who denounced those results as a "ridiculous farce." A second round of presidential and partial legislative elections, initially set for December 27, was postponed indefinitely, preventing Martelly from handing power to an elected successor on February 7 as required under the constitution.

The vote, a runoff between Martelly's favored candidate Jovenel Moïse and opposition flag-bearer Jude Celestin, was called off following violence and opposition protests by demonstrators alleging that foul play had helped the government candidate take the first round.

What comes next?

After Martelly handed him the presidential sash, national assembly president Jocelerme Privert sought to reassure a population on edge. The former pop music star's departure "does not halt the course of history, our history."

Lawmakers now have five days to elect an interim president whose mandate cannot exceed 120 days. Privert himself is among the "serious candidates," according to several lawmakers, along with high-ranking Judge Jules Cantave. The agreement sets a new election for April 24, with a new president installed May 14, though Privert has stressed those were only proposed dates.

"Personally, I think this time frame is short: 120 days to accomplish all that will be difficult, but I hope that the sense of urgency will benefit us," said lawmaker Jerry Tardieu. The United States and United Nations welcomed the deal, which the world body's chief Ban Ki-moon urged parties to implement.

Ban "encourages all actors to promote measures aimed at fostering calm and stability (and) reaffirms the commitment of the United Nations to extend its full support to the Haitian people in the fulfillment of their democratic aspirations," his spokesman said.

US State Department spokesman John Kirby, for his part, said Washington "welcomes the agreement... to ensure the continuity of governance and the completion of the ongoing electoral process." "Echoing the Core Group statement of February 6, we trust that all actors will keep the best interests of Haiti and its people above all other considerations," he added. A potential long-term power vacuum is the latest challenge for a country that is already the poorest in the Americas. In reducing potential foreign investment, the political instability is also further increasing inflation, which hurts most the 60 percent of Haitians living under the poverty line. — AFP



THONYOR, South Sudan: A large number of people wait for food air-drops by ICRC (International Committee of the Red Cross). — AFP

40,000 STARVING TO DEATH AS SUDAN TEETERS ON FAMINE

UN REPORTING WORST CONDITIONS SINCE CIVIL WAR

JUBA: At least 40,000 people are being starved to death in South Sudan war zones on the brink of famine, the United Nations said yesterday, in a plea to rival forces to let aid in. The figures released in a UN report describe some of the worst conditions yet in more than two years of a civil war marked by atrocities and accusations of war crimes, including the blockading of food supplies. Conditions are "escalating," the UN said, with already over 2.8 million people needing aid, almost a quarter of the country.

"Nearly 25 percent of the country's population remain in urgent need of food assistance, and at least 40,000 people are on the brink of catastrophe," the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the UN children's agency UNICEF and the World Food Program (WFP) said in a joint statement. "Families have been doing everything they can to survive, but they are now running out of options," said UNICEF country Chief Jonathan Veitch. "Many of the areas where the needs are greatest are out of reach because of the security situation. It is crucial that we are given unrestricted access now."

The warning comes three months after the last UN-backed specialized hunger assessment, the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) report. That October report warned of a "concrete risk of famine" without aid, but areas remain too dangerous for experts to access, meaning it was not possible to gather the statistics needed to declare famine.

'Likely to deteriorate'

There has been no let up in the conflict and while some food has been delivered, civilians report dire conditions. The army and rebels have repeatedly accused each other of breaking an internationally-brokered August ceasefire.

The IPC lists famine as a technical measure, which classifies hunger on a scale of one to five. Level five is classified as "catastrophe," and when stretched to 20 percent of the population, becomes famine. A year ago famine was averted only after a huge intervention by aid agencies. Those worst affected are in the northern battleground state of Unity, once the country's key oil producing region, but now the scene of some of the heaviest fighting, including the mass abduction and rape of women and children. The counties of Mayendit, Koch, Leer and Guit are hardest hit, with people there surviving by scavenging swamps for water lilies and fish, but those will dry up in the dry season in coming months.

With fighting making those areas too dangerous to visit, IPC experts measured malnourishment from those fleeing the hunger zone into a UN peacekeeper base in Bentiu, where some 120,000 people are sheltering. It warned that people there were already "destitute" and "the situation is likely to deteriorate."

Hunger across Horn of Africa

Civil war erupted in December 2013 when President Salva Kiir accused his former deputy Riek Machar of planning a coup, setting off a cycle of retaliatory killings that have split the poverty-stricken, landlocked country along ethnic lines.

Last week South Sudan lawmakers passed a controversial bill restricting numbers of foreign aid workers, sparking fears it will hinder efforts

to help millions in need, as well as breaking the August peace deal. UN aid chief in South Sudan Eugene Owusu said he was concerned as the "wide-ranging and negative ramifications for the humanitarian operation at a time when needs are higher than ever."

The UN said conditions are "particularly worrisome" because they show an increase in hunger during the post-harvest period, when people should have the most food, warning that the hunger season will start earlier and last longer than normal.

South Sudan also faces economic collapse with soaring inflation. "Many traders are going out of business as cereal prices hit record high prices," the IPC report read. While South Sudan's hunger is sparked mainly by war, drought across the Horn of Africa is also putting millions at risk, with floods and failed rains caused by the El Nino weather phenomenon. In Somalia, the UN warned on Monday that over 58,000 children will starve to death without urgent aid, with 950,000 people struggling every day to find food. — AFP



PORT-AU-PRINCE: National police officers maintain a cordon in front of the national palace during an anti-government protester. — AP

POLAND'S RIGHT-WING GOVT SHAKES UP PUBLIC

WARSAW: Within a few short weeks Poland's public media have become more combative, more euro-skeptic and more favorably disposed to the authorities, amid a purge by the new right-wing government that has triggered broad outcry, experts say. After scoring a landslide victory in October elections, the governing Law and Justice (PiS) party led by Jaroslaw Kaczynski made no secret of its desire to "reform" public broadcasters alleging-not without justification-that they were full of people loyal to the outgoing centrist government. The PiS wasted no time in passing a law allowing the treasury minister to name a director to oversee public radio and TV, leading to loyalists like Jacek Kurski, a former PiS MEP, taking over public broadcaster TVP.

The legislation giving the government control over Poland's public broadcasters and top court prompted a series of demonstrations and harsh criticisms both at home and across Europe. The EU even launched an unprecedented probe to see if the Polish government violated the bloc's democracy rules and merited punitive measures.

The installation of PiS allies in TVP's management triggered the highly controversial sacking of journalists more closely associated with the defeated Civic Platform (PO) liberals, including Tomasz Lis-an unabashed Kaczynski opponent-and moderates like Piotr Krasko and Karolina Lewicka. "Over the last few weeks we've

witnessed a very critical tone towards the European Union, especially in the context of the migrant crisis," a Western diplomat in Warsaw said on condition of anonymity.

TVP's prime time evening news show "Wiadomosci" appears to be paying a hefty price for the changes. According to the Virtualne Media (VM) ratings tracker website, it lost 10 percent of its audience, or 410,000 viewers, in January compared to the previous year.

'Smacks of manipulation'

Wieslaw Godzic, a sociologist focused on the media, says that the change in tone at TVP is unmistakable. Opposition politicians critical of the PiS government still get air time, but critics say some reports raise serious doubts about TVP's impartiality. Godzic gave the example of a national police chief hired by the PiS, favorably portrayed in full regalia showing off the extravagant office his predecessor equipped using public funds, while an interview with the former chief fired by PiS was unflattering and virtually unintelligible. "It all smacks of manipulation," says Godzic.

Similarly, TVP portrays "the government as being competent, while the opposition is shown as being divided and frivolous," he adds. The general message is that Poland "is headed in the right direction and there's no reason for worry." "The principle of dialogue" in the public media between opposing political forces has been set aside, he notes. — AFP

FREED AUSTRALIAN HOSTAGE TO CARRY ON BURKINA WORK

OUAGADOUGOU: An elderly Australian humanitarian worker kidnapped by Al-Qaeda-linked jihadists in Burkina Faso said yesterday after her release that she hoped to be reunited with her husband and "continue" their medical work. "I want to be with my husband shortly so that we can go to Djibo and continue there," Jocelyn Elliott, 76, said at Burkina Faso's presidential palace.

Elliott and her 81-year-old surgeon husband Ken have run the sole medical clinic in Djibo, a dusty town near the border with Mali, since 1972. A couple from Perth in western Australia, they have also carried out humanitarian work in Mali and Niger.

The pair were abducted close to the Niger border on the night of January 15-16. Malian militant group Ansar Dine said the couple had been taken by jihadists from the "Emirate of the Sahara"-suspected by experts to be a branch of Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb. Elliott was freed after mediation from Niger, which is now trying to secure her husband's release.

She arrived in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso's capital, yesterday aboard a Niger presidential plane and was taken to the presidential palace, where she was greeted by head of

state Roch Marc Christian Kabore. "I am very moved to be here with my Burkina family. I want to thank the people of Burkina for their support in my absence," she said in a brief media statement in French.

Elliott also thanked "the governments of Niger, Burkina Faso and Australia." Foreign Minister Alpha Barry confirmed Elliott's intentions. "She has decided to stay in Burkina Faso," Barry said. Kabore commended "action taken for 40 years for the benefit of the people most deprived of health care in the difficult parts of Burkina".

"Forty years is almost a whole lifetime in the service of Burkina," the president added. Elliott had appeared on Niger television Sunday evening alongside President Mahamadou Issoufou, who confirmed that his country had mediated but did not give details on either the circumstances or the location of her release.

He paid tribute to the Elliotts for their work. "I think those who abducted them should know the contribution this couple has made to the poorest people in our regions. I hope they will be back together soon and that Jocelyn's husband will soon go free," Issoufou said. — AFP



OUAGADOUGOU: Former Australian hostage Jocelyn Elliott (L) speaks with Burkina Faso's president Roch Christian Kabore (R) during their meeting at the presidential palace in Ouagadougou days after she was released. — AFP

MYANMAR'S NEXT PRESIDENT TO BE KNOWN NEXT MONTH

NAYPYITAW: The names of Myanmar's next president and two vice presidents will be revealed on March 17, an official said yesterday, setting a clear timeline for the transition of power from a military-controlled government to democracy icon Aung San Suu Kyi's party.

Parliament chairman Mann Win Khaing Than announced that the upper house, the lower House and the military will have to select one candidate each for the three posts before March 17, and submit them to parliament on that day. While Suu Kyi herself is barred from becoming president, there are growing signs that her talks with the military to remove a constitutional hurdle blocking her path can be completed by March 17.

Once the three names are put before the 664-member parliament, all mem-

bers will take a vote. The person with the largest number of votes will become president, and the other two will be vice presidents. It isn't clear when the vote will take place, but the current president's term ends March 31 and the successor must take office April 1. Given that Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy party has a majority in both houses of parliament, it is certain to get the president's post and one of the vice presidential positions.

The NLD won a landslide victory in the Nov 8 general elections. But Suu Kyi has been stymied by the Constitution's Article 59 (f), which says anyone with a foreign spouse or children cannot hold the executive office. Suu Kyi's late husband was British as are her two sons.

Still, she has been negotiating with Commander-in-chief Gen Min Aung

Hlaing on having the clause suspended. The clause can be legally scrapped only through a 75 percent plus one vote in Parliament. The military holds 25 percent of seats in parliament - all unelected - which means the NLD cannot scrap the clause on its own. However, the clause can be suspended by a simple majority, but because all this is uncharted territory nobody is sure if that would be allowed.

Lingering enmity

In separate but identical broadcasts late Sunday, Sky Net and Myanmar National Television, both pro-government, said "positive results could come out on the negotiation for the suspension of the constitution Article 59 (f)." "I think everything will be fine," Kyaw Htwe, a senior member of the NLD, told

The Associated Press. "The negotiations will be positive for our leader Aung San Suu Kyi to become president," said Kyaw Htwe, who is also a member of parliament.

But Yan Myo Thein, a political analyst, advised caution. "It is still too early to confirm that Suu Kyi will be among the presidential candidate," he said. "Even the suspension and the constitutional amendment will take time. And we cannot really comment relying only on a short announcement on TV," he said.

Suu Kyi has said previously that even if she doesn't become the president she would run the country from behind the scenes. But clearly, the NLD would prefer that the 70-year-old Nobel peace laureate lead the country, having struggled almost all her adult life for it.

Yesterday, Suu Kyi entered the par-

liament without commenting to the media. Watching the joint session of parliament as an observer was influential former general Shwe Mann, the former speaker of the lower house in the outgoing government and now a Suu Kyi ally. He is believed to be supportive of a constitutional change and is thought to be trying to broker a deal to allow her to become president.

Myanmar was ruled with an iron fist by the military for 50 years until it stood back in 2010 to allow a quasi-civilian government to take over. In that time Suu Kyi was their chief adversary, defying them even while under house arrest for many years. The enmity still lingers, but the generals are thought to have invested too much in putting the country on the path to a civilian government to risk a pull back now. — AP

ETHNIC PROTESTERS IN NEPAL WITHDRAW BORDER BLOCKADE

KATHMANDU: The main ethnic group that's been protesting for months over Nepal's new constitution is ending its border blockade and general strike, bringing relief to the Himalayan nation severely short of fuel, medicine and other supplies.

The United Democratic Madhesi Front said in a statement yesterday it would continue its protests but would no longer block the border points where crucial supplies come on cargo trucks from India. The strike has shut down schools, markets and transportation in the south, and the group's announcement came days after frustrated traders and residents forcefully removed the barriers at the main border crossing.

Ethnic Madhesis oppose the new constitution because they say its seven federal states have borders that cut through their ancestral homeland in the south. They want a larger state, more government representation and more local autonomy. Talks with the government have continued but no agreement has been reached. The Constituent Assembly adopted a constitution in September after years of delay and despite protests of unfairness.

More than 50 people have been killed since August in clashes between the protesters and security forces. On Friday, vehicles passed through the Birgunj border point, about 160 kilometers (100 miles) south of Kathmandu. Hundreds of trucks rolled into Nepal bringing in supplies. Fuels trucks were also getting oil from the main storage at Raxaul in India.

Nepal Oil Corp., which imports and distributes fuel in Nepal, has said it would take days for normal supply to resume in the country. The statement also indicated problems among the Madhesi groups. The United Democratic Madhesi Front is made

up of four main Madhesi groups, and the statement blamed Sadhbhawana Party leader Rajendra Mahato, for weakening the front's protests.

US trekker dies

In other news, an American trekker has died of suspected altitude sickness after falling unconscious in Nepal, police said yesterday. The 53-year-old was hiking with two friends to Nepal's remote Upper Mustang region, an alpine desert with a maximum altitude of 3,840 meters.

The group had stopped at a local hotel for the night when the victim fell unconscious on Sunday evening. "His friends found him unconscious in the toilet... by the time they carried him to his room he had already passed away," said Harihar Nath Yogi, Mustang district's police chief.

Yogi said preparations were under way to airlift the trekker's body to Kathmandu for a post-mortem. "We suspect that altitude sickness probably caused his death," Khadka said. Altitude sickness strikes when people ascend too quickly, as the decreased atmosphere pressure causes headaches, fatigue and dizziness.

Nepal's snow-capped peaks make it a popular hiking destination, with around 150,000 trekkers visiting the Annapurna and Everest regions every year. But the tourism industry has suffered in recent months after a 7.8-magnitude quake hit the Himalayan nation last April, killing nearly 9,000 and triggering a deadly avalanche on Mount Everest that killed 18 people including foreign climbers. In October 2014, a massive snowstorm ripped across the Annapurna circuit, killing 43 hikers, guides and porters during peak trekking season. — AFP



MUMBAI: In this Nov 29, 2008, file photo, an Indian soldier takes cover as the Taj Mahal hotel burns during gun battle between Indian military and militants inside the hotel.—AP

MUMBAI 26/11 PLOTTER ADMITS TO BOTCHED TERROR ATTACKS

LET MILITANTS REVEALED TO BE BEHIND ASSAULT

MUMBAI: An American who helped plot deadly attacks in Mumbai told a court yesterday that Pakistan-based militants made two failed attempted attacks on the Indian city before killing 166 people in November 2008. David Headley, who was sentenced in 2013 by a Chicago court to 35 years in a US prison for his role in the atrocity, said Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) militants had been behind the fatal assaults.

"In the month of September 2008 and in October 2008 those attempts by the LeT were unsuccessful on account of accident to the attackers," said Indian public prosecutor Ujjwal Nikam, citing Headley's testimony via video link. India has long blamed the LeT for the coordinated attacks on November 26, 2008 when Islamist gunmen stormed luxury hotels, the main railway station, a Jewish centre and other sites in the country's financial capital.

The attacks, which lasted for three days, have been a consistent source of acrimony between India and Pakistan as New Delhi has called for Islamabad to bring the alleged masterminds to justice. Headley, 55, was giving evidence to a special Indian court from an undisclosed location in America. The court is trying suspected plotter Sayed Zabiuddin Ansari, also known as Abu Jundul.

In December it pardoned Headley on condition that he testified to the court. The pardon does not affect the US sentence. Nikam, who questioned Headley for nearly five hours, said he had also revealed meeting a "Major Iqbal" and "Mr Ali" whom the American said were serving with Pakistan's spy agency, the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI).

"It is clear, we think, that there was a close nexus between ISI and LeT. That is what has

been gathered from the revelations made from Mr Headley," said Nikam outside the sessions court in Mumbai. Headley, the son of a former Pakistani diplomat, was sentenced after admitting scouting targets for the Mumbai attackers.

He spent two years researching sites, even taking boat tours around the city's harbor and befriending Bollywood stars as part of his cover. After initially denying involvement, Headley confessed and cooperated with US authorities to avoid the death penalty.

Nikam said Headley had told the Indian court he had joined the LeT in 2002 and received two years of "military training", including "in handling sophisticated weapons like AK47s". He added that Headley said he had received training from LeT founder Hafiz Saeed and Zaki-ur-Rehman Lakhvi, the alleged mastermind of the Mumbai attacks. — AFP

AFGHAN CIVILIANS, SOLDIERS KILLED IN SEPARATE ATTACKS

KHOST: Nine people were killed and eight injured in two separate suicide attacks in Afghanistan yesterday, authorities said, days after a fresh round of international talks aimed at reviving dialogue with the Islamist group. The militant group is stepping up attacks nationwide in the 15th year of its insurgency against the Western-backed government in Kabul.

The carnage began yesterday morning when a suicide bomber threw himself against a bus carrying Afghan troops in the northern province of Balkh, killing three soldiers and wounding eight, the defense ministry said. A spokesman for the provincial governor, Munir Ahmad Farhad, said the bomber ran towards the bus as it slowed down for a speed bump in Dehdadi, a district near the provincial capital Mazar-i-Sharif.

Yesterday afternoon another suicide attacker blew himself up among a crowd of people queuing outside a bakery in Yahyakhail, a remote district in the volatile southeastern province of Paktika on the border with Pakistan. The attack killed six civilians and wounded 10. "We don't know what the target of the attacker was but all the casualties are civilians," Yahyakhail district governor Musa Jan Kharoti said.

The account was confirmed by the provincial deputy governor Attaullah Fazly. There was no immediate claim of responsi-

bility for the attack in Paktika. The Taliban, whose hardline regime was toppled by a US-led coalition in 2001, claimed responsibility for the attack on the army bus. The group has stepped up their campaign against government and foreign targets in Afghanistan this winter, when fighting usually abates, underscoring a worsening security situation.

Afghan troops and police have suffered record casualties since NATO ended its combat mission in December 2014, leaving them to battle the resurgent Taliban largely on their own. At least twenty Afghan policemen were killed on February 1 when a suicide bomber struck outside their base in the capital Kabul. With neither side in the conflict seemingly able to accomplish a decisive victory, Kabul, regional powers and the United States have pinned their hopes on a peace settlement. On Saturday representatives from Afghanistan, Pakistan, China and the US announced that direct talks between Kabul and the Taliban were expected to take place by the end of the month, indicating the insurgent group were willing to return to negotiations six months after an earlier round of dialogue fell apart. Pakistan backed the Islamist group during their 1996-2001 rule and is accused of continuing to shelter its leaders in exile. Its role is seen as key in persuading the Taliban to return to talks — AFP



DEHDADI: A wounded Afghan boy walks with an Afghan National Army (ANA) soldier at the site of a suicide attack in a district close to the provincial capital Mazar-i-Sharif. — AFP

SRI LANKA'S EX-REGIME SLAMS UN RIGHTS CHIEF'S 'JOKE' VISIT

COLOMBO: Ex-president Mahinda Rajapakse's brother denounced yesterday the UN human rights chief's visit to Sri Lanka as a "big joke", as the former regime stepped up opposition to a UN-backed war-crimes probe.

Former president Rajapakse and his brother, ex-defence secretary Gotabhaya Rajapakse, have signed a petition against the probe into allegations of thousands of civilian deaths during the final months of Sri Lanka's separatist war.

Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein arrived on Saturday for a four-day visit to gauge the island's progress in investigating war-time atrocities, before he delivers an assessment to the UN Human Rights Council in March. Gotabhaya Rajapakse accused authorities of arranging for Zeid to meet only sympathisers of Tamil rebels, who were crushed by government troops in 2009 following a 37-year war for a separate homeland for ethnic Tamils.

"He can't come here for a day and expect to understand the situation. He is only meeting one side," Gotabhaya, who was defense secretary during the war's finale, told reporters in Colombo. "It is a big joke." Flanked by the ex-president, Gotabhaya repeated the former regime's longstanding position that no war crimes were committed by government troops in the final push.

After defeating Rajapakse at presidential elections a year ago, his successor Maithripala Sirisena agreed to investigate allegations troops killed up to 40,000 Tamil civilians in the final months. Zeid on Sunday visited the former war zones of Jaffna and Trincomalee in the island's north and northeast. He told local Tamil leaders on the Jaffna peninsula, which saw some of the worst fighting, that there should not be a gener-

al amnesty, but a swift legal process to deal with rebel detainees.

"As a general principle it is not acceptable to grant amnesties to those convicted of the most serious crimes-war crimes or crimes against humanity," a spokesman for the rights chief told AFP. But the UN would welcome a

release of those against whom there was insufficient evidence. More than 200 suspected Tamil separatists remain in prison, many without charge. Tamil political and civil society groups have long demanded their unconditional release, though the government has refused a blanket amnesty. — AFP



COLOMBO: Sri Lanka's former president Mahinda Rajapakse (R) and his brother Gotabhaya Rajapakse (L), who was the country's defense secretary in 2009, pray in Colombo yesterday as they join a petition against a UN-mandated investigation into alleged war crimes during the final stages of the island's Tamil separatist war. — AFP

TAIWAN QUAKE SURVIVOR TELLS OF MOMENT SHE LOST HUSBAND, BABY

TAINAN: Nurse Liu Yi-chen was breastfeeding her 10-day old baby when her family's home in Taiwan was turned upside-down by a devastating earthquake that robbed her of her infant and husband. Liu, 38, was rescued from the rubble of the felled Wei-kuan apartment complex in the southern city of Tainan soon after the quake.

Her two other young children remain missing, among more than 100 residents still buried in the rubble. She tearfully said of her terror and loss as she recovered in hospital, praying for good news.

"I was lying in bed breastfeeding and felt the bed shaking. My husband said to me something must be wrong and then the floor caved in and we started to fall," said Liu, whose injuries include broken ribs and a fractured shoulder, leg and spine.

"When we fell he held us tight and I fell on his chest... My husband made some space for us. The baby fell nearby, I heard her cry but I couldn't reach her." Liu said they plunged several stories from the ninth floor of the 16-story block and her legs were pinned down by bricks. "I was talking to my husband and

told him we have to get out together. He replied 'I love you wife. You stay well' and I said 'What are you talking about? We'll stay well together' and then the talking stopped," said Liu. "The baby cried for an hour and then there was no voice," she said.

Liu called out to rescuers who found the family and drilled into the rubble to get them out. She begged them to take out the baby girl-named Kang Chiao-ting-first, only discovering that night that she had died. Rescuers then pulled her husband's body from the rubble.

Structural problems

The apartment complex was felled by a 6.4-magnitude earthquake Saturday, the only high-rise in the city to collapse. Questions are now being asked over how safe the building was after it emerged residents had complained about cracks in the walls and images of the rubble showed tin cans and foam had been used inside concrete pillars. Liu said she had bought the house in 2005. "There were cracks in the walls after earthquakes, but other buildings had that too and I didn't think about

structural problems," she said. Liu added her first mortgage application for the apartment was rejected on the grounds that the builder had some debt disputes with the bank, but was later approved.

Local media reported that the construction company behind the building had gone bankrupt. Prosecutors have launched an investigation into the collapse. But for Liu her only concern is the fate of her two trapped children. "I was lucky I was among the first to be found but I lost my baby," she said, saying that she was now just "hoping for miracles". — AFP

DIVISIVE MINISTER BECOME AUSTRALIA'S RIGHTS ENVOY

CANBERRA: The former Australian immigration minister who began the widely condemned policy of sending asylum seekers to Pacific island detention camps will become Australia's first special envoy for human rights, the government said yesterday.

Philip Ruddock became Australia's longest-serving immigration minister, serving from 1996 to 2003. During his tenure, he implemented Australia's so-called Pacific solution to deter asylum seekers from attempting to reach Australia by boat.

The United Nations Human Rights Council joined rights groups in criticizing Australia for sending thousands of asylum seekers from the Middle East and Asia to Australia-funded camps in the impoverished island nations of Nauru and Papua New Guinea.

As Australia's special envoy for human rights, Ruddock, the second-longest-serving lawmaker in the Australian Parliament's 105-year history, having been first elected in 1973, will promote Australia's candidacy for membership to the U.N. Human Rights Council for the 2018-20 term. He will also represent Australia's conservative government at international human rights events,

Foreign Minister Julia Bishop said.

"He will also promote our broader human rights agenda, including global abolition of the death penalty, for which he has worked tirelessly over many years," Bishop said in a statement. Ruddock, 72, a long-standing member of Amnesty International who refused the rights group's request to stop wearing its lapel badge while asylum seekers were being deported, defended his role in implementing the government's tough policy, which stripped refugees of legal rights they would have enjoyed on the Australian mainland.

"No regrets," Ruddock told Sky News television yesterday. "We have been studiously observing our obligations in relation to people who have a well-founded fear of persecution." Ruddock will remain in Parliament until elections are held later this year. He will have spent 43 years in Parliament by September. The offshore detention camps were closed after a center-left Labor Party government was elected in 2007. But the camps were reopened the following year after a resurgence in asylum seekers sailing for Australia in ever-growing numbers. — AP

SOME AUSTRALIAN ASYLUM SEEKERS MIGRANTS HAVE TERMINAL ILLNESSES

SYDNEY: Some of the 267 asylum seekers Australia wants to deport to an offshore immigration centre following a court ruling are suffering from cancer and other terminal illnesses, a senior government official said yesterday.

Australia's High Court last week upheld the government's right to deport detained asylum seekers to the tiny South Pacific island of Nauru, about 3,000 km northeast of Australia. The decision provoked criticism from the United Nations and sparked protest, with church leaders offering asylum seekers sanctuary. The centre has been widely criticized for harsh conditions and reports of systemic child abuse and sexual assault.

Some deportations could begin within days, but others would have to be dealt with in a staged fashion, because of the illnesses, said Michael Pezzullo, secretary of the department of immigration and border protection. "In some cases we're talking about cancer, we're talking about all sorts of long-run illnesses," he told a parliamentary hearing.

"Regrettably in some cases, for reasons to do with very long-term, and indeed potentially terminal illnesses, some folks, I suspect, will be here for quite a while." The refugees, including 37 babies, had been brought to Australia from Nauru for med-

ical treatment. Under Australia's controversial immigration policy, asylum seekers trying to reach the country by boat are intercepted and sent to camps on Nauru or on Manus Island in Papua New Guinea. They can never be resettled in Australia.

Both the ruling conservative Liberal Party of Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull and centre-left Labor Party support the policy, which was introduced by former Labor Prime Minister Kevin Rudd. Both sides argue that the policy of deterrence is necessary to stop asylum seekers dying at sea while attempting to make the sea crossing on often rickety boats used by people smugglers.

The numbers trying to reach Australia are small in comparison with the floods of asylum seekers in Europe, the issue is a perennial hot-button political issue both at home and abroad. Yesterday Australia announced the appointment of veteran politician Philip Ruddock as its first special envoy for human rights.

"Australia has a strong record of promoting and protecting human rights, at home and around the world," Foreign Minister Julie Bishop said in a statement. "Mr Ruddock will be reflecting the government's commitment to further strengthening Australia's contribution to advancing human rights." — Reuters



TAINAN: Rescue personnel bring down a Vietnamese national, identified as 28-year old Chen Mei-Jih, to safety after she was extracted from the rubble at the Wei-Kuan complex which collapsed in the 6.4 magnitude earthquake. — AFP

SURVIVORS BEING PULLED ALIVE FROM TAIWAN QUAKE RUBBLE

SCRABBLING TO FIND OVER 100 STILL MISSING RESIDENTS

TAINAN: Four survivors were yesterday pulled alive from the rubble of an apartment complex felled by an earthquake in Taiwan, as questions intensified over why the building collapsed. An eight-year-old girl and 28-year-old woman were the latest to be pulled from the rubble, AFP reporters at the scene said.

A man and a woman were also rescued earlier in the day as emergency workers scabbled to find more than 100 residents still missing, over 60 hours since the building toppled. Prosecutors have launched an investigation into why the Wei-kuan building in the southern city of Tainan collapsed.

Images from the site showed metal cans and foam used inside the concrete framework of the building, raising questions over the safety of the construction. The mayor of Tainan, William Lai, said survivors and relatives had reported building violations.

The 6.4-magnitude quake left 37 confirmed dead, most of them from the apartment complex which was the only high-rise in the city to completely collapse. Rescuers told earlier yesterday how they took more than 20 hours to free one survivor, 40-year-old Lee Tsong-tian, trapped by his leg. He was eventually freed, but had to have his leg amputated.

The other survivor pulled from the rubble earlier yesterday was Tsao Wei-ling, 45, who is in a stable condition—her husband and two-year-old child were pulled dead from the rubble, officials at the site said, with a search ongoing for five other members of her family trapped inside.

Safety questions

President-elect Tsai Ing-wen, who will take the reins in May, said the new government would prioritise building safety following the disaster. "There are many old buildings across Taiwan... there should be an overall review of their resistance to earthquakes and other disasters," she said during a hospital visit to survivors.

Local media reported the construction company that built the complex had gone out of business and questioned the materials used. Max Lo, former president of the Taiwan Engineering and Science Association, told AFP cans and foam could acceptably be used within decorative parts of a building to reduce its weight. "Using them in the main structure would be against the national building code," he said. "The first floor of the building was a shopping mall. We also need to find out if the walls designed to help bolster the building were taken out to increase the shopping space," he added. Taiwan's President Ma Ying-jeou said there was still hope for survivors, even beyond the first 72-hour rescue window, the most likely time for people to be found alive. "We will carry on until the last second. The golden 72 hours of rescue is the standard, but there are many exceptions," said Ma after visiting two survivors at a Tainan hospital who were in a stable condition, with fractured bones. One of them had lost her 10-day old baby and husband. Her two other children remain missing.

The other had lost her husband, while her son and pregnant daughter-in-law are missing. "Many people are still trapped and our hearts are sinking," said Ma. Cranes, drills, ladders, sniffer dogs and life detector equipment are being used to trace and extract the trapped, though with the building precarious, emergency work-

ers and soldiers have also had to spend time bolstering the ruins.

Rescuers are set to start using diggers and extractors to remove giant concrete slabs once they have ensured all residents from the upper parts of the rubble have been freed. Traditionally a time of celebration and reunion, officials say many relatives would have joined their families

in the Wei-kuan complex to enjoy the holidays, upping the number inside. Now, they endure a grim wait at the site for news of the missing.

Hung Yueh-yu said his brother was rescued on the first day, but his sister-in-law and nephew are trapped. "I'm worried and I will keep waiting for their news—I think rescuers are working really hard. I'm hoping for the best," he said. — AFP

CAMBODIA ARRESTS MAN WANTED FOR BANGKOK SPANIARD KILLING

PHNOM PENH: The prime suspect in the grisly murder and dismemberment of a Spanish national in Bangkok was returned to Thailand yesterday after his arrest in Cambodia, police said. Multiple body parts belonging to businessman David Bernat were found floating in Bangkok's Chao Praya river last month.

Police believe he was kidnapped and murdered for financial reasons, with investigators saying they have traced more than \$1 million moved from the victim's bank account after his death. Last week they named their chief suspect as Artur Segarra, 36, also a Spanish national, saying they were confident he remained inside Thailand because he had recently withdrawn money from a cash machine inside the country.

But Cambodian police said Segarra was apprehended in a restaurant on Sunday in the town of Sihanoukville. "We arrested him yesterday late afternoon," Chuon Narin, police chief of Kampong Som province, said yesterday. He was later handed over to Thai police in the eastern province of Trat. General Panya Maman, the officer leading the murder investigation, said Segarra would be sent to Bangkok for interrogation.

"A criminal court has issued an arrest war-

rant against Artur for premeditated murder and illegal disposal of a body," he told reporters. If charged and convicted, Segarra could face the death penalty. The gruesome case has dominated Thai media coverage in recent days with television networks airing grim footage of officers hauling Bernat's remains out of the river.

Police questioned a Thai woman over the weekend who was allegedly seen with Segarra in recent days. Investigators initially struggled to identify the victim. Last week police said they believed the man was of Asian origin and suggested that Chinese triads might have been involved because of the method chosen to dispose of the body. The wide Chao Praya winds its way through Bangkok, which boasts a large network of canals, and it is not unusual for bodies to be dumped in the city's waterways. But it is rare for a foreigner to meet such a grisly fate.

Cambodian police have returned a number of high profile criminal suspects to Thailand in recent months, including one of the alleged perpetrators of last summer's Bangkok bombing and an Australian wanted for his alleged involvement in the murder of a fellow national and former Hells Angels member in Pattaya. — AFP



BANGKOK: Spanish national Artur Segarra, 36, looks at his handcuffed hands on a couch while guarded by a police officer (unseen) after he arrived by helicopter at the Tha Raeng police aviation base. — AFP



SYDNEY: Chinese tourists sit and view the Sydney Opera House which is lit up red to welcome in the Lunar New Year in Sydney yesterday. The Lunar New Year of the Monkey began yesterday. — AFP

26 INDONESIANS DIE AFTER DRINKING BOOTLEG ALCOHOL

JAKARTA: More than two dozen Indonesians have died after drinking bootleg alcohol in central Java, police said yesterday. Investigators said a majority of the victims died after purchasing home-made liquor from a couple in Sleman, a town north of Yogyakarta city, local police said.

"Most of the victims were students," Sleman police chief Yulianto, who like many Indonesians goes by one name, told AFP. The first death occurred last Wednesday, with more fatalities reported soon after. The police have arrested the couple who sold the concoction of ethanol, water and fruit that is believed to have caused 22 deaths.

Four other people were also killed by bootleg liquor sold by another vendor, who has also been arrested.

There have been several previous cases where bootleg alcohol has proved fatal in the Muslim-majority country. In 2014, more than a dozen Indonesians in Java died after imbibing illicit booze to ring in the New Year. In 2009, 25 people including four foreigners died after drinking methanol-laced palm wine on the resort island of Bali. Last year, authorities banned small shops from selling alcohol, triggering warnings from health advocates that the move could push people to purchase black-market spirits. — AFP



A carnival float depicting Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump and the Statue of Liberty stands in front of the city hall in Dusseldorf in western Germany after the Rose Monday (Rosenmontag) street parade was cancelled yesterday. Traditional Rose Monday carnival parades in several western German cities have been cancelled due to stormy weather. — AFP

SAUDI OFFER TO SEND TROOPS COMES WITH UNCERTAINTY

DUBAI: Saudi Arabia's offer to send troops to fight Islamic State in Syria is as much about the kingdom's growing determination to flex its military might as it is about answering US calls for more help from its allies in the Middle East. A Saudi deployment runs the potentially explosive risk of confrontation between one of the Arab world's most powerful militaries and forces keeping Syrian President Bashar Assad in power. That's if the Saudi proposal even gets translated into action.

Just putting the offer on the table gives the Saudis an opportunity to show leadership in addressing US concerns that its regional allies aren't doing enough to fight IS. It also puts pressure on Washington to do more as Defense Secretary Ash Carter and allied defense ministers gather in Brussels this week for talks on confronting the extremists. Brig Gen Ahmed Asiri, the Saudi military spokesman, made clear the kingdom's offer is contingent on the support of the US-led coalition battling the militant group in Iraq and Syria. Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, which also has offered to deploy ground forces, are part of the coalition but have eased up on their contributions to the air campaign after earlier, high-profile sorties over Syria.

They now are far more focused on another war even closer to home. In Yemen, a Saudi-led coalition heavily supported by the Emirates is battling Iranian-backed Shiite rebels and a

former president's supporters who control the capital of Sanaa and other parts of the impoverished country. The Yemen intervention highlights Saudi Arabia's growing assertiveness since King Salman's ascension to the throne just over a year ago, along with the rise of his son, Prince Mohammed bin Salman. The 30-year-old prince was named by his father as defense minister and second-in-line to be king.

Prince Mohammed has announced the creation of a Saudi-based Islamic military alliance intended to fight terrorism. The bloc includes much of the Sunni Arab world, several African and Asian countries, as well as NATO member Turkey. Not included are IS frontlines Syria and Iraq, or Saudi Arabia's chief rival, Shiite powerhouse Iran. "The Salman doctrine is about projecting power and military strength," said Dubai-based geopolitical analyst Theodore Karasik, who believes the Saudis' offer for troops in Syria could portend other military expeditions in the region. "It may be looking for leverage, but it's also very serious," he said.

Motives

While the Saudis say their aim is to fight IS, the timing of the kingdom's announcement raises questions about its motives. Russia's intervention in Syria has sharply altered the military landscape, routing Saudi-backed rebels from key

areas in the north and giving Assad the upper hand. Prospects for any meaningful peace talks appear to be dwindling by the day. Any ground troops deployed to fight IS would almost certainly have to enter from the Turkish border, close to the area where Syrian government troops and allied militiamen have been advancing under cover of blistering Russian airstrikes.

Saudi ground troops would find themselves embroiled in complex terrain where hundreds of Shiite fighters from Iran, Lebanon and Afghanistan also are fighting. That would make the proxy sectarian wars that Iran and Saudi Arabia have been waging suddenly more intimate, potentially putting Saudi and Iranian troops in the same fighting space. IS would certainly relish the chance to take on Saudi ground troops, given that it views the Saudi monarchy as a top enemy in the region. Saudi troops might well find themselves less battle-hardened than the jihadists and would no doubt be singled out for capture. The seizure by IS militants of a Jordanian pilot whose plane crashed over Syria in 2014 and his subsequent videotaped killing was a factor in dampening Arab participation in the air campaign in Syria. At a news conference Saturday in Damascus, Syrian Foreign Minister Walid Al-Moallem ridiculed the Saudi offer to send troops to Syria, vowing they would "return home in wooden coffins". "The question that Saudi Arabia should be asking itself is, what did it accomplish in

Yemen? Was it successful?" he asked. "It has sown destruction, hitting every target two, three times and did not leave a stone standing. Did the Yemenis surrender?"

Moallem said the offer was a sign of Saudi frustration that their "tools" in Syria were losing in the face of sweeping victories by the Syrian army. The head of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps also said Saturday that Riyadh lacked the courage to make such a move. Tackling IS head-on in Syria also risks blowback in Saudi Arabia. The militant group already has carried out multiple suicide bombings in the kingdom, possibly including one late last month at a Shiite mosque in the country's east that has not yet been claimed by any group but bore the hallmarks of IS militants. Many of the attackers have been Saudi citizens, pointing to the home-grown jihadist sympathies that Saudi authorities struggle to contain.

Fahad Nazer, a political analyst at Virginia-based consultancy and security firm JTG Inc., predicted that a ground campaign against IS would nonetheless garner considerable support inside the kingdom, at least initially. But it is hard to say how long that support would last if casualties started mounting, he added. "Very few countries would want to go into Syria without reservations," he said. "I don't think Saudi Arabia would go into this lightly. It would be kind of a last resort." — AP

'METEORITE' KILLS BUS DRIVER IN SOUTH INDIA

Continued from Page 1

"meteorite" - although scientists say this has not yet been proved. "A meteorite fell at a private engineering college... and claimed the life of a college bus driver," said the chief minister in a statement late Sunday expressing "shock" at the news. She awarded 100,000 rupees (\$1,470) in compensation to his family.

S P Rajaguru, assistant professor at the Indian Astrophysics Institute in Bangalore, said the rock could be a meteorite but further tests were needed. If proven it would be the first meteorite death of a human in recorded history, he said. "Most of the meteors never reach the earth surface as they completely vaporize in the atmosphere," he told AFP by phone. "Hitting the Earth surface is very rare and there have been no deaths in recorded history," Rajaguru said the missile could be debris from a rocket or a space shuttle. Meteors are particles of dust and rock that usually burn up as they pass through the Earth's atmosphere. Those that do not burn up completely, surviving the fall to Earth, are known as meteorites.

The bus driver was standing on a patch of grass near the college cafeteria when he was killed, while two gardeners and a student were injured, officials said. The dark blue stone resembling a diamond was found at the scene. Government officials at first suspected the blast was caused by explosives accidentally left after building work. However, investigations found no evidence of explosive material at the site.

"When no evidence of explosive material was found, we moved to the theory that it might be a meteorite," said a district official who asked not be named. "It is not

confirmed yet as samples need to be analyzed." G Baskar, the principal of the college in Vellore district, was working in his cabin when he heard an explosion. "It was a sound like nothing I've ever heard before," he said. "There was no smell at all, no fire, nothing."

Separately, a male leopard which strayed into a school in the southern Indian city of Bangalore injured five people during an hours-long attempt to catch the beast, a wildlife official said. Photos of the incident show the animal prowling around the closed school on Sunday and trying to maul forestry officials, a wildlife activist and others who came too close.

Ravi Ralph, chief wildlife officer in the state of Karnataka, said the leopard appeared to have got into the school from a nearby forest area by jumping over the compound's wall. The animal is seen attacking a man lying on the ground who uses his hand to defend himself. The cat is also shown sinking its claws into a man's leg as he tries to climb a gate. "The leopard was caught and caged after a four-hour operation, when it was trapped in a room with one tranquilizer shot through a wire-meshed ventilator," Ralph told AFP.

The leopard was taken to Bangalore's Bannerghatta zoo for observation, but was reportedly later released into the forest. His victims were treated for minor injuries. Leopards number between 12,000 to 14,000, according to a national survey released last year. They are increasingly venturing into populated areas as their habitats become depleted. A leopard killed a five-year-old boy in the courtyard of his home in central India in 2014. Video footage from Mumbai in 2013 showed a leopard creeping into an apartment block foyer and snatching a small dog. — Agencies

SALEH: CURRENT CONSUMPTION PATTERNS...

Continued from Page 1

The minister warned that the position of the budget is not encouraging after the price of oil collapsed from \$120 a barrel to just \$20 a barrel for Kuwaiti oil, which resulted in a huge deficit close to KD 12 billion. He said the fiscal surpluses made in the past 15 years have been transferred to the future generations' fund and the state reserve fund, "from which we will withdraw money to finance the budget deficit".

Saleh said the new measures, which aim at diversifying sources of income, will not undermine middle- and low-income people. He also assured that the government will prevent any unjustified hikes in prices as a result of the planned measures. Regarding subsidies in the next fiscal

year budget, Saleh said the allocations have been cut to KD 2.9 billion from over KD 4 billion in the current year's budget.

Meanwhile, MP Khalaf Dumaitheer said that a majority of MPs reject the government's plan if it was not linked to certain preconditions. He said that if the government wants to lift subsidies, it should increase salaries of citizens by around KD 120 per month as a form of compensation.

Separately, a parliamentary committee probing alleged violations in Kuwaiti investments abroad has recommended to the Assembly to refer CEO of Kuwait Investment Authority (KIA) Bader Al-Saad and another senior official to the public prosecution to investigate the alleged violations.

UAE TO PRIVATIZE GOVT SERVICES

Continued from Page 1

Zadjali said the government might issue eurobonds by the middle of this year, but did not comment on the size of any eurobond offer or give further details of the foreign borrowing plan.

He also said the government planned to issue 600 million rials (\$1.56 billion) of domestic bonds this year, or about 100 million rials every two months. It is currently marketing a 100 million rial, five-year issue with a coupon of 3.5 percent; the bonds will be auctioned on Feb 16. The borrowing plans underline the heavy financial pressure which Oman faces because of cheap oil; the government has not issued an international bond since 1997. Last month, Oman obtained a \$1 billion sovereign loan from international banks.

Financial Affairs Minister Darwish Al-Balushi said in January that the government planned to cut its budget

deficit to 3.3 billion rials this year from an actual 4.5 billion rials last year, partly through big spending cuts. The government has decided to borrow abroad to reduce pressure on the local banking system, where money market rates have been rising as inflows of new oil revenues decrease. A central bank auction of 91-day Treasury bills in late January fetched a weighted average yield of 0.844 percent, up from 0.201 percent at a similar sale in March last year.

Arabiya quoted Zadjali as saying the central bank's foreign reserves were sufficient to cover about four months of imports. Its foreign assets and gold totalled 7.09 billion rials in November, up 8.3 percent from a year earlier, the latest official data shows. In addition, Omani sovereign wealth funds are believed to have about \$20 billion of assets, much of them held overseas, which could be sold to obtain foreign exchange if needed. — Agencies



A Saudi traditional dancer performs during the Janadriyah festival of Heritage and Culture held in the Saudi village of Al-Thamama, 50 km north of the capital Riyadh, yesterday. — AFP

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

EDITORIAL : 24833199-24833358-24833432
ADVERTISING : 24835616/7
FAX : 24835620/1
CIRCULATION : 24833199 Extn. 163
ACCOUNTS : 24835619
COMMERCIAL : 24835618

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

Focus

CANADA'S TRUDEAU:
STYLE, POISE AND
'SELFIE POLITICS'

By Clement Sabourin

Optimistic and smiling, always available to snap a selfie with an adoring fan, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau governs with studied poise and self-assurance. The morning after winning October 19 legislative elections, the Liberal leader cast aside his bodyguards to greet commuters at a subway stop in Montreal, and thank the people in his blue-collar electoral district for their support. Sharing hugs and kind words with average people, a bright-eyed Trudeau set a new Canadian standard following years of fear politics under his predecessor.

"The Trudeau brand is all about being up close and personal," said Thierry Giasson, political communication specialist at Laval University in Quebec. "His taking of selfies with voters throughout the election campaign is a perfect embodiment of this approach." From his swearing-in that was open to the public to international meetings in Davos or Manila, where he received a rock-star welcome and was tagged as a "hottie" politician on social media, to a televised one-on-one chat with 10 average Canadians, Trudeau has carefully cultivated his image. His omnipresent smile, however, has sometimes left observers wondering about his sincerity and compassion in moments of tragedy. "Trudeau is very good retail politician," commented University of Toronto professor Nelson Wiseman. "He is trying to leverage his skills. Remember, he studied drama, he was something of a performer, he performed well in the debates."

Trudeau also comes from a political family. His father was one of Canada's longest serving prime ministers, from 1968 to 1979, and again from 1980 to 1984. Pierre Trudeau has often been described as the father of modern Canada. "Staging glimpses of their private lives for the public was quite frequent," Giasson said of Justin Trudeau's family. "His own comfortable relationship with the public stems from those early experiences."

Parity, Diversity 'Because it's 2015!'

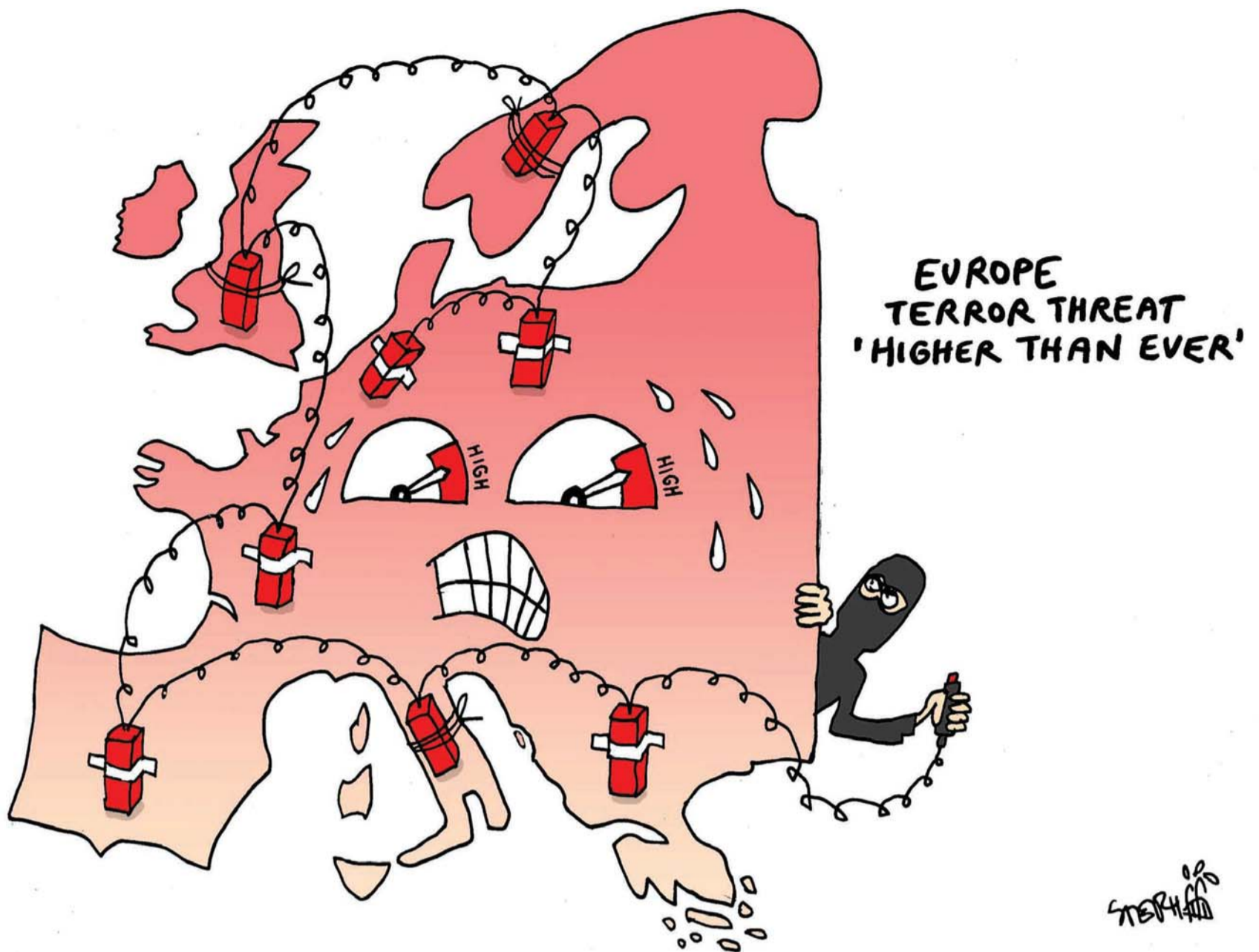
Trudeau spent five years getting his feet wet as a backbench member of parliament in opposition before winning the leadership of the party in 2013 and then in two and a half short years becoming prime minister. At 44, however, he is still considered a rookie politician. A focus on the Trudeau name during the campaign arguably gave him an edge over lesser known rivals at the polls. Many Canadians felt they knew him, having watched him grow up in the public eye during his father's time in office.

A glamorous photo spread in Vogue in December depicting him and his wife Sophie canoeing affirmed his celebrity. "There's something attractive about this man, of a young father with a pretty wife and beautiful children, all very healthy and happy. It's an image that Canadians want to see," said Giasson. He represents the next generation taking the reins, one that is comfortable with social media and splashing his life on Facebook and Twitter for the world to see.

Notably, this included photos of Trudeau and his wife dressed in Star Wars costumes taking their children trick or treating on Halloween. In tune with his generation, Trudeau has led an activist government that he said "looks like Canada", referring to the ethnic diversity and gender parity in his cabinet. Asked why this was important, he replied simply: "Because it's 2015!"

Sometimes dismissed as simplistic, the comment "sends a strong message," said Jean-Jacques Streliski of HEC Montreal, adding that it heralds a "complete break" with the autocratic governing style of his predecessor, former prime minister Stephen Harper. "He who invests the most in their image will benefit as long as possible... and Trudeau has done that to the maximum possible extent," he said. It has also opened up the prime minister to criticism from opposition benches that he is more style than substance at a time when falling oil prices have devastated the Canadian oil sector and unemployment is on the rise.

Tory opposition leader Rona Ambrose accused Trudeau of "swanning around Switzerland with actors and billionaires" including Bono and actor Kevin Spacey, and "hanging out with the one percent" at the World Economic Forum while ignoring Canadian economic issues. "Maybe the prime minister should stop using his cell phone for selfies with Leo DiCaprio" and focus on economic matters such as pipelines, she said in parliament. "The risk is that Trudeau continues to roll out staged family photos and the like, in an attempt to mask his lack of governing," warned Giasson. "That's where public opinion could turn on him." —AFP



WHO'S CRITICAL CHALLENGE: HEALING ITSELF

By Kate Kelland

When executive board members of the World Health Organization sat down for their annual meeting in Geneva in January, many powerful figures spoke forcefully of the need to reform the leading global authority on health and disease. "It's time to stop talking," Stewart Jessamine, New Zealand's director of public health and a WHO executive board member, told the delegates. "We have to change." Jimmy Kolker, a leading member of the US delegation, told the meeting the WHO must "recognize how crucial this moment is for the future of the organization, and the resources and the trust that are in the balance."

For years the WHO has talked about streamlining its complex structure, governance and financing to make it more efficient. Critics say the organization needs deep reforms to allow it to show clear leadership in promoting health and to respond decisively to disease emergencies that may span many countries. But progress has been painfully slow.

Margaret Chan, Director General of the WHO since 2007, acknowledged the concerns of delegates and agreed with Jessamine: "Yes, it's time to stop talking," she said. She promised to act swiftly on reforming the WHO's emergency responses. "We are committed to implementing a single program, with a single line of accountability, a single budget, a single set of business processes, a single cadre of staff and a single set of performance benchmarks," she said.

The pressure for change has been building after a series of missteps by the global health body. Last year, while still smarting from accusations it overreacted to the 2009-10 H1N1 flu pandemic, the WHO faced withering criticism for not reacting fast enough to the Ebola crisis in West Africa. The organization's Lyon-based International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) has become a target of ridicule among some health experts for issuing confusing warnings on everything from the air we breathe to the meat we eat to the phones we use. And the WHO is now being questioned about its response to the Zika virus.

Public health specialists, non-governmental organizations and some of the WHO's biggest donors say the organization is unwieldy, poor at coordinating responses to epidemics, and too thinly spread. And increasingly it struggles to set its own priorities because many of its donors give it money earmarked for specific projects.

Some experts inside and outside the organization say those flaws mean the WHO's lead role in global health is now at risk. Nils Daulaire, who was until recently the US representative on the WHO's executive board, told Reuters the WHO "is not functioning well" and cannot "survive in its present form for another decade." He said global officials who engage with the WHO regard it as bogged down by internal processes and often forced by its members to take on more than its resources can manage.

"I've heard from a lot of former colleagues representing other countries that are major contributors to WHO, and other institutions that contribute financially, that either (the WHO) has to get fixed in a relatively short period - five to 10 years - or they're going to take their marbles and go elsewhere," said Daulaire.

Reuters spoke to more than a dozen people who know the WHO and its leadership well. All said the world needs the WHO to succeed. But most were also frustrated and even angry with its current state - sentiments that were on open display at January's meeting in Geneva. Chan told delegates that she recognised the concerns. "We hear you loud and clear on your expectations on how you would like to see us reform the program," she said.

A WHO spokesman, Tarik Jasarevic, told Reuters that changes to the agency's response systems "are already under way" and would include the establishment of a single programme for outbreaks and emergencies. He said the WHO "is also committed to an independent mechanism of assessment and monitoring of the performance of the organisation, reporting to the governing bodies."

Too Many Chiefs

The WHO is unique among UN agencies because its structure includes six regional offices, each with its own director elected by regional member states. Beneath them is a sprawling network of around 150 country offices. Charles Clift, who led a 2014 report for the Centre on Global Health Security at Britain's Chatham House entitled "What's the World Health Organization for?" said the complexity "is one of the main reasons why the WHO, in many ways, is dysfunctional."

Clift, who was secretary of the WHO's commission on intellectual property rights, innovation and public health from 2004 to 2006, describes the structure as "not one but seven WHO's" - the Geneva headquarters plus the regional offices whose directors are answerable not to Chan but to their own member states.

The flaws in the structure were evident in the Ebola crisis. Despite repeated warnings by the charity Medecins Sans Frontieres (Doctors Without Borders) that national governments were not on top of the seriousness of Ebola's spread, WHO officials in Geneva declared the outbreak "relatively small still" in April 2014. It wasn't until August, when the epidemic was out of control in West Africa, that Chan declared it a global emergency. "The lack of a direct line of control from Geneva to what was happening at country level

edly fielding urgent inquiries about the Zika virus.

Some board members expressed concern that once again the WHO looked slow-footed on the emergence of a potentially major epidemic. Chan hurried to reassure them. Within days she was moved to convene an emergency expert panel on Zika, saying the mosquito-borne disease had grown from a mild threat and was now "spreading explosively."

One reason for the lack of streamlined communications was that the regional office PAHO "sees itself as semi-autonomous," according to the WHO insider. This is partly because PAHO was founded in 1902, more than 40 years before the WHO itself was created. A spokesperson for PAHO said: "While PAHO has its own constitution, PAHO always coordinates with and informs WHO HQ ... While Zika was not an emergency in other regions of WHO, it is for PAHO because most of the member states affected are in the Americas."

PAHO had treated Zika as an emergency since May 2015, said the spokesperson. WHO headquarters declared Zika a public health emergency only this month. It's in cases like this that some countries, such as Britain and the United States, are keen to have clearer lines of authority. But some smaller member states are reluctant, according to Clift, Daulaire and some current WHO staffers. They say this is because less domi-

and director of the UK-based global health charity the Wellcome Trust, says the WHO is floundering because it can't, or won't, say no to anything. "It's so thinly stretched," he said. "There's arguably no organization on earth that could cover all those (topics) at sufficient depth to be authoritative." Farrar argues the best way for the WHO to become "a totally respected organisation" is for it to set top priorities for global health "and do those at a really high level."

But with member states - the owners and directors of the WHO - requiring it to cover such a vast range of health issues, the WHO's ability to focus is hampered. Barbara Stocking, a former chief executive of the charity Oxfam UK who chaired an expert panel reviewing the WHO's response to Ebola last year, said the health body "got distracted" by very broad agendas determined by its members. Stocking says outbreak response should be the "absolute essence" of the WHO: "If it doesn't deal with health emergencies across the world, then what is it there for?"

Who's Paying, and for How Long?

The WHO faces another major hurdle in trying to nail down its core functions: It has budget pressures and has lost control of some of its own objectives. In 2011, hit by the global financial crisis, member states cut the WHO's budget, reducing it by 13 percent from the previous year. This hurt the WHO's department for global health security and became "a fundamental driver," according to Daulaire, of the WHO's slow response to the Ebola outbreak.

Another change may have had an even bigger impact. Sixteen years ago, the WHO received 49 percent of its money as "assessed contributions" from member states. The WHO could mostly do what it wanted with this money. By 2014, assessed contributions had dropped to about 20 percent of funds the WHO received. About 80 percent is now made up of "voluntary contributions." Some come from member states that want to give extra, others from bodies such as educational institutions, trusts and charities, including the foundations of Microsoft founder Bill Gates and Mike Bloomberg, the financial-information mogul and former New York mayor.

Almost all these donations come with strings attached - stipulations that the money must be used for certain projects or diseases. In all, 93 percent of the money given to the WHO for its health programs is now "specified" - earmarked - by donors for particular projects. The largest of the non-government donors by a long way is the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. From a standing start a decade ago, it has been contributing between \$250 million and \$300 million a year. In one year - 2013 - it was the largest donor bar none, overtaking even total contributions from the US government.

The impact of funds from private donors can be seen in WHO spending. One of the Gates Foundation's priorities is the eradication of polio - a crippling disease that can be prevented with comprehensive vaccination campaigns. A breakdown of the WHO's finances shows that its polio program is by far the best-resourced, accounting for 23.5 percent of the WHO's current program budget. The next biggest program is outbreak and crisis response, which gets 15.3 percent.

The WHO can push back against donors' wishes only so hard - or risk donors taking their money elsewhere. Daulaire said that he has talked to "very senior people at the Gates Foundation" who are studying the WHO's current state "with a great deal of interest and concern - and they certainly have the capacity and the right to put their money elsewhere."

Asked whether the Gates Foundation was planning to put its money elsewhere, Steve Landry, its director of multilateral partnerships, said: "The foundation invests in a variety of organizations to improve global health surveillance, build resilient health systems, and strengthen national and global pandemic preparedness. WHO plays an essential and unique role among the partners. Several of our investments in WHO are designed to help it deliver on this mandate." —Reuters



Professor David L. Heymann, Chair of the Emergency Committee, sits next to China's Margaret Chan, General Director of the World Health Organization, as they inform the media during a press conference at the WHO headquarters in Geneva on Feb 1, 2016. —AP

was probably one of the main reasons for why they were so slow," said Clift.

Chan said late last year the WHO had been "overwhelmed" by the Ebola outbreak, which she said "shook this organization to its core." Some health officials fear the current scramble over the Zika virus is another example of the WHO's lack of coordination. As members of the executive board met in Geneva, the health body's regional office in the Americas issued an alarming statement. The little-known Zika virus was spreading fast, it said, and threatened to infect millions.

The spread of the virus is thought to correlate with a rise in birth defects in Brazil - but no causal link has been proven. The regional office's statement caught WHO headquarters by surprise: No one had bothered to tell it the statement was going to appear. The contents of the Zika warning were accurate, WHO staffers say, but as one Geneva-based WHO insider said: "They put it out without telling us."

A spokesperson for the regional office, the Pan American Health Organization, said that it shares information with WHO headquarters but sometimes acts independently so that it can respond swiftly. In the case of Zika, it issued a statement at the request of a country office to counter misleading local media reports about sexual transmission of the virus, the spokesperson said. The effect, though, went wider. Just as the WHO's week-long annual executive board meeting was beginning, the Geneva headquarters found itself unexpect-

nant states worry that ceding all power to a central headquarters might mean that their own governments could be chastised by the WHO for failing to report, control or prevent chronic ill-health, infectious disease, or pandemic threats.

Mission Creep

There's another big problem, many people say: The WHO tries to do too much. It was founded in 1948 - an era in global health when "the entire focus was infectious diseases" and "in some ways life was much simpler," said Richard Sullivan, a professor of cancer policy and global health at King's College London. "It's important to remember that's where the WHO came from," he said. "Non-communicable diseases (such as heart diseases, cancer and diabetes) just weren't on their radar at all."

Since then, global health has become far more complex. A quick glance at the WHO's current "health topics" list shows it offers expertise on a vast array of issues, from sunburn and domestic violence to Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever and plague. On a side table outside the board meeting in Geneva, a pile of discussion documents included everything from the sound management of chemicals to reducing road traffic accidents. There was a "global vaccination action plan," a paper on pandemic influenza, and a draft policy on "multi-sectoral action for a life course approach to healthy ageing."

Jeremy Farrar, an infectious disease specialist

All articles appearing on these pages are the personal opinion of the writers. Kuwait Times takes no responsibility for views expressed therein. Kuwait Times invites readers to voice their opinions. Please send submissions via email to: opinion@kuwaittimes.net or via snail mail to PO Box 1301 Safat, Kuwait. The editor reserves the right to edit any submission as necessary.

TOMKINS RULED OUT WITH CALF INJURY

LONDON: West Ham United will be without defender James Tomkins for today's FA Cup fourth-round replay against Liverpool and the next few games, manager Slaven Bilic said yesterday. Tomkins damaged his calf in Saturday's 1-0 Premier League defeat at Southampton but Joey O'Brien is back in contention after recovering from an ankle injury. "Joey is a good player. It is a big blow that Tomkins is out now. It is a good thing that we have Joey back. We are well covered," Bilic told reporters. O'Brien returned to competitive action for the first time since July in the 0-0 draw against Liverpool in the first game at Anfield on Jan. 30. Liverpool have injury problems of their own, although striker Daniel Sturridge was on the bench in the 2-2 draw with Sunderland on Saturday. "We are well prepared for whatever team they come with," Bilic said. "If it is not Sturridge, it will be (Christian) Benteke. They have a lot of good strikers and the difference is the midfield." Bilic is expecting Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp, who missed the Sunderland game due to an appendicitis, to return to the dugout. —Reuters

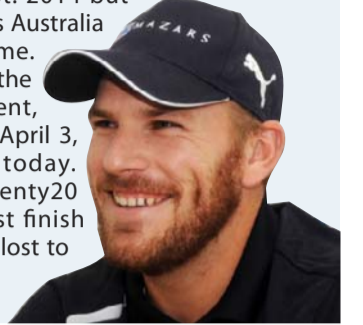


LIVERPOOL CONSIDER TICKET PRICE REVIEW

LONDON: Liverpool's owners will consider a review of controversial ticket price hikes after being shocked by a walkout protest by 10,000 fans, media said yesterday. The Fenway Sports Group held emergency talks after Saturday's protest and again Sunday, British newspapers reported. Fans have meanwhile threatened more walkouts in looming key games against Chelsea and Manchester City. Saturday's walkout was staged in the 77th minute of the 2-2 home draw against Sunderland in protest at the £77 (\$112) top price for a seat in the new main stand at Anfield. Fans chanted "you greedy bastards, enough is enough" as thousands stood up and walked up in a gesture that shocked the FSG owners. The board talks are set to continue this week, British media said. But a review is possible even though the English club's management insist that about two thirds of main stand ticket prices will remain stable or fall. Liverpool have felt the brunt of growing discontent among English fans at the steady increase in ticket prices while Premier League revenues have shot up, notably after making a £5.14 billion (\$7.4 billion) television rights deal for 2016-2019, up 70% on the previous deal. —AFP

FINCH DUMPED AS AUSTRALIA SKIPPER

SYDNEY: Aaron Finch is to be dumped as Australia's captain in the shortest form of the game and replaced by test skipper Steve Smith just a month before the start of the World Twenty20, The Age newspaper reported yesterday. Opener Finch, who has been struggling with a hamstring injury, was named captain in Sept. 2014 but only skippered the side on six occasions as Australia concentrated on other forms of the game. Cricket Australia will not discuss details of the make-up of the squad for the tournament, which takes place in India from March 8-April 3, until it is announced in New Zealand today. Australia have never won the World Twenty20 title in five previous attempts, their best finish coming in West Indies in 2010 when they lost to England in the final. — Reuters



MIXED FEELINGS FOR IRISH AFTER WALES DRAW

DUBLIN: Ireland captain Rory Best admitted he had mixed feelings after drawing 16-16 with Wales at Lansdowne Road in their Six Nations opener.

Joe Schmidt's side raced into a 13-0 first half lead, but failed to score between the 27th and 74th minutes when Johnny Sexton kicked a 40-metre penalty to earn the hosts a share of the spoils.

An injury ravaged Ireland side stormed to the perfect start, with Conor Murray's converted try and two penalties from Sexton giving them a double digit lead inside the half hour, but Warren Gatland's experienced outfit fought back and briefly took the lead through Rhys Priestland's 72nd minute penalty. It wasn't enough to earn victory, nor to put a smile on Best's face. "I think it's a strange result," he said. "(It's) a draw nobody is overly happy with, but at 16-13, you look at the Welsh defence and think we're reasonably happy with the draw."

"It's a lot better than a loss. There's bits we're reasonably happy with, but parts we can improve on. We started really well, but the flip side is the last ten minutes of the first half, we let them into it when we'd a firm grip of the game." Taulupe Faletau's try before the break came at a crucial time for Wales, who were blown away by an impressive Irish opening, before they took control of the set piece and overpowered the reigning champions. But like the Irish, Wales didn't threaten the opposition territory and possession, but I'm disappointed (with) the way we started," he said.

"The good side is we got back into the game, and we possibly could have come away with a win, but I don't want to take anything away from Ireland, they contributed well and maybe a draw was a fair reflection of the game. It's taken a couple of trophies out of the cabinet now already

you can't win the Grand Slam or the Triple Crown. It's about staying in the championship now."

'RUSTINESS'

Wales skipper Sam Warburton put the visitor's opening period down to early season "rustiness", and promised the principality would improve as the tournament progressed.

He disagreed with the claim Wales were perhaps complacent against an under-strength Ireland side (missing Sean O'Brien, Rob Kearney and Cian Healy amongst others), insisting there was no difference between this game and previous encounters.

"When you get to international level, as happened with us in the World Cup when you get 3-4 changes, it's not too bad given the quality guys coming in, the strength in depth of the Ireland squad," he said. "They're all capable of doing a job, it'd never make us complacent." Joe Schmidt said O'Brien and Kearney are likely to be fit for next Saturday's game in Paris, but there's a doubt over Keith Earls, who may have suffered a concussion.

The Ireland boss was pleased with the performance, if not quite the scoreline, but once more found praise for fly-half Sexton, who kicked the levelling penalty despite appearing shaken by a massive tackle from George North moments earlier.

"I think everyone was battered and bruised and he was no different, but his mental strength is something I'd not have too many second thoughts about," Schmidt said of Sexton's decision to take the decisive penalty. "We made the substitution post him kicking the goal, but we'd have made it anyhow to save him for next week."

"We have half a day less to recover now to compete with France and it is a monumental task," he added of their next fixture. "It's such a competitive competition, and when you've a six day turnaround it's always tough." — AFP

Yokohama-Kawasaki-Keio Univ MOU Signing Ceremony Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games



TOKYO: British Olympic Association chairman Sebastien Coe (2nd L) poses hand-in-hand with Keio University president Atsushi Seike (L), Japan Olympic Committee president Tsunekazu Takeda (C), Yokohama mayor Fumiko Hayashi (2nd R) and Kawasaki mayor Norihiko Fukuda (R) after their signing ceremony for the British team's Tokyo 2020 Olympic games preparation camp in Tokyo yesterday. — AFP

NO QUICK FIX TO CRISIS, SAYS IAAF CHIEF COE

TOKYO: Beleaguered world athletics boss Sebastian Coe admitted yesterday there would be no quick fix as he battles to restore public trust in the crisis-hit sport. But the 59-year-old Briton, on a visit to Japan in his capacity as chairman of the British Olympic Association (BOA), promised to "deliver a clean platform for clean athletes". "I'm sure that the changes that I have in train will be, in large part, in place by end of this year," said Coe, whose first five months in charge of the sport's governing IAAF have been plagued by doping and corruption scandals.

"As I've said before, the journey back to trust is one of an uncertain length, but we have to make changes," he added. "We have to push on with the reforms that I have been given the go-ahead with from our previous council meeting. I will report to our next council meeting in a few weeks time but, yes, those reforms are very, very important."

Since taking over from Senegalese Lamine Diack last August, Coe has faced criticism after Russia was banned after being found guilty of

"state-sponsored" doping, while a slew of top IAAF officials-including the disgraced Diack-have been accused of accepting bribes from drug cheats. Coe has denied a cover-up despite the conclusion of Dick Pound, chair of the World Anti-Doping Agency's independent commission, that he "could not have been unaware" of how widespread drug use was in athletics, having served eight years as vice president under Diack. Coe, who won back-to-back Olympic 1,500 metres gold medals at the 1980 and 1984 Games, was ultimately endorsed by Pound as the right man to repair the sport's tarnished image.

NO AMBIGUITY

"We have to move the debate back to one of trust and integrity," said the former British member of parliament after signing an agreement for British athletes to use training facilities in Yokohama and Kawasaki at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. "One where the clean athletes know that there is no ambiguity at all in the federation

about delivering a clean platform for clean athletes." Coe also rejected the idea that British athletes could be tempted to stay away from this year's Rio Olympics as global health chiefs struggle to bring the mosquito-carried Zika virus under control.

"No, British athletes are not reluctant at all to compete in Rio," he said. "We have a proud tradition of having been at every Olympic Games since 1896, winter and summer, and all the British competitors are looking forward to it."

Alarm has spread over the virus since the World Health Organization (WHO) recently declared Zika an international emergency, prompting concern it could have an impact on the decision of athletes to compete, particularly if the situation worsens.

"The current issue is one that all national Olympic committees will be dealing with," said Coe. "We are speaking and working very, very closely with the organising committee and other agencies in Rio. But we are very much looking forward to being there." — AFP



MOSCOW: This file photo taken on August 13, 2013 shows Russia's Yelena Isinbayeva celebrating as she clears the bar during the women's pole vault final at the 2013 IAAF World Championships at the Luzhniki stadium in Moscow on August 13, 2013. Isinbayeva won the gold medal. Russian pole vault star Yelena Isinbayeva will miss the remainder of the indoor season after tearing a muscle in her left leg at the weekend, her coach Yevgeny Trofimov said yesterday. — AFP

ISINBAYEVA TO MISS INDOOR SEASON WITH LEG INJURY

MOSCOW: Russian pole vault star Yelena Isinbayeva will miss the remainder of the indoor season after tearing a muscle in her left leg at the weekend, her coach Yevgeny Trofimov said yesterday.

"Yelena (Isinbayeva) underwent medical testing after suffering the injury," the Allsport agency quoted Trofimov as saying. "Her exact diagnosis is a rupture of the soleus muscle."

"The medics have put her left leg in a plaster cast. Now it's obvious that she will have to miss the remainder of the indoor season."

Following the injury, Isinbayeva on Saturday was forced to put on hold her intended return to competition after a break of more than two years. The 33-year-old had been planning to participate in the Volgograd Governor's Cup meet this weekend but withdrew after she felt pain in her leg while jogging. Trofimov said that the

injury was a recurrence of an old injury, but he added that he remained optimistic that Isinbayeva would be fit in time for the summer athletics season.

"Isinbayeva suffered a similar injury in 2013," Trofimov said. "But after undergoing therapy in Munich, Germany, she managed to win the world championships in Moscow." Two-time Olympic champion Isinbayeva took a break after winning the 2013 IAAF world championships, and in 2014 she gave birth to her daughter Eva.

Last year she announced she would resume her career in a bid to compete at her fourth Olympics in Rio in August.

But her Olympic dream could be dashed as the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) has provisionally banned Russia from competitions after a World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) independent commission found evidence of "state-sponsored" doping in the country. — AFP

MATSUYAMA WINS DRAMATIC 4-HOLE PLAYOFF IN PHOENIX

LOS ANGELES: Japan's Hideki Matsuyama outlasted Rickie Fowler by tapping in for par on the fourth hole of a marathon sudden-death playoff to win the US PGA Tour's Phoenix Open on Sunday. The 23-year-old Matsuyama grabbed his second US tour title and improved on his runner-up finish to Brooks Koepka at last year's tournament in the Arizona desert.

In his first appearance in Phoenix two years ago he finished in tie for fourth. "What a great experience," said Matsuyama, who is ranked 19th in the world. "Rickie opened the door for me, and I was able to walk through it."

Matsuyama, whose only other US Tour title came at the 2014 Memorial, had two putts for the win at the fourth playoff hole-the par-four 17th — after Fowler put his shot into the water.

Both Matsuyama and Fowler carded four-under 67 on Sunday to finish regulation tied on 14-under 270. Matsuyama, who has six wins on the Japan Golf Tour, said it didn't bother him that most in the massive gallery were cheering for Fowler. "They were for Rickie, weren't they? But that gave me the motivation to go out and do it and win," he said through an interpreter. America's Fowler had a two-shot lead on the tee at 17 in regulation, but, as he would later in the playoff, he found the water.

His bogey opened the door for Matsuyama to make birdie and pull even at 13-under as they headed to 18. Fowler's tee shot on 18 then skipped through the left side bunker before caroming right and back onto the green.

Matsuyama put his approach on the green to about 20 feet from the cup. Fowler then landed his approach inside Matsuyama's ball. Matsuyama made his long birdie putt and Fowler also found some 72nd hole magic to set the stage for what would turn out to be a one-



SCOTTSDALE: Hideki Matsuyama of Japan poses with the winners trophy on the 18th hole during the final round of the Waste Management Phoenix Open at TPC Scottsdale on Sunday in Scottsdale, Arizona. — AFP

hour marathon playoff. Harris English shot a five-under 66 to finish alone in third on 272 while third-round leader Danny Lee of New Zealand shot two-over 73 to place fourth on 273.

Lee, who came into Sunday at with a three-shot lead at 13-under par, dropped three strokes on his front nine. World number four Fowler was coming off a missed cut last weekend after winning the Abu Dhabi Gold Championship.

'THIS ONE HURTS'

This would have been Fowler's fourth PGA Tour win. "This one hurts," Fowler said. "I felt like I had it." After both players recorded a par on the

first playoff hole, the par-four 18th, they went back to the tee box for their third straight attempt at number 18. Both ended up about 15 feet from the cup after their first two shots. Fowler rolled in his putt and Matsuyama followed up with another perfect strike. The players then moved to the par-four 10th hole, where Fowler drove his tee shot far right into the rough. He managed to get within 60 feet after his second shot, within 12 after a chip. He rolled it in, forcing a fourth playoff hole. Crowd favourite Phil Mickelson, who attended Arizona State University and has won the Phoenix title three times, finished even at 71, good for a tie for 11th place at eight-under 276. — AFP

SLUMPING KNICKS SACK HEAD COACH FISHER

NEW YORK: The slumping New York Knicks sacked Derek Fisher yesterday, promoting Kurt Rambis to the job of interim head coach in a bid to reverse their sagging NBA fortunes.

The move, announced by Knicks president Phil Jackson in a statement posted on the team's website, comes a day after the Knicks fell 101-96 to the Denver Nuggets at Madison Square Garden—the Knicks' season-high fifth straight defeat and their ninth defeat in their last 10 games.

"We have never been truly consistent," Fisher admitted Sunday night. "The reality is that we have chances to win these games, but we are not winning them." Fisher was hired on June 10, 2014, when he was tapped by his former Los Angeles Lakers coach Jackson when the

Knicks were unable to lure Steve Kerr—who instead coached the Golden State Warriors to last season's NBA title.

Fisher finishes his Knicks coaching career with an overall record of 40-96. The Knicks have shown vast improvement from their 17-65 campaign of 2014-15, but they have veered off course in recent weeks and fallen from playoff contention to 12th in the Eastern Conference—five games behind the number eight team.

Rambis, who was serving as associate coach, becomes the 27th head coach in franchise history. His 18 years of NBA coaching experience include a stint as head coach of the Minnesota Timberwolves in the 2009-10 and 2010-11 seasons. — AP



NEW YORK: New York Knicks head coach Derek Fisher talks to his players during the second half of the NBA basketball game against the Denver Nuggets, Sunday, in New York. The Nuggets defeated the Knicks 101-96. — AP



BOSTON: Boston Celtics guard Evan Turner, left, looks for an opening around Sacramento Kings guard Rajon Rondo, right, in the fourth quarter of an NBA basketball game, Sunday, in Boston. — AP

AVERY BRADLEY'S 25 POINTS HELPS CELTICS BEAT KINGS

BOSTON: Avery Bradley scored 25 points, Isaiah Thomas had 22 and the Boston Celtics held off the Sacramento Kings 128-119 on Sunday for their ninth win in 10 games. Jared Sullinger matched his season high with 21 points and reserve Tyler Zeller had a season high 17 with seven rebounds for Boston, which committed a season high 24 turnovers but shot 56 percent. DeMarcus Cousins led Sacramento with 31 points. Marco Belinelli and Darren Collison each had 16 points. The Kings have lost seven of eight.

NUGGETS 101, KNICKS 96

Rookie Emmanuel Mudiay scored nine of his 15 points during a decisive fourth-quarter run, and Denver beat the fading Knicks. Former Knicks forward Danilo Gallinari and Will Barton each had 19 points to lead the Nuggets, who won for the third time in four games. But it was Mudiay, who was just 2 for 12 through three quarters, who delivered nearly all the points during an 11-2 spurt that put the Nuggets in control after the game was tied at 86-all. Kristaps Porzingis had 21 points and 13 rebounds for the Knicks, who have lost five in a row and nine of 10 since they were 22-22 and looking like a realistic playoff team. Carmelo Anthony returned to face his former team after missing a game to rest his sore left knee, finishing with 21 points, seven assists and six rebounds.

CLIPPERS 100, HEAT 93

Chris Paul had a game-high 22 points, Jamal Crawford added 20 off the bench and the Clippers beat the Heat. J.J. Redick scored 14 points, Wesley Johnson had 10 and DeAndre Jordan and Cole Aldrich grabbed 11 rebounds each for the Clippers, who won despite missing 14 consecutive shots in the first quarter and

NBA results/standings

Miami 93, LA Clippers 100; New York 96, Denver 101; Orlando 96, Atlanta 94; Boston 128, Sacramento 119.

Eastern Conference				Western Conference					
Atlantic Division				Northwest Division					
W	L	PCT	GB						
Toronto	34	16	.680	—	Oklahoma City	38	14	.731	—
Boston	31	22	.585	4.5	Utah	25	25	.500	12
New York	23	31	.426	13	Portland	25	27	.481	13
Brooklyn	13	39	.250	22	Denver	21	31	.404	17
Philadelphia	8	43	.157	26.5	Minnesota	16	36	.308	22
Central Division				Pacific Division					
Cleveland	36	14	.720	—	Golden State	46	4	.920	—
Chicago	27	23	.540	9	LA Clippers	34	17	.667	12.5
Indiana	27	24	.529	9.5	Sacramento	21	30	.412	25.5
Detroit	27	25	.519	10	Phoenix	14	38	.269	33
Milwaukee	20	32	.385	17	LA Lakers	11	42	.208	36.5
Southeast Division				Southwest Division					
Atlanta	30	23	.566	—	San Antonio	43	8	.843	—
Miami	29	23	.558	0.5	Memphis	30	21	.588	13
Charlotte	25	26	.490	4	Dallas	29	25	.537	15.5
Washington	22	27	.449	6	Houston	27	26	.509	17
Orlando	22	28	.440	6.5	New Orleans	18	32	.360	24.5

swept the two-game season series with Miami. Paul started 0 for 9, but made two 3-pointers late to help seal it for the Clippers. Chris Bosh, Dwyane Wade and Goran Dragic all scored 17 points for Miami, which missed a chance to finish the day fourth in the Eastern Conference standings.

MAGIC 96, HAWKS 94

Nik Vucevic hit an 18-footer at the buzzer and the Magic beat the Hawks. Elfrid Payton,

who set up Vucevic's winning shot with an inbounds pass, scored or assisted the Magic's final six baskets as they won for only the third time in 18 games in 2016. The Magic had gone scoreless since Payton's jump shot with 3:41 left, squandering a 94-86 lead. Vucevic led Orlando with 22 points and nine rebounds and Evan Fournier, starting in place of the injured Tobias Harris, added 21 points. Payton had 12 points and 12 assists. Jeff Teague scored 24 for the Hawks. — AP

TOP CUBAN PLAYER LEFT TEAM IN DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

SANTO DOMINGO: Star Cuban infielder Yulieski Gourriel and his younger brother slipped away from their hotel in the Dominican Republic early yesterday in an apparent effort to launch careers in Major League Baseball.

The departure of Yulieski and his brother Lourdes was confirmed with remarkable swiftness by Granma, the Communist Party newspaper in Cuba that serves as an outlet for official government statements.

The paper said on its website Monday morning that the Gourriel brothers had "abandoned" their hotel in "an open attitude of surrender to the merchants of professional baseball for profit." The elder Yulieski has been one of the Cuban players most highly sought after by MLB scouts since he played in his first World Baseball Classic in 2006. His brother was also considered a good prospect.

The brothers took off before dawn hours after the close of the annual Caribbean Series, according to a baseball official in the country who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Cuban sports officials contacted Dominican police for help in locating the 31-year-old Yulieski and his younger brother, Lourdes, said the official, who was not authorized to discuss the issue.

The brothers did not publicly disclose

their plans. But Cuban players in the past have established residency in the Dominican Republic and then signed contracts to play in Major League Baseball. Yulieski Gourriel's departure from Cuba is a major defeat for the country's attempt to prevent massive flight of baseball talent by allowing players to sign professional contracts with leagues in third countries such as Mexico and Japan.

Gourriel was the most prominent example of the experiment that began in 2013, making \$1 million playing for the Yokohama DeNA Baystars, then returning to play a season with his pro team in Havana.

After accounting for Japanese taxes, he paid 10 percent to Cuba's baseball federation (which acted as his agent). The Japanese team canceled his contract last spring after saying Gourriel had told them he was injured and needed to recuperate in Cuba.

Cuban and US baseball officials are working to create a legal framework for Cuban players to join the major leagues, but for the moment both Cuban law and US law contain restrictions that make it impossible.

Yulieski and Lourdes were in the Dominican Republic to play for The Tigers of Ciego de Avila. A 7-2 defeat Saturday against Mexico kept the Cuban team out of the finals of the series. — AP



Cuba third baseman Yulieski Gourriel

SLALOM CHAMPION SHIFFRIN RETURNS TO W CUP SKI RACING

CRANS-MONTANA: Olympic and world slalom champion Mikaela Shiffrin said she will return to World Cup ski racing next week in Crans-Montana, Switzerland, after a knee injury sidelined her for two months.

Shiffrin moved up her comeback plans when a slalom event was organized for next Monday at Crans-Montana. The American racer announced Monday on her Facebook page: "See ya in a week!" Originally, she was targeting a return for the World Cup finals in St. Moritz, Switzerland, in March. With only three slaloms left, the three-time defending champion won't be able to retain her crown in the discipline.

Shiffrin won two slalom races this season — both in Aspen, Colorado, and both by big margins before tearing a ligament and bruising a bone in her right knee while training for a giant slalom race in

Sweden two months ago. Her right ski slipped and then her knee buckled, before hitting some grippy snow that caused her to hyper-extend her knee and skid into the protective netting.

"I never thought that I would have an injury because I have always worked as hard as I can to prevent injuries," Shiffrin said in a release through her ski sponsor, Atomic. "I rarely fall when I'm skiing. If I'm scared in a situation, training or racing, I would tend to slow myself down before taking the risks and crash hard." I am lucky that I hurt two of the things in my knee that can heal on their own really well. If I had hurt my ACL or meniscus and needed surgery, I think this would have been a lot more difficult for me. But I have thought about my knee like a big cut on my leg or something."

While away, she said she watched every



Mikaela Shiffrin

men's and women's World Cup race. "I would pretend that I was skiing it and figure out how I might ski it differently than the other girls," said Shiffrin, who turns 21 on March 13.

Shiffrin returned to snow in late January, with some easy drills. Steadily, she ramped up her training and recently went through gates.

"I had to keep my speeds really slow so I didn't put too much force through the joint," explained Shiffrin, who will train in Colorado until later this week before flying to Switzerland.

"We just wanted to see how my knee responded to being on skis and snow before putting energy into the ski."

She said she never really considered sitting out, even though it could've protected her starting position for 2016-17. "No matter how it effects my start order, I would really regret knowing that I was 100 percent and ready to race and decided not to anyway," Shiffrin said. "I'm a racer at heart. I belong in the starting gate." — AP

DOOR IS SHUT ON PIETERSEN RETURN: MORGAN

JOHANNESBURG: England limited-overs captain Eoin Morgan quashed speculation that Kevin Pietersen might be recalled for the World Twenty20, saying "that door is completely shut" for the country's leading run-scorer in all formats.

Pietersen has become a T20 specialist since his acrimonious departure from the England setup following the 2013-14 Ashes

series, and the batsman has returned some impressive performances in the South African and Australian T20 leagues.

But speaking to British newspaper The Daily Mail from England's tour of South Africa, Morgan said: "That door is completely shut. Kevin will not be picked. That's from me." Morgan's comments prompted a response on Twitter from Pietersen, who has

regularly said he still wants to play for England. "Interesting he's saying it's HIS call! Very interesting! Hm...!" Pietersen tweeted yesterday. Pietersen was the second-highest runscore in South Africa's Ram Slam late last year, with 401 from just seven games at an average of 80.20. Quinton de Kock, the top runscore, made 437 runs but played 11 games. The 35-year-old Pietersen was the

third-highest scorer in Australia's Big Bash League. His teams made the final in both tournaments. His success in the shortest format prompted suggestions England might re-think its position with Pietersen and consider recalling him. Morgan said it would not happen. England appears to have moved on from Pietersen anyway, sealing a 2-1 test series win in South Africa last month for its

first series victory over the South Africans in more than a decade. The ODI team is looking good in South Africa, too, with a 2-0 lead in the five-match series ahead of the third game on Tuesday.

The World T20 in India starts on March 8. England is in a group with defending champion Sri Lanka, South Africa, West Indies and a fifth team that's still to qualify. — AP

MCCULLUM ENDS ONE-DAY CAREER WITH STRONG LEGACY

CHRISTCHURCH: Brendon McCullum's one-day international career ended yesterday with a 55-run win over Australia at Seddon Park, though the legacy of the aggressive right-hander is likely to have a much longer effect on the sport in New Zealand.

The New Zealand captain, who made his debut against Australia at the Sydney Cricket Ground in January, 2002, is retiring from all internationals after the second test against Steve Smith's side in Christchurch.

His retirement will leave a hole at the top of New Zealand's batting order in limited-overs matches, while it could also change the way they approach games in future. The right-hander's rip, snort and bust approach with his superb eye and lightning bat speed that enabled him to hit through the line, particularly through, or over, the cover field or down the ground electrified crowds.

When the mood took him, he could be so destructive that games were lost, or won, before he was dismissed.

One such game at Queenstown against Bangladesh in late 2007 was typical. Having dismissed the visitors for 93, McCullum then blasted 80 from 28 balls.

New Zealand won the game in six overs and television commentators joked he had finished the game so quickly because he had booked a tee time at a nearby golf course during the change of innings.

LEGACY

His biggest legacy, however, may be the way in which his personal approach has been transferred to the side, whose attacking style since he assumed the captaincy in late 2012 have been enticing crowds back to the game.

That was evident at last year's World Cup, where McCullum's bristling aggression helped drive New Zealand to their first final.

He scored 328 runs in nine innings

with four half centuries. But it was the speed at which he scored, at a strike rate of 188.50, that got crowds gasping, none more so than his 25-ball 77 against England in Wellington.

McCullum had asked New Zealand to 'dare to believe' and that innings in the third game of the tournament got the country unequivocally behind the side, believing they could be witnessing a once-in-a-lifetime event for the co-hosts.

Since being forced to make his retirement announcement due to the timing of the World Twenty20 squad selections, he has been greeted by enthusiastic crowds throughout the Australian one-day series, lauding his contribution to the game.

At last week's series opener in Auckland, a school day, several youngsters alerted their teachers they had played truant with a sign that read "I should be at school".

Yesterday McCullum was flanked by a guard of honour from the Australians. His first four scoring shots were boundaries and his third six, a casual flick off Scott Boland over mid-wicket was his 200th in one-day internationals. He is just the fourth player to hit 200 one-day sixes but the only one to have 100 in test cricket as well. He hit his sixth boundary off Mitchell Marsh in the 10th over when he guided the ball to the vacant third man boundary but was dismissed on the next ball for 47 with New Zealand 84-1.

The innings typified his career. His approach more often than not paid off and at times when reining in his instincts could have been more beneficial, which told in his statistics.

He ended his career after 260 matches with a strike rate of 96.37, the sixth highest amongst batsmen who have scored more than 2000 ODI runs.

However, his all-out attack meant he scored just 6083 runs at an average of 30.41, with five centuries and 32 half centuries. — Reuters



HAMILTON: New Zealand captain Brendon McCullum, bottom center, holding the Hadlee Chappell trophy poses for a photo with his teammates after they won the series over Australia in the 3rd One Day International Cricket match at Seddon Park in Hamilton, New Zealand, yesterday. — AP

TOE CATCH GIVES NZ SERIES OVER AUSTRALIA

HAMILTON: A bizarre off-the-toe catch by Matt Henry brought a fairytale end to Brendon McCullum's ODI career when New Zealand beat Australia by 55 runs in Hamilton yesterday. The victory in a game that was in Australia's favour until Henry's dismissal of Mitchell Marsh, saw McCullum end his limited overs career with a 2-1 series win over the world champions and the Chappell-Hadlee Trophy. Australia, set a target of 247, had their tails up when they needed 83 off the last 16 overs with five wickets in hand and Marsh, their match-winner in Sunday's second tie, in full flight.

But the momentum swung back in New Zealand's favour when a Henry delivery edged off Marsh's bat, on to his foot, and rebounded back to the bowler. The umpire turned down an appeal from Henry. But when the replay on the big screen confirmed what Henry suspected the umpires called for an official review which showed the ball had not touched the ground and a clearly angry Marsh was out.

Australian captain Steve Smith ultimately backed the dismissal but there were questions over whether the review would have been called had there not been a loud crowd reaction to the replay on screen. "The right decision was made. He was out. There was no doubt about that," Smith said.

"I think Mattie Henry sort of thought there was a little something and it wasn't until we saw something on the big screen that the decision actually went upstairs so I was a little disappointed with that." With Marsh's decision the Australian innings collapsed with their last five wickets falling for 27 runs in 10 overs.

New Zealand's innings had suffered an even worse meltdown when they lost their last six wickets for 23 to be all out for 246.

McCullum, one of the biggest hitters in the game, reeled off 47 in 27 deliveries to give New Zealand a flying start. His innings included three sixes to give him 200 sixes in his 260-match ODI career which leaves him fourth on the overall list headed by Pakistan's Shahid Afridi with 351.

With McCullum at the crease the New Zealand run rate was near 8.5 but slowed after his dismissal.

SCOREBOARD

HAMILTON, New Zealand: Completed scoreboard in the third and final ODI between New Zealand and Australia in Hamilton yesterday:

New Zealand	Australia
M. Guptill c Hastings b Zampa 59	U. Khawaja c Ronchi b Bracewell 44
B. McCullum c Hastings b Marsh 47	D. Warner c Elliott b Henry 16
K. Williamson b Boland 18	S. Smith lbw Sodhi 21
H. Nicholls c Smith b Hazlewood 18	G. Bailey b Henry 33
G. Elliott c Maxwell b Marsh 50	G. Maxwell c McCullum b Sodhi 0
C. Anderson c Khawaja b Boland 27	M. Marsh c&B Henry 41
L. Ronchi c Boland b Marsh 5	M. Wade c Guptill b Milne 17
D. Bracewell b Hastings 2	J. Hastings c Elliott b Anderson 6
A. Milne lbw Boland 5	A. Zampa c McCullum by Anderson 2
M. Henry not out 0	J. Hazlewood not out 5
I. Sodhi b Hastings 0	S. Boland run out (Nicholls) 2
Extras (lb2, w9) 15	Extras: (lb2, w2) 4
Total (10 wickets; 45.3 overs) 246	Total: (10 wickets; 43.4 overs) 191
Fall of wickets: 1-84 (McCullum), 2-123 (Williamson), 3-131 (Guptill), 4-171 (Nicholls), 5-223 (Anderson), 6-237 (Ronchi), 7-237 (Elliott), 8-246 (Milne), 9-246 (Bracewell), 10-246 (Sodhi)	Fall of wickets: 1-39 (Warner), 2-75 (Khawaja), 3-94 (Smith), 4-94 (Maxwell), 5-153 (Bailey), 6-164 (Marsh), 7-179 (Hastings), 8-184 (Wade), 9-184 (Zampa), 10-191 (Boland)
Bowling: Hazlewood 10-0-45-2 (w1), Hastings 7.3-0-42-2 (w1), Boland 9-0-59-2 (w1), Marsh 6-0-34-3 (w1), Zampa 10-0-45-1, Maxwell 3-0-15-0 (w1)	Bowling: Henry 10-1-60-3, Milne 8.4-0-42-1, Anderson 6-1-16-2 (w1), Bracewell 6-0-15-1 (w1), Sodhi 8-0-31-2, Elliott 5-0-25-0. Result: New Zealand by 55 runs.

Martin Guptill, who had played a support role while his captain was at the crease, took 61 balls for his 59, his 30th half century. As in the second match in Wellington, won by Australia by four wickets, New Zealand found themselves losing momentum in the middle order. Kane Williamson and Henry Nicholls were quickly in and out for 18 each before Elliott (50) and Corey Anderson (27) tried to regain the initiative with a 52-run stand.

When Anderson was dismissed New Zealand were set to mount a late assault at 223-5 with 10 overs remaining but they imploded instead. Australia in reply raced to 75-1 before losing Usman Khawaja (44), Steve Smith (21) and Glenn

Maxwell (0) as Doug Bracewell and Ish Sodhi kept New Zealand in the game with three for 19 in an economical 44 deliveries. David Warner was dismissed early for 16 leaving Khawaja and Smith to build the innings and get valuable batting time before the first Test starting in Wellington on Friday. Australia were 94-4 when Marsh went to the middle. He put on 59 with George Bailey for the fifth wicket and had reached 41 off 42 deliveries before his unusual dismissal and from there Australia folded. Henry was New Zealand's most successful bowler with three for 60 while Sodhi (8-0-31-2) and Bracewell (6-0-15-1) were the most economical. — AFP



HAMILTON: New Zealand's captain Brendon McCullum (R) with his wife Ellissa interact after the third one-day international cricket match between New Zealand and Australia at Seddon Park in Hamilton yesterday. — AFP

INDIA BID TO CEMENT T20 TOP SPOT IN SL SHOWDOWN

PUNE: India will look to cement their number one status when they begin a three-match series against Sri Lanka today, their final work-out on home soil before hosting the World Twenty20. Mahendra Singh Dhoni's side vaulted seven places in the T20 rankings after their recent 3-0 away series victory against Australia and will look to build on their momentum when they face the Graham Ford-coached Sri Lanka.

The series is Ford's first assignment since returning for a second stint in charge of the islanders last week. After a relatively disappointing tour of Australia, India's spin king Ravichandran Ashwin will look to the series as an opportunity to get back in the groove ahead of the Asia Cup which is being held in Bangladesh ahead of the World T20.

Ashwin, the world's top spinner in Test cricket, was outshone Down Under by Ravindra Jadeja and Jasprit Bumrah but the conditions back home are expected to suit him well. Dhoni is a big fan of the lanky off-spinner and told reporters last month that Ashwin's dip in form was due in part to the side's increasing reliance on him in all formats.

"He just makes my job slightly easy, especially for a consistent period of time when my fast

bowlers have not done well," Dhoni said in Australia. "It is good to have him and I think he is a great asset to the side irrespective of the format."

KOHLI RESTED

Star batsman Virat Kohli has been rested but India's other big names are set to feature against Sri Lanka, who are the reigning World T20 champions and could leapfrog their hosts in the rankings if they pull off a surprise victory.

Kohli has been replaced by Manish Pandey who struck a century in the last of the ODIs in Australia but failed to make the cut for the World T20 squad that was announced on Friday. The series could see the young Delhi all-rounder Pawan Negi handed a debut after he was surprisingly picked in the 15-man World T20 squad. While India carry a familiar look, Sri Lanka have been forced to field a depleted side with a number of their top players staying at home. The likes of regular T20 skipper Lasith Malinga, Test captain Angelo Mathews and premier spinner Rangana Herath are racing against time to get fit for the World T20. Having been recently outplayed by New Zealand in the recent Test, ODI and T20 series, Sri Lanka will also be without the services



PUNE: Indian cricketers Yuvraj Singh (L), Ravindra Jadeja (R), Ajinkya Rahane (2R) and Suresh Raina (3R) look on as captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni dribbles a football during a training session ahead of the T20 international match between India and Sri Lanka at the MCA International Cricket Stadium in Pune yesterday. — AFP

of veteran batsman Tillakaratne Dilshan, who will miss the first game with a hand injury.

Ford, who also coached the islanders from 2012-14, has called for patience as Sri Lanka embark on a rebuilding phase.

"I think Sri Lanka cricket finds itself in the very early stages of a very important rebuilding stage. A lot of hard work needs to be done," the South African said last week. The two teams will face each other on February 9 (Pune), February 12 (Ranchi) and February 14 (Visakhapatnam).

Squads:

India: MS Dhoni (capt), Rohit Sharma, Shikhar Dhawan, Ajinkya Rahane, Manish Pandey, Suresh Raina, Yuvraj Singh, Hardik Pandya, Ravindra Jadeja, Ravichandran Ashwin, Jasprit Bumrah, Ashish Nehra, Harbhajan Singh, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Pawan Negi.

Sri Lanka: Dinesh Chandimal (capt), Tillakaratne Dilshan, Seekkuge Prasanna, Milinda Siriwardana, Danushka Gunathilaka, Thisara Perera, Dasun Shanaka, Asela Gunaratne, Chamara Kapugedera, Dushmantha Chameera, Dilhara Fernando, Kasun Rajitha, Binura Fernando, Sachithra Senanayake, Jeffrey Vandersay. — AFP

FANS FULFIL MASK PLEDGE TO 'MONKEY CHANT' VICTIM KOULIBALY

MILAN: Thousands of Napoli fans made good a pledge to racism victim Kalidou Koulibaly on Sunday by filling the San Paolo stadium with masks of the Senegal defender prior to kick off against Carpi on Sunday. "It's great what the fans did today, it shows their affection for a lad who has a wonderful character," Napoli coach Maurizio Sarri told reporters after a 1-0 win kept them top of Serie A with a two-point lead on champions Juventus.

The latest in a long line of racist incidents hit Italian football last week when France-born Senegal international

Koulibaly was the victim of monkey chants during a 2-0 win at Lazio.

Referee Massimiliano Irrati, in accordance with league regulations, halted the match for nearly four minutes to demand a stop to the abuse.

Lazio were later handed a 50,000 euros fine and will see the Curva Nord (North End) of the Stadio Olimpico closed to fans for their next two home games.

While Irrati's decision to stop the game was roundly applauded as one of the league's new initiatives to stamp out racism, Koulibaly showed his disdain for

his abusers by offering his Napoli shirt to a young Lazio-supporting ball boy.

A supporters' group, 'Quelli del Sangue Azzurro' (The Blue Blooded Ones), later called on Azzurri fans to show their full support for Koulibaly by holding up masks of his face.

And fans replied in their thousands, filling almost the entire stadium with masks of the African's face prior to kick-off against the visiting league strugglers.

A statement from the group last week said: "Everyone in Naples is offended by what happened to our young star.

Because of this, we want to show our full support to Koulibaly.

"We are all with you, Kalidou. Our invitation to Napoli fans is to print a photo of the defender and put it on your face when the teams come on the pitch."

In a post on his Instagram account, Koulibaly said: "It was unforgettable. Thanks to all the fans who, thanks to this memorable initiative, made the San Paolo an even more special place to be."

The gesture was reminiscent of the stance taken by Treviso players in 2001 to show their support for 18-year-old

Nigerian player Schengun Omolade, who fell victim to his own club's notoriously racist 'Blue Army' supporters' group.

At their next game, Treviso's starting team ran out on to the pitch with their faces blackened as Omolade—who had not been informed of the players' plans—sat on the bench astounded.

Italy's problem with racist supporters is well documented, with several high profile players falling victim to abuse over the years including Ruud Gullit, Aaron Winter, Patrick Vieira, Paul Ince, Mario Balotelli and Kevin-Prince Boateng. — AFP

DI MARIA FIRES UNBEATEN PSG PAST MARSEILLE

PARIS: Paris Saint-Germain defeated bitter rivals Marseille 2-1 on Sunday to extend their record unbeaten run in Ligue 1 to 34 matches as the hosts remained unable to solve their home woes. Zlatan Ibrahimovic scored his league-leading 21st goal of the season to give PSG the lead inside two minutes at the Stade Velodrome, but Remy Cabella hauled Marseille level midway through the first half with a wonderful solo effort.

However, Angel Di Maria struck the winning goal on 71 minutes to hand PSG a 15th straight win in all competitions and keep Laurent Blanc's side a huge 24 points clear at the top of the table.

"Marseille gave us a really physical battle which we expected. We showed our solidarity to see out the victory, but we've now got to ready ourselves for the two games before Chelsea (in the Champions League). It's not going to be easy," said Blanc.

"The players, like you (journalists), are thinking about the game against Chelsea but...it's not the last game before Chelsea, there's one in three days and another in six." Marseille have now failed to win any of their last 10 home games in the league, while their streak of 11 games without defeat was also snapped after succumbing to a ninth successive 'Classique' loss.

Despite the defeat Michel's side are still just five points off third-place Nice, who they visit next Sunday, in the race for the final Champions League spot.

Billed as French football's most explosive fixture, Sunday's encounter on the south coast was no different with five people arrested prior to kick-off following a run-in with police outside the ground.

Blanc made six changes to the side that beat Lorient on Wednesday to set a new record for the longest sequence of games without defeat in the French top flight, recalling the likes of Di Maria, Blaise Matuidi and David Luiz.

Marseille welcomed back both Michy Batshuayi and Abdelaziz Barrada from suspension, while Lassana Diarra made

his return from injury in central midfield.

PSG were unbeaten in their last 10 meetings with Marseille, having won the last six in Ligue 1, and the visitors again seized the upper hand before the hosts had time to settle. Maxwell was sent galloping down the left wing after being released by Matuidi and the Brazilian picked out Ibrahimovic at the back post as the Swede netted for the fifth game running. France midfielder Matuidi again dissected the Marseille defence a few minutes later, although this time Di Maria dragged his shot agonisingly wide of the far post.

Barrada should have levelled for the home side when Thiago Motta failed to clear Brice Dja Djedje's cross, but the Morocco midfielder lashed over as the ball dropped invitingly for him.

However, the hosts did equalise on 25 minutes as Cabella gathered the ball near the halfway line, skipped past Motta and fired low beyond Kevin Trapp from outside the area, with the German unable to keep it out despite getting a strong hand to the ball. Lucas wasted a prime chance to restore PSG's lead when he scuffed wide after a sublime Di Maria through ball, while Maxwell was forced to clear off the line after Batshuayi hooked a corner goalwards.

But PSG continued their dominance of Marseille as Di Maria, set up by Ibrahimovic, swept home his ninth goal of the season 19 minutes from time to keep the capital club's winning run intact. Steven Fletcher came on for his Marseille debut late on, while Georges-Kevin Nkoudou watched a shot flash wide as the hosts hit PSG on the break but ultimately were left still searching for a first home win since September.

Earlier, Saint-Etienne registered a thumping 4-1 win at Bordeaux to move level on points with Nice, while Rennes salvaged a point late on in a 1-1 draw at Lille. On Saturday, Monaco strengthened their hold on second place with a 1-0 win over Cote d'Azur rivals Nice, while Lyon continued their mini-revival with a 3-0 victory away to Angers. — AFP



NEW YORK: New York Islanders right wing Cal Clutterbuck (15) goes flying after tripping over Edmonton Oilers defenseman Brandon Davidson (88) in the third period of an NHL hockey game in New York, Sunday. The Islanders defeated the Oilers 8-1. — AP

OKPOSO LIFTS ISLANDERS TO 8-1 ROUT OF OILERS

NEW YORK: Kyle Okposo scored a hat trick after the Islanders opened a commanding early lead with three first-period goals as New York routed the last-place Edmonton Oilers 8-1 on Sunday. Thomas Greiss made 30 saves for the Islanders (27-18-6), who moved within three points of the Rangers for second-place in the Metropolitan Division. Johnny Boychuk, John Tavares and Nikolay Kulemin scored in the opening period, chasing former Islanders netminder Anders Nilsson, who was replaced after Kulemin's goal by former Ranger Cam Talbot. Boychuk, in his first game back after missing 11 games with an upper body injury suffered on Dec. 31 at Buffalo, ripped a slap shot past Nilsson at 2:57 for his fourth goal of the season. Tavares made it 2-0 at 9:12 with his 19th goal before Kulemin added his sixth at 11:24. Oilers coach Todd McLellan then pulled Nilsson, replacing him with Talbot. Nilsson stopped only seven of the 10 shots he faced.

Canadiens 2, Hurricanes 1 (SO)

Sven Andrighetto scored the shootout winner to give Montreal a win over Carolina at the Bell Centre. Jeff Skinner scored in regulation for the Hurricanes and Max Pacioretty replied for the Canadiens. Ben Scrivens, making his second start in as many days, stopped 34 shots for Montreal. Counterpart Cam Ward made 33 saves for the Hurricanes.

Capitals 3, Flyers 2

Matt Niskanen went coast-to-coast for the go-ahead goal, Alex Ovechkin notched his 30th of the season and Washington defeated Philadelphia for its third straight win. Dmitry

Orlov also scored for the Capitals and Braden Holtby stopped 33 shots.

Nick Shultz and Michael Del Zotto scored for the Flyers and Steve Mason made 27 saves. — Reuters

NHL results/standings

Montreal 2, Carolina 1 (SO); NY Islanders 8, Edmonton 1; Washington 3, Philadelphia 2.

Eastern Conference						Western Conference							
Atlantic Division						Pacific Division							
	W	L	OT GF	GA	PTS								
Florida	31	15	6	148	116	68	Chicago	36	16	4	159	128	76
Tampa Bay	29	18	4	139	121	62	Dallas	33	15	5	172	144	71
Boston	28	18	6	155	138	62	St. Louis	30	17	8	135	132	68
Detroit	26	18	8	131	134	60	Nashville	25	20	8	138	140	58
Montreal	26	24	4	147	144	56	Colorado	27	24	4	149	152	58
Ottawa	24	23	6	152	169	54	Minnesota	23	20	9	127	128	55
Buffalo	21	26	6	121	143	48	Winnipeg	23	26	3	136	152	49
Toronto	19	23	9	122	145	47	Central Division						
Metropolitan Division						Los Angeles	31	17	3	137	119	65	
Washington	38	9	4	169	115	80	San Jose	27	20	4	149	139	58
NY Rangers	29	18	5	151	136	63	Anaheim	25	18	7	113	117	57
NY Islanders	27	18	6	146	130	60	Arizona	24	22	6	139	162	54
Pittsburgh	26	18	7	133	133	59	Vancouver	20	20	12	124	145	52
New Jersey	26	20	7	121	126	59	Calgary	23	25	3	135	150	49
Carolina	24	21	9	130	144	57	Edmonton	21	28	5	136	165	47
Philadelphia	23	19	9	123	138	55	Note: Overtime losses (OT) worth 1 pt and not included in loss column (L).						
Columbus	21	28	5	138	170	47							



MARSEILLE: Paris Saint-Germain's Argentinian forward Angel Di Maria (C) celebrates with Paris Saint-Germain's Swedish forward Zlatan Ibrahimovic (R) after scoring a goal during the French L1 football match between Marseille and Paris-Saint-Germain on MSunday at the Velodrome stadium in Marseille, southern France. — AFP

'CRAZY' CHINESE SPENDING SPREE JUST THE START: CAHILL

MELBOURNE: The spending splurge by Chinese clubs to secure top Europe-based talents is "crazy" and will do little to benefit the players or the game in China, according to Australia's Shanghai-based striker Tim Cahill. His nation's most prolific goal-scorer, 36-year-old Cahill is set for a second season with Chinese Super League (CSL) club Shanghai Shenhua, having moved across from New York Red Bulls last year on a lucrative one-year deal.

Since Cahill re-signed for Shenhua last October, CSL clubs have spent over 130 million euros (\$145 million) in transfer fees on just four players, with Jiangsu Suning shelling a Chinese record 50 million euros to secure Brazilian midfielder Alex Teixeira in a move completed last week.

The spending spree has raised fears in Europe of a talent drain, with the top leagues unable to compete with CSL clubs backed by the financial might of local tycoons. Cahill said it was only a matter of time before a Chinese club spent \$100 million to secure a player.

"It's crazy to see but this is only going to get worse," the former English Premier League player told Australian broadcaster Fox Sports. "This is going to be massive."

"I don't know whether it's going to help the league, but they're investing. They're

doing great things. They've got the power. "When they want something they get it, and when they don't want something they get rid of it." Teixeira's signing came only days after Guangzhou Evergrande secured Colombian striker Jackson Martinez from Atletico Madrid for 42 million euros.

AS Roma striker Gervinho completed a move to Hebei China Fortune FC last month, with leading Premier League names Demba Ba and former Sunderland striker Asamoah Gyan also moving to China last year. "Choices now players are making, it's not about football like it was in my day, it's purely about personal gains," Cahill said.

"Is (going to China) going to help players? No. "Is it going to be big for the country? Yes." China's soccer has never matched its vast population or its economic clout, and the national men's team currently ranks 93rd in the world and 11th in Asia. But the country's President Xi Jinping is a known soccer fan and has demanded soccer officials lift the standard rapidly. Cahill was not convinced the foreign signings would help. "This sort of investment in players is a catch 22," he said. "Does it help the Chinese? To a certain extent no."

"When you sign players like this, everything in the final third is up to us, if we don't deliver, it doesn't happen." — Reuters

BAYERN SET TO INCLUDE VIDAL FOR CUP CLASH

BERLIN: Minnows VfL Bochum hope to pull off a massive upset by knocking Bayern Munich out of the German Cup quarter-finals tomorrow to wreck Pep Guardiola's dreams of winning the treble.

Second-division Bochum host runaway Bundesliga leaders Bayern, who plan to mark coach Pep Guardiola's departure in May to Manchester City with the trio of German league, cup and Champions League titles. It will hardly come as a surprise, but the stats are stacked against Bochum, who have won only nine of their 73 games against Bayern, losing 48 times.

It was back in 2004 that the Bavarians last lost in Bochum, while few fans from either club need reminding of when Bayern fought back from 4-0 down to win 6-5 at Bochum in 1976/77. Bochum have not conceded a goal in any of their last four second-tier matches, but have their work cut out subduing Bayern's star-studded attack, even though it misfired in Saturday's goalless draw at Leverkusen in Germany's top flight.

The Bavarians last failed to reach the German Cup semi-finals in 1988. "Bayern win 99 of 100 games, but perhaps tomorrow is the one," said Bochum captain Patrick Fabian.

The Ruhr Valley club, who are fifth in Germany's second tier, have

nothing to lose against Guardiola's team of superstars. "We're highly motivated, looking forward to the game and want to enjoy it," said Bochum's playmaker Marco Terrazzino.

Bayern hope to include Chile midfielder Arturo Vidal, who came off with a leg knock at Leverkusen on Saturday after a foul from Stefan Kiessling. New signing Srdar Tasci should also be fit having suffered a concussion last Wednesday in his first training session since joining Bayern on loan until the end of the season.

But Bochum will be in for a rude surprise if they expect Bayern to be distracted for the cup quarter-final. "From now on, we're just focused on this game. The cup is very important to us as well," said Bayern's hot-shot striker Robert Lewandowski, who has scored 27 goals in all competitions this season.

Bochum are not the only second division team bidding to reach the cup semi-finals with Heidenheim hosting Hertha Berlin on Tuesday. In the other ties, Bayer Leverkusen host Werder Bremen today, the same day resurgent VfB Stuttgart, who have won all of their last four league games, are at home to Borussia Dortmund for a place in the semi-finals on April 19-20. The final will be held at Berlin's Olympic Stadium on May 21. — AFP



DOHA: This file photo taken on January 06, 2016 shows Bayern Munich's French midfielder Franck Ribery taking part in a training session at the team's winter training camp in the Qatari capital Doha. Franck Ribery resumed training with his teammates from Bayern Munich, after about two months of absence due to a hamstring injury, according to sports agency SID, a subsidiary of AFP. — AFP

LEICESTER ARE TITLE FAVOURITES NOW, SAYS WENGER

BOURNEMOUTH: Arsene Wenger admits Leicester are now favourites to win the Premier League title but insists his Arsenal side's challenge is back on course. The Gunners' 2-0 win at Bournemouth was their first in five league games and moved Wenger's side up to third place, five points adrift of Leicester before next weekend's meeting between the two teams.

The Arsenal manager believes it was crucial his side ended their dismal recent run but is convinced they will now meet Claudio Ranieri's side with renewed belief. "Yes, of course (we needed a win), for two reasons. One we haven't won for a while, we had four games without a win," said Wenger.

"When you play at the top, that's a long period, confidence drops a little bit. Leicester running away and us playing them next week, to make the game interesting, it was very important for us to win today. "In one week, Leicester has beaten Liverpool and Man City. So that means suddenly they become the favourite in the league. That makes our game on Sunday a very big one."

He added: "We have been in a title race and we are still in it. We cannot control people's opinions."

"We can just control our performances and to show that we believe in it, you know, and that we have the level to do it. There's still a very long way to go."

FAVOURITES

"I agree with you that Leicester now are the favourites. We have a big game at home now against them, and I believe we have enough quality and nerves to deal with that." Arsenal went into Sunday's game having failed to score in their last three league outings but secured the points through first half goals from Mesut Ozil and Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain.

Wenger believes his side's performances have not been getting the rewards they deserve but admitted his relief at claiming all three points. "I think we needed to win the game. I do not want to be too dramatic with making statements. A football game away from home in the

Premier League for anybody is difficult to win. We had to win. We won."

"In our last three away games, we played Liverpool, equalised in the last minute, we played at Stoke, 0-0, and we came here today, and won, so I believe that we have shown good performances." Ozil again impressed, capping a fine all-round display with a goal.

"He has become a very important player, I think he has added fighting attitude. It was a top performance again," said Wenger of his influential German star. Bournemouth manager Eddie Howe was convinced his side's chances were dented by the failure of referee Kevin Friend to dismiss Mathieu Flamini for a foul on Dan

Gosling. The Arsenal midfielder was punished with only a yellow card but Howe said: "I felt it was a red card. Had a very good view and thought it was two footed. That kind of tackle has been outlawed. "You can't do it. It was a straight red, a simple decision. I was surprised when referee only produced a yellow."

"I haven't seen a replay but it was two-footed and Dan could've been seriously injured on another occasion. That's why I thought it was a straight red. It didn't look like it was under control."

But Wenger took an opposite view. "I didn't see it like that, honestly I felt even at the start it was free-kick for us," said the Frenchman. — AFP

SZCZESNY HEROIC AS ROMA SNATCH SAMP WIN

MILAN: On-loan Arsenal goalkeeper Wojciech Szczesny produced late heroics as Roma held on to snatch a 2-1 win at home to Sampdoria on Sunday and maintain their bid for a place in Europe next season. "I'm glad to have helped the team, but I would have preferred to make fewer saves," the Polish 'keeper told Mediaset Premium. Edin Dzeko started on the bench and Radja Nainggolan was suspended for the visit of Sampdoria, whose coach Vincenzo Montella was once a hugely popular striker with the club.

But with Sampdoria still struggling to kickstart their season following Montella's recent arrival, the hosts were rarely troubled in a one-sided opening period that saw Alessandro Florenzi's header break the deadlock on the stroke of half-time.

Diego Perotti doubled the lead with a superb volley minutes after the restart to claim his maiden Roma goal, but when Joaquin Correa's deflected shot trickled past Szczesny soon after, Roma's confidence dropped. Sampdoria came fighting back in a thrilling last quarter hour that saw Szczesny make several crucial saves while the crossbar kept out a late Mattia Cassani chance out as Roma held on to claim their third consecutive win. Roma remain in fifth at 12 points behind leaders Napoli, but after Fiorentina and Inter Milan drew with Bologna and Verona respectively, Spalletti's men are one point behind Inter and two behind Fiorentina in third. "We should have settled things much earlier in the match, but we held on for our third consecutive win and we've moved even closer to our rival for the Champions League, so we have to be happy," Spalletti told Sky Sport.

FIVE DEFEATS

Sampdoria have now won just two of their 12 games under Montella, and con-

ceded five defeats and a draw in their last six outings. But Montella remained defiant: "We definitely played better in the second half and I think in the end we deserved the win."

"I want to remain positive but my smile is bittersweet. I'm sorry for the fans and the players but I think if we look at our last three games we can say we didn't deserve just a point. "I can see the light at the end of the tunnel."

Roma spurned several chances to race to a healthy first-half lead, Bosnian midfielder Miralem Pjanic notably nodding wide of the target despite having time on his side when Florenzi fired over an inviting cross early on. Stephan El Shaarawy somehow ballooned over from 12 yards on Mohamed Salah's cut-back but just as form dipped towards half-time, Florenzi pounced to head the deflection from an El Shaarawy's drive inside Viviano's far post. Minutes after the restart, El Shaarawy flicked a loose ball up for Perotti on the edge of the area and the former Genoa midfielder promptly fired a volley past Viviano and into the bottom left-hand corner. Pjanic then escaped down the right to skim the upright with the outside of his boot, but just as Roma looked to have gained command, Correa's shot deflected off Pjanic to wrong-foot Szczesny at his near post. Dzeko replaced Maicon halfway through the second period and after losing control on the edge of the area turned to see unmarked El Shaarawy pounce and fire the loose ball just wide.

Veteran Antonio Cassano replaced Correa for the final 10 minutes and spurned a great chance to level when Szczesny raced out to block, the Polish 'keeper then getting low on Cassano's deflection from a Dodo drive. A Dodo cross in the dying seconds saw Cassani contort his body to fire a volley that beat Szczesny, only to rattle the crossbar. — AFP



NAPLES: Napoli's Italian forward Manolo Gabbiadini (R) vies with Carpi's Swiss defender Fabio Daprela (C) during the Italian Serie A football match SSC Napoli vs Carpi FC on Sunday at the San Paolo stadium in Naples. Napoli won the match 1-0. — AFP

NAPOLI AND JUVENTUS RECORD NARROW WINS

MILAN: Napoli and Juventus both recorded narrow victories against relegation-threatened sides to remain first and second in Serie A on Sunday ahead of their showdown in Turin next weekend. Second-place Juventus, which beat Frosinone 2-0, appeared to be on the verge of moving level at the top when Juan Cuadrado broke the deadlock in the 73rd minute with the score still goalless in the Napoli-Carpi match.

Gonzalo Higuain then converted a penalty against 10-man Carpi moments later for his 24th goal in 24 league matches this season as Napoli went on to win 1-0.

"It's a source of pride for us to be above Juve and we're happy to be able to play this kind of battle," Napoli coach Maurizio Sarri said. "If we draw at the end of a difficult game, OK, but I would not sign beforehand for it. I want to go there to play. They will be stronger than us but we have to have the chutzpah to go to Turin and play football." There was a touching moment before the match as Napoli fans held up prints of Kalidou Koulibaly's face in a show of support after the team's defender was racially abused by Lazio fans in midweek.

Napoli remained two points ahead of Juventus, with Inter Milan missing the chance to move third after a 3-3 draw at Hellas Verona.

"The lads were great and now we have a

week to prepare the match against Napoli," Juventus coach Massimiliano Allegri said. "But then there will still be another 13 matches left, the season is long. It will be a really lovely battle, a direct clash, but it will not decide the title."

HISTORY

Elsewhere, AC Milan failed to make it three in a row as it was held 1-1 against Udinese. Sassuolo drew 2-2 against 10-man Palermo and Chievo Verona won 2-1 at Torino, while Atalanta and Empoli ended 0-0. After matching its club record of seven consecutive victories against Lazio, Napoli's team was looking to make history against Carpi.

Napoli could have had a penalty in the first half for a clear tug on Jose Callejon's shirt by Stefano Sabelli. Callejon was further upset early in the second half when he had the ball in the net but it was ruled out for offside.

It was Carpi's turn to feel aggrieved in the 56th when Paolo Bianco was sent off for a second yellow card when it appeared to be more Cristian Zaccardo's foul than his on Lorenzo Isigne. Zaccardo appeared to be telling the referee this as he and his teammates surrounded the official but Bianco was dismissed.

However, the referee got it right when he awarded Napoli a penalty after Fabio Daprela

hailed down Koulibaly. Higuain fired confidently into the bottom left, scoring for the sixth successive round. Juventus also extended its club record winning streak to 14 in a row. The record in Serie A is Inter's 17-match run in 2006-07.

It was surprisingly hard work for Juventus but Frosinone's resistance was breaking down slowly, with Paulo Dybala hitting the post moments before the opening goal. Alex Sandro's ball was allowed to go across the face of goal for an unmarked Cuadrado to curl into the far side of the net. Juve sealed the result in stoppage time when Alvaro Morata burst through the middle and unselfishly rolled it across for Dybala to finish off. Verona was bottom of the table but unbeaten in its past four matches and finally recorded its first win of the season midweek. That round also saw Inter end a four-match winless run that had seen it fall off the top spot.

Verona had not beaten Inter in any competition in 24 years but it took a 3-1 lead just before the hour mark after headers from Filip Helander, Eros Pisano and Artur Ionita following Jeison Murillo's opener for Inter.

However, Mauro Icardi reduced the deficit in the 61st and Ivan Perisic leveled the match 12 minutes from time. Both sides had chances to grab a winner in the final minutes with Gilberto also hitting the post for Verona. — AP



ROME: Roma's goalkeeper Wojciech Szczesny saves a ball during a Serie A soccer match between Roma and Sampdoria at Rome's Olympic stadium, Sunday. — AP

STOKE MUST TAKE MORE RISKS: HUGHES

STOKE: Stoke City players should start taking more risks to end their four-game winless streak in the Premier League, manager Mark Hughes said after Saturday's 3-0 drubbing at the hands of Everton.

Stoke have failed to score in any of their matches during the losing streak and have conceded nine goals in the process. Hughes' men have gone from fighting for the European spots in the league in seventh place, just four points off fourth-placed Tottenham Hotspur, to 11th in the table with just 13 games left. "We were a little bit reluctant to put balls into good areas and get people to make good balls out of, at times, poor balls. Maybe we have got to be a bit more risky in our play," Hughes told British media. "We were too reliant on keeping possession, but sometimes you've got to attack the game and

you've got to put balls into good areas with quality which, in recent weeks, we have been struggling to produce in wide areas."

Hughes said he felt his players would have earned a much needed breather as they get a week off after Saturday's league clash against relegation-threatened Bournemouth. Hughes said their cramped fixture list of playing 10 games since the start of 2016 was also taking its toll on the players.

"We are a little bit weakened with injuries and the intensity of the games we've just been through, high-intensity games against top teams, might just take the edge out of you," the former Manchester City manager said.

"But we've got a free week, which we are thankful for, and we just need to get a bit of freshness back into the team, then we will be fine." — Reuters

INKED UP GROSSKREUTZ HOPING TO KNOCK OUT EX-CLUB DORTMUND

BERLIN: Stuttgart's World Cup winner Kevin Grosskreutz is relishing his new club's German Cup quarter-final at home to Borussia Dortmund today as he looks to knock his ex-club out. Such is Grosskreutz's passion for Dortmund that he has a tattoo of the city's skyline on his right calf and Borussia's 2011 and 2012 German league titles celebrated in ink on his left shoulder.

"For me personally, it's a special feeling to run out against Dortmund," Grosskreutz said having made 178 league appearances for Borussia, whom he left in September.

"It was my club and I'm looking forward to seeing my friends again," he said before adding "but we won't be friends on the pitch". "I'm from there and really looking forward to the game. "We'll put everything in so that we can pull off a surprise. We want to reach the next round."

"Dortmund have a world-class team, it's not for no reason that they're second (in the Bundesliga), but we believe in our chances." According to Borussia's CEO Hans-Joachim Watzke, Grosskreutz "embodied" what the club is about, even if he courted controversy during his six years as a Dortmund player by

urinating in a Berlin hotel's foyer and throwing a kebab at a fan in Cologne during separate late-night incidents. The 27-year-old was part of Germany's World Cup squad, but didn't play a single minute of Brazil 2014 and will be up against former Borussia team-mates he only waved goodbye to a few months ago.

The right-back will be tasked with ensuring Dortmund's Germany star Marco Reus has a quiet game on the left wing and that striker Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang fails to add to his tally of 29 goals in all competitions this season. Grosskreutz has been a revelation since signing for Stuttgart in January, helping his new club to three wins in as many games, after an unhappy three-month stint at Galatasaray when he did not play a competitive game. Having been a Dortmund regular under Jurgen Klopp, Grosskreutz left at the start of the current season due to a lack of opportunities under new coach Thomas Tuchel. "There won't be much time for a chat, but there are no personal reservations," said Tuchel. Grosskreutz switched to Istanbul's Galatasaray in late August, but a problem with the paperwork before the transfer window closed meant he could not play in competi-

tive games for the Turkish club for the rest of 2015. Homesickness kicked in and Grosskreutz seized the chance to return to the Bundesliga with Stuttgart in January.

"I was made to feel super welcome in the team and feel really well in the city and in the stadium," he said.

"In the league, it is all about staying up and we aren't talking about anything else, but of course we want to try and take something out of Tuesday." He is not Stuttgart's only ex-Dortmund player looking forward to playing last season's German Cup finalists.

Australian goalkeeper Mitchell Langerak is set to make his first start for Stuttgart having been plagued with injury since his transfer before the start of the season. Resurgent Stuttgart will test high-flying Dortmund, having won all of their last five matches since needing extra-time to beat Eintracht Braunschweig 3-2 in the third round of the German Cup last December.

League wins over Wolfsburg, Cologne, Hamburg and Eintracht Frankfurt have catapulted 2007 German league champions Stuttgart from the relegation places to 12th in the Bundesliga table. — AFP

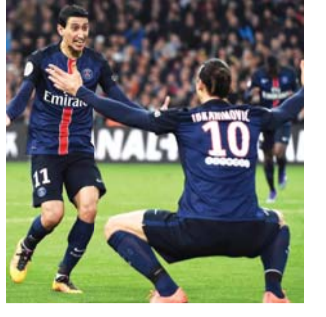
Sports

No quick fix to crisis, says IAAF chief Coe

2015



Di Maria fires unbeaten PSG past Marseille



TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2016

MCCULLUM ENDS ONE-DAY CAREER WITH STRONG LEGACY Page 17



SANTA CLARA: Carolina Panthers' Jonathan Stewart (28) scores a touchdown against the Denver Broncos during the first half of the NFL Super Bowl 50 football game Sunday in Santa Clara, Calif. (Inset) John Elway, General Manager and Executive Vice President of Football Operations for the Denver Broncos, holds the championship trophy. — AP

MANNING FAIRYTALE AS BRONCOS STUN PANTHERS

SANTA CLARA: Peyton Manning cemented his place in the pantheon of quarterback greats as the Denver Broncos produced a magnificent defensive display to stun the Carolina Panthers with an upset 24-10 victory in Super Bowl 50 here Sunday.

Manning, 39, sealed the second Super Bowl title of his 18-year National Football League career on the back of a phenomenal display by the Denver defense, who racked up a record-equalling seven sacks at Levi's Stadium.

"I'm just glad we didn't have to play against our defense," said a delighted Manning, the NFL's all-time passing yards record holder.

Denver running back CJ Anderson crashed over for the decisive touchdown late in the fourth quarter as the Broncos defense harried Panthers superstar quarterback Cam Newton into a string of mistakes on a night of high drama.

The much-anticipated duel between Manning—the oldest starting quarterback in Super Bowl history—and NFL Most Valuable Player Newton never materialized.

Instead it was left to Denver's suffocating defense to decide the contest, with Von Miller and DeMarcus Ware smothering the Panthers at every opportunity. Panthers superstar Newton, who had been tipped to dominate in his first Super Bowl appearance, cut a dejected figure afterwards.

"They just played better than us," Newton said. "I don't know what you want me to say...we got outplayed." Miller-named Super Bowl MVP—ultimately set up the crucial Denver touchdown, forcing Newton into a fumble which the Broncos recovered close to the Carolina goal line.

"It was tough offensively but defensively we were tremendous," Broncos head coach Gary Kubiak said. "It was just another grind-it-out win."

Panthers coach Ron Rivera blamed a failure to make scoring opportunities count. "We had opportunities, we didn't take advantage of it," Rivera said. "They took advantage of their opportunities. We didn't." Manning was largely a peripheral figure throughout, struggling to make any impression with his passing game as defenses dominated.

The veteran quarterback is widely expected to call time on his career at the end of the season, and can now do so with a second Super Bowl ring to set alongside the one he earned with the Indianapolis Colts in 2007.

"It's very special, I'm very proud of these guys," said Manning, who said he was unwilling to make a decision about his future plans in the heat of the moment.

"I'll take some time to reflect," he said. "It's been an emotional week and it's an emotional night."

CAROLINA RATTLED

An absorbing first half saw defenses exert a vice-like grip, with Denver's vaunted unit rattling the Carolina offense.

Denver took a 3-0 lead through a 34-yard Brandon McManus field goal after Manning mounted one of his few long-distance drives of the game early on.

Denver soon had Carolina under pressure and scored the opening touchdown when Miller swarmed through to smother Newton, stripping the ball loose and allowing Malik Jackson to recover for a dramatic touchdown for 10-0.

Newton showed glimpses of his dual threat with a couple of long rushes to set up a one-yard touchdown run from Jonathan Stewart to help make it 10-7 after Graham Gano added the extra point.

CHANCE SPURNED

Denver went 13-7 up with another McManus field goal before Carolina spurned the chance to draw closer when Gano missed a 44-yard effort.

It was left for Denver to get the first points on the board in the second half, with Manning twice connecting with Emmanuel Sanders in a 54-yard drive to Carolina's 12-yard line. McManus added his third field goal to make it 16-7 and give Denver a nine-point lead.

Carolina looked to be building ominous momentum on the next drive, when Newton launched a long pass to find Corey Brown for a 42-yard gain.

But the drive ended when Newton's attempt to find Teddy Ginn was intercepted by Broncos safety T.J. Ward.

Denver were unable to make any impression on the Carolina defense and seemed to be content to punt again knowing that the Panthers were getting little joy from the Broncos defense.

The tactic proved vindicated on the next Carolina drive, which stalled when Miller sacked Newton for the second time in the match. But Denver's own offense was always struggling to capitalize on their opponent's problems, and they squandered a 1st and 10 situation on Carolina's 37-yard line when Manning twice fumbled on successive plays to hand the ball back to the Panthers who reduced the deficit to 16-10 with a Gano field goal.

Yet once again Denver's defense came through when it mattered, and when Miller forced Newton into his late fumble, Denver were home. — AFP

STAY OR GO? MANNING TO DECIDE HIS FUTURE

SANTA CLARA: Whatever he decides about his future, Peyton Manning's second Super Bowl victory represents the crowning achievement of an 18-year career that had looked to be in terminal decline.

Plagued by poor form and hobbled by a foot injury, Manning's season hit rock bottom in November after a career worst performance against Kansas City that led to him being benched in favor on young back-up Brock Osweiler.

But the 39-year-old returned to lead the Denver offense during the play-offs, drawing on every drop of experience to steer the Broncos past nail-biting games against the Pittsburgh Steelers and New England Patriots.

Against Carolina on Sunday, Manning was a pale imitation of the prolific quarterback who was named National Football League Most Valuable Player five times between 2003 and 2013.

His final numbers in a defense-dominated 24-10 victory were among the least impressive of any Super Bowl-winning quarterback in history — 13 completions from 23 attempts for 141 yards, with one interception and no touchdown passes.

Now the question remains—what next?

Manning plans to take his time before deciding whether to retire or not, revealing that former Indianapolis Colts coach Tony Dungy had warned him not to make a decision in the heat of the moment.

"I think that was good advice, to kind of let this sink in," Manning told reporters.

'EMOTIONAL NIGHT'

"It's been an emotional week, emotional night. I'll take some time on it."

Denver are expected to go with the youthful Osweiler as their starting quarterback next season, a move that would limit Manning's

playing opportunities. The Los Angeles Rams meanwhile have reportedly been linked for a move for Manning should he decide to play on.

Another cloud on the horizon could be the NFL's investigation into allegations of doping contained in a television documentary in December.

Manning has dismissed the claims as "garbage" and the main source in the program later recanted the allegations in the program.

Broncos wide receiver Emmanuel Sanders meanwhile said Manning's teammates had been determined to send him out on a high note.

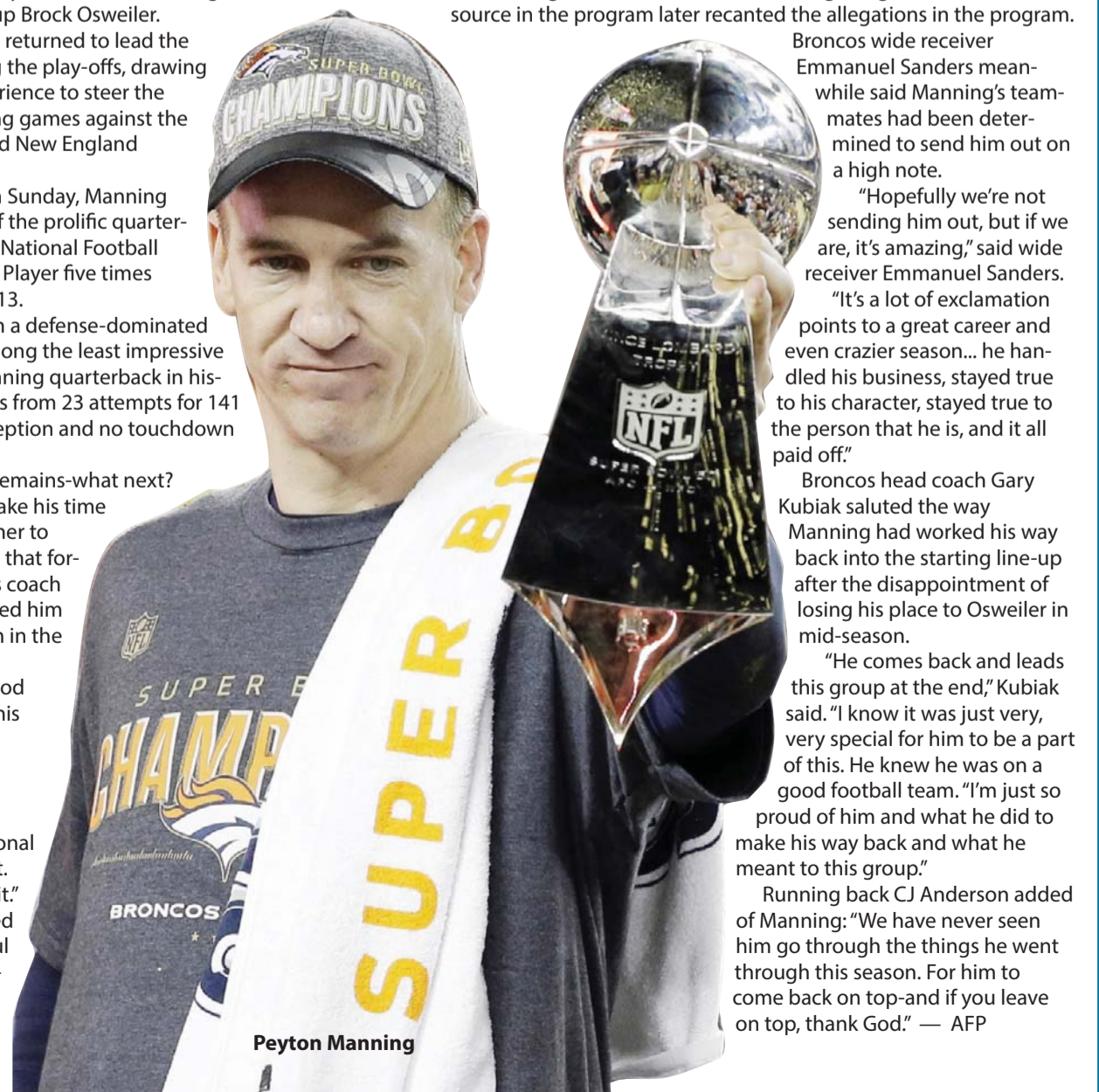
"Hopefully we're not sending him out, but if we are, it's amazing," said wide receiver Emmanuel Sanders.

"It's a lot of exclamation points to a great career and even crazier season... he handled his business, stayed true to his character, stayed true to the person that he is, and it all paid off."

Broncos head coach Gary Kubiak saluted the way Manning had worked his way back into the starting line-up after the disappointment of losing his place to Osweiler in mid-season.

"He comes back and leads this group at the end," Kubiak said. "I know it was just very, very special for him to be a part of this. He knew he was on a good football team. I'm just so proud of him and what he did to make his way back and what he meant to this group."

Running back CJ Anderson added of Manning: "We have never seen him go through the things he went through this season. For him to come back on top-and if you leave on top, thank God." — AFP



Kuwait Times BUSINESS

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2016

Kuwait's capital spending resilient amid lower income

Page 22

Alghanim spotlights future of jobs in Davos

Page 25



Jazeera Airways posts KD15.4m in net profit for 2015

Page 23

KFH-TURKEY SETS UP PORTFOLIO MANAGEMENT FIRM KT PORTFOY

Page 26



FRANKFURT: A trader makes a phone call when the German stock index DAX fell under 9,000 points at the stockmarket in Frankfurt yesterday. —AP

WALL ST EXTENDS TECH-LED SELLOFF

OIL PRICES SLIDE, SUPPLY OVERHANG IN FOCUS

NEW YORK: Wall Street fell sharply in early trading yesterday, continuing a technology-led selloff from Friday, as fears of a worsening global-economic slowdown and dropping oil prices continued to rattle investors. The Nasdaq Composite that includes large-cap technology names such as Alphabet, Microsoft and Facebook was off 1.7 percent yesterday.

Microsoft's 3.3 percent decline weighed the most on the S&P 500 and the Nasdaq. Heavyweights Facebook, Amazon, Netflix and Alphabet were down between 2 percent and 4 percent.

"Equities are in a 'go-nowhere-fast' mode, with a downward bias in the near term," said Terry Sandven, chief equity strategist at US Bank Wealth Management in Minneapolis.

"We need oil to stabilize to provide some confidence for investors, partly because to a degree, investors' stress is high, earnings visibility is low, and market internals continue to weaken," he said. US crude oil prices fell 2.6 percent after a meeting

between Saudi Arabia and Venezuela failed to reassure investors of measures to bolster prices.

Demand for crude is considered a barometer for global economic health, and markets across the world have tracked the rise and fall in the price of the commodity this year.

At 9:36 am ET (1436 GMT), the Dow Jones industrial average was down 238.19 points, or 1.47 percent, at 15,966.78. The S&P 500 was down 30.73 points, or 1.63 percent, at 1,849.32.

The Nasdaq Composite index was down 93.95 points, or 2.15 percent, at 4,269.19. The index closed at its lowest since October 2014 on Friday. Nine of the 10 major S&P sectors were lower, with the 1.95 percent fall in tech stocks leading the decliners.

Dismal sales outlooks from marquee technology names LinkedIn and Tableau Software had sent shares in the enterprise sector crashing on Friday on fears that IT managers were curbing spending.

IT services provider Cognizant yesterday added to those worries. Cognizant dropped 6 per-

cent to \$55 after it forecast its slowest revenue growth in 14 years. LinkedIn, which closed down 43.6 percent on Friday, was up 1 percent at \$109.50 on Monday. Tableau, which almost halved in value on Friday, was down 4.8 percent at \$39.35.

Twitter shed 4.5 percent to hit a new record low of \$15.03 after reports over the weekend that the company was planning to change how it display tweets. Declining issues outnumbered advancing ones on the NYSE by 2,453 to 295. On the Nasdaq, 1,962 issues fell and 351 advanced.

Oil falls further

Crude oil prices fell yesterday because of lingering concerns over a supply overhang and after a Saudi-Venezuela meeting showed few signs that steps would be taken to boost prices.

Global benchmark Brent futures were down 43 cents at \$33.63 at 1443 GMT, while US crude futures lost 66 cents to \$30.23. Both contracts had lost over \$1 a barrel earlier during the session.

"There's still a lot of concerns about the state of the crude oil stocks in the United States," said Olivier Jakob, oil analyst at Petromatrix. Weekly US crude and gasoline inventories hit record highs, data from the Energy Information Administration (EIA) showed last week. The latest weekly stock data is expected to be released on Wednesday.

Morgan Stanley warned yesterday that a global supply overhang was unlikely to start clearing before 2017. "We see limited upside for Brent (and range-bound) pricing over the next 12 months as the supply overhang is worked off," the bank said.

However, investors in Brent crude now hold more futures and options contracts that bet on the price rising than at any time since the InterContinental Exchange's records began in 2011, data from the exchange showed yesterday. Money managers raised their net long position in Brent crude futures and options by 31,346 contracts to 292,300 lots in the week to Feb. 2.

No tangible signs emerged from a meeting on

Sunday between Saudi Arabia's oil minister Ali al-Naimi and his Venezuelan counterpart that OPEC and non-OPEC suppliers were ready to meet to discuss the price slump. "It was a successful meeting and (conducted) in a positive atmosphere," Saudi news agency SPA cited Naimi as saying.

Venezuela's oil minister Eulogio Del Pino, who is on a tour of oil producers to lobby for action to prop up prices, said his meeting with Naimi was "productive".

"The chances of a deal are slim now but will increase if prices stay around \$30 a barrel, which they will if Iran and Iraq come through on their intended volumes," PVM Oil Associates analyst David Hufton said in a note yesterday.

In a sign Tehran is determined to claw back lost market share after the lifting of sanctions, Iranian Oil Minister Bijan Zanganeh was quoted by the ministry's news agency SHANA on Saturday as saying that France's Total had agreed to buy 160,000 barrels per day (bpd) of Iranian crude for delivery in Europe. —Reuters

NBK GETS CENTRAL BANK NOD TO RAISE AUTHORIZED CAPITAL

KUWAIT: National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) received Central Bank of Kuwait approval to increase the bank's authorized capital from KD 504 million to KD 600 million. The approved increase in authorized capital gives the bank the flexibility to increase its paid-in-capital at a later stage, if needed.

The move is in line with the bank's plans to maintain healthy capitalization ratios in light of the Basel 3 implementation and the regulations of the Central Bank of Kuwait in this regards. Also, this approval will allow the bank to better manage the timing of any potential increase in paid-in-capital to continue capturing growth opportunities, especially in Kuwait as the government's capital spending plan remains intact.

NBK continues to play a key role in financing a large number of the planned infrastructure projects as the bank continues to be the largest beneficiary of the growing government expenditure program, leveraging the high

growth opportunity in the project finance business.

It is worth mentioning that in 2015, NBK issued \$700 million in additional Tier 1 securities and KD 125 million in Tier 2 subordinated bonds. The bank's capital adequacy ratio stood at 16.8% as of end-



December 2015, comfortably above regulatory requirements.

NBK continues to enjoy collectively the highest ratings among all banks in the Middle East from the three international rating agencies Moody's, Fitch Ratings and Standard and Poor's. The Bank's ratings are supported by its high capi-

talization, prudent lending policies, and its disciplined approach to risk management, in addition to its highly recognized and very stable management team. NBK was also named among Global Finance's list of the 50 safest banks in the world for the tenth consecutive time.

NBK enjoys the widest banking presence with a local and international network reaching 4 continents. NBK's international presence spans many of the world's leading financial centers including New York, Europe, GCC, Middle East, Singapore as well as China (Shanghai).

LOCAL INVESTORS LEAD MAJOR BOURSES UP

MIDEAST STOCK MARKETS

DUBAI: Several major stock markets in the Middle East rose yesterday as local investors bought back shares, though blue-chip banks weighed on Abu Dhabi.

Equity markets in the region, where government revenues largely depend on petrodollars, have been struggling to break free of the negative impact of weak oil prices. "Investors' propensity to react to changes in oil prices has increased," said a Riyadh-based analyst, noting even a slight change in rhetoric between OPEC and non-OPEC producers can send crude prices up or down and with it Gulf stock markets. Brent futures were trading slightly firmer at a little over \$34 a barrel for most of the Gulf day. This helped Saudi Arabia's stock index close 0.2 percent higher at 5,906 points, though it came well off a session high of 5,972 points after oil prices pulled back.

The petrochemical sector, which has been the main drag on the bourse this year, slid 0.5 percent. But small and mid-cap stocks favoured by the local traders were strong. Insurers Al Sagr Cooperative Insurance and Solidarity Saudi Takaful each surged more than 8.0 percent.

Dubai's index climbed 1.9 percent on higher trading volumes than in the previous session, trimming its losses for 2016 to 1.8 percent. Emaar Malls closed flat at 2.49 dirhams after reaching a session high of 2.58 dirhams. The blue-chip retailer reported a

5.5 percent rise in fourth-quarter net profit to 435 million dirhams (\$118 million).

Emaar Properties, the majority shareholder in Emaar Malls, surged 3.1 percent on its third day of gains. Dubai's largest developer by market capitalisation is expected to file its quarterly earnings in the coming days. Air Arabia edged up 0.8 percent. The United Arab Emirates' only publicly listed airline reported its third consecutive quarterly profit drop on Sunday with a net profit of 59 million dirhams, below SICO Bahrain's estimate of 79.3 million dirhams.

DAMAC Properties and Shuaa Capital, shares favoured by local traders, each jumped more than 3.5 percent. Abu Dhabi's index closed flat at 4,103 points, 33 points below its intra-day high. The benchmark has fallen 4.7 percent this year.

The banking sector was the main drag, with Union National Bank and Abu Dhabi Islamic Bank falling 3.7 and 1.4 percent respectively. UNB reported that its net profit dropped to 1.86 billion dirhams last year from 2.02 billion dirhams in 2014 because of higher impairment charges.

Doha's index rose 0.8 percent with Barwa Real Estate surging 9.3 percent in unusually heavy trade. Blue-chip banks also lifted the market, with Qatar Islamic Bank advancing 1.6 percent.

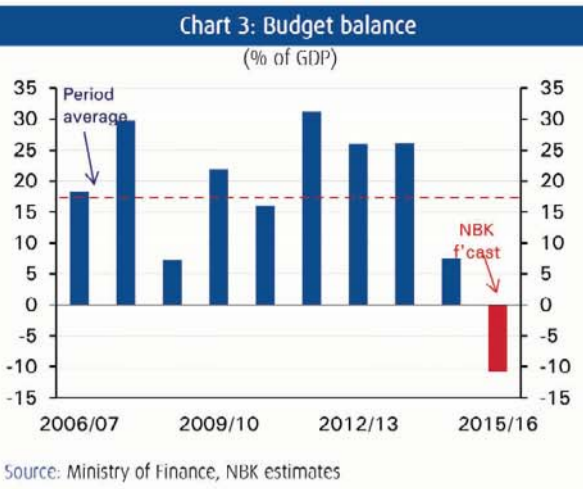
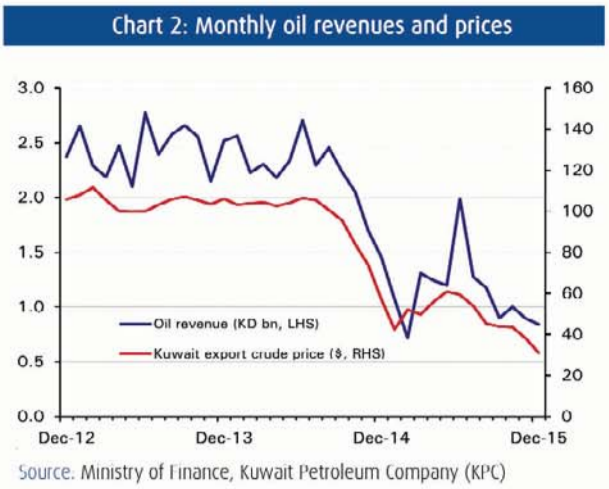
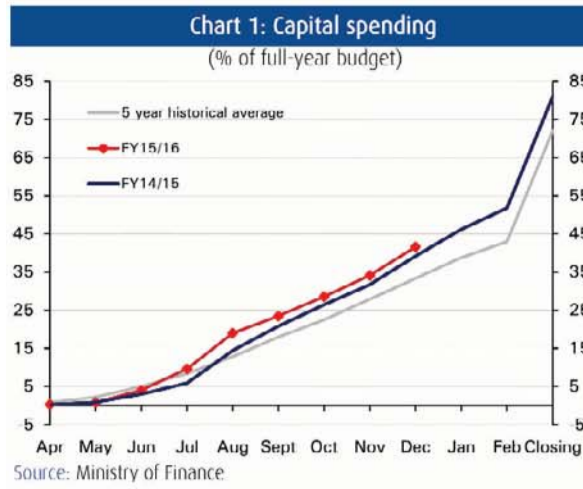
Qatar Gas Transport, a natural gas carrier, added 1.7 percent.

KUWAIT, EGYPT

Kuwait Food Co (Americana) surged 10.0 percent after the food company said its board had agreed to give a Gulf-based investment firm 60 days to carry out due diligence for the acquisition of a controlling stake in the company. Kuwait's main index edged up 0.1 percent.

Egypt's main benchmark added 0.8 percent to 6,175 points, closing 86 points below its intra-day high, in the highest volume since Jan. 24. Foreign and Egyptian traders were net sellers while non-Egyptian Arab investors were net buyers, bourse data showed. Mid-tier stocks were top gainers, with Credit Agricole Egypt and Juhayna Food Industries adding 5.2 and 1.3 percent respectively. Palm Hills fell 2.2 percent, erasing early gains. On Sunday, Egypt's second-largest listed property developer reported a 128 percent jump in fourth-quarter net profit and proposed its first cash dividend.

"We believe the need to hedge against currency devaluation and elevated inflation is the key driver of real estate investment in Egypt in the near term," said a note by NBK Capital. Egypt's central bank has been striving to maintain stability in the currency over the past several months, but foreign investors are still jittery about the possibility of a devaluation and the negative impact it would have on their investment returns and companies' earnings. —Reuters



News

in brief

US dollar stable against KD at 0.300

KUWAIT: The exchange rate of the US dollar against the Kuwaiti dinar was stable at KD 0.300, while the euro was down to KD 0.334 compared to the exchange rates for Sunday, said a statement by the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) yesterday. According to the CBK, the exchange rate of the Sterling pound was stable at KD 0.435 and the Swiss franc remained at KD 0.302. Exchange rate of the Japanese Yen remained the same at KD 0.002.

Egypt's 3-yr and 7-yr treasury bond yields rise

CAIRO: Yields on Egypt's 3-year and 7-year bonds rose at an auction yesterday while the yield on its 1.5-year zero coupon bond fell, data from the central bank showed. The yield on the 1.5-year bond fell to 12.287 percent from 12.306 percent at the last auction on Jan 11. The yield on the 3-year bond rose to 13.029 percent from 12.400 percent at the previous auction on Jan. 24 and the yield on the 7-year bond rose to 14.846 percent from 14.300 percent at the previous auction.

DIB seeks nod to raise ceiling for tier 1 capital

DUBAI: Dubai Islamic Bank (DIB) said yesterday it was seeking shareholder approval to issue up to \$750 million in sharia-compliant capital boosting bonds. This would potentially raise its tier 1, or core capital, to \$2.75 billion, the bank said in a statement to the bourse. United Arab Emirates' largest sharia-compliant lender has also sought shareholders approval for the board to be able to issue a sukuk and/or other convertible shares if required. Last month, DIB said it would need capital in 2016 but has still to decide on which method it will use to raise it. DIB has also sought approval from shareholders to allow it to increase its paid up capital by 988.4 million dirhams (\$269.11 million), subject to regulatory and other approvals.

DP World 2015 gross container volumes rise 2.4%

DUBAI: Dubai's DP World, one of the world's biggest port operators, yesterday said its 2015 annual gross container volumes rose 2.4 percent on a like-for-like basis and increased 3 percent on a reported basis. Gross volumes totalled 61.7 million twenty-foot equivalent units (TEU) in 2015, up from 59.9 million TEU in 2014, the company said in a statement. Annual consolidated volumes, at terminals over which DP World has control, were 29.1 million TEU, up 1.7 percent on a like-for-like basis and 2.7 percent higher on a reported basis. Like-for-like volumes are prepared to "normalise for divestments and new capacity", DP World added.

QIB seeks nod to raise sukuk program to \$3bn

DUBAI: Qatar Islamic Bank (QIB), the Gulf state's largest sharia-compliant lender by assets, said yesterday it was seeking shareholder approval to raise the maximum size of its sukuk program to \$3 billion from the existing \$1.5 billion. The bank was also seeking an extension of approval for the remaining 3 billion riyal (\$824 million) portion of a 5 billion riyal Tier 1 capital perpetual sukuk program originally approved in February last year.

MAJID AL-FUTTAIM TO INVEST \$3.7BN FOR 2 MALLS IN RIYADH

RIYADH: Majid Al-Futtaim will invest 14 billion riyals (\$3.7 billion) for building two malls in Saudi Arabia's capital Riyadh, the Dubai-based company said yesterday. The 300,000-square metre Mall of Saudi, which privately-held Majid Al-Futtaim said would be the kingdom's largest, will include shops, restaurants, entertainment, offices, hotels and residential units, plus Saudi's first indoor ski slope. The plans mark a major retail expansion into Saudi Arabia, despite reduced expectations for economic growth in the world's top oil exporter due to a prolonged oil price slump. "I see opportunities in challenges," chief executive Alain Bejjani told Reuters on the sidelines of the launch event, pointing to the projects' long gestation and the Saudi government's program of economic reforms. Work on the larger Mall of Saudi will start in mid-2017, with the first phase of the mall to be completed by 2022, the company said in Riyadh. —Reuters

KUWAIT'S CAPITAL SPENDING RESILIENT AMID LOWER INCOME

NBK ECONOMIC REPORT

KUWAIT: The interim public finance figures for the first nine months of fiscal year 2015/16 (FY15/16) reveal the resilience of government spending, amid a sustained low oil price environment. Despite a decline from last year in overall spending, wages & salaries and capital spending were up for the period. The rise in capital spending highlights an accelerated pace of project execution. The latter of course continues to support economic growth. Meanwhile, government revenues were off, largely due to the decline in the price of oil. As a result, the government has recorded a deficit of KD 2.5 billion during the 9-month period. We estimate FY15/16 will close with a deficit of KD 4.3 billion before the transfer to the Reserve Fund for Future Generations (RFFG), or 10.8 percent of GDP.

As of December, reported government spending stood at KD 9.2 billion fiscal-year-to-date (fytd); this figure was 15 percent lower than during the same period last year and includes deferred payments of KD 1.14 billion due to the Ministry of Electricity and Water (MEW) and the Public Institute for Social Security (PIFSS). However, at 48 percent of the FY15/16 budget, the spending rate is slightly higher than the five-year 9-month average of 44 percent. Actual spending was even higher at KD 13.9 billion, according to new data being published by the Ministry of Finance and based on actual withdrawals taken from the government accounts at the Central Bank of Kuwait. This accounting difference is related to delays in reporting expenditures by some ministries.

Current spending was down despite

Table 1: Government revenues and expenditures

	Actual (9 months)			9 months: actual to full-year budget	
	FY14/15	FY15/16	% y/y	FY15/16	5-year average ¹
Revenues	21.2	11.4	-46.3	93.2	145.4
Oil	19.4	10.5	-45.8	97.8	148.4
Non-oil	1.8	0.9	-52.2	59.1	120.5
Actual expenditures		13.9			
Reported expenditures	10.6	9.2	-13.4	47.8	44.5
Wages & salaries	2.6	2.8	8.5	52.1	46.2
Goods & services ³	1.9	0.9	-50.9	35.9	44.1
Vehicles & equipment	0.1	0.1	18.6	26.0	18.2
Projects, maint. & land	0.8	0.9	8.6	43.7	35.7
Miscellaneous & transfers ⁴	5.2	4.4	-15.0	50.5	47.0
Unclassified expenditures ⁵	-	4.7	-	-	-
Balance		-2.5			
RFFG	-	1.1	-	-	-
After RFFG	-	-3.6			
Note:					
Current expenditures ²	9.7	8.2	-16.0	48.8	44.4
Capital expenditures	0.9	1.0	9.1	41.6	33.3
Oil production (mbpd)	2.86	2.86	0.2	-	-
Oil prices (\$/bbl, KEC)	92	48	-47.8	-	-

Source: Ministry of Finance, Kuwait Petroleum Company, NBK estimates

robust growth in wages and salaries. A 16 percent y/y decline in current spending was driven mainly by the decline in the cost/price of fuel and electricity subsidies. Miscellaneous expenditures & transfers (chapter 5) were down by 15 percent year-on-year (y/y) because of the lower cost of fuel subsidies. Similarly, spending on goods & services (chapter 2) stood declined by 51 percent y/y as spending on

fuel for electricity and water (MEW) declined by 60 percent y/y. Meanwhile, wages & salaries rose to KD 2.8 billion fytd, up 9 percent y/y.

Capital spending was another closely watched area that maintained robust growth, rising by 9 percent y/y. This reflects the commitment to the government development plan, which has gained momentum recently. Indeed, capital spending thus

far in FY15/16 stood at 42 percent of the full-year budget, better than the five-year average of 33 percent, reflecting the improved implementation. Spending on projects, maintenance & land purchases (chapter 4) reached KD 908 million, up by 8.6 percent y/y. The expenditures of the Ministry of Public Works continue to soar, recording a 53 percent jump from last year to reach KD 335 million, in line with the jump in projects awarded in 2015.

Total government revenues were KD 11.4 billion in the nine months, down by 46 percent y/y. Oil revenues have declined as a result of the low oil price. The Kuwait export crude (KEC) price averaged \$48 per barrel during the first nine months of FY15/16 and only \$31 in December. Oil prices are likely to remain subdued for the remaining months of the fiscal year; we expect oil revenues to reach KD 12.4 billion by the end of the fiscal year, 45 percent lower than the previous fiscal year.

Non-oil revenues were down by half from the previous fiscal year fytd, largely on a suspension in payments from the UN Compensation Commission (UNCC). The suspension of the UNCC payments by the government reduced miscellaneous revenues and fees by almost KD 1 billion or 93 percent. This was compounded by declines in service charges, which were 13 percent lower mainly on reduced collections from housing, and electricity and water service charges. Still, there were improvements elsewhere, with income tax revenues up by 42 percent y/y, as tax revenues on non-oil foreign companies and corporate income tax revenues rose.

SELLING PRESSURE PLACES STOCKS ON MIXED BOARDS

KUWAIT: Trading at Kuwait Stock Exchange (KSE) yesterday was overwhelmed by further selling pressure involving cheap shares, as leading stocks were firm. Orders were up and down, sending the KSE into the green zone due to slight hikes, while the market anticipated companies' disclosures of financial findings for the fourth quarter of 2015.

This reflected several dealers' reluctance to get involved in selling and buying, thus causing the main Price Index to shed down to the 5,200 points level for a while, but the situation changed at the last minute.

The KSE ended trading on mixed boards yesterday. The Price Index was up 2.45 points to reach 5,209.28 points, the Weighted Index went down 0.57 points to stand at 356.71 points, while the KSX-15 Index increased 0.56 points, to read 842.19 points.

The value of trade was KD 16.7 million, while the volume was at 214.8 million shares done through 4,543 deals. The share of the Eyas for Higher and Technical Education was the main gainer, as that of Amwal International Investment Company was the top loser. As the trading ses-

sion went on, many dealers in the KSE hall watched screens in pursuit of news on the outcomes of meetings of listed companies' boards of directors for financial disclosures for the first quarter of 2015.

Meanwhile, dealers were happy at reports on the approval of the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) to boost the capital of the National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) up to KD 600 million involving six billion shares.

Some investors were also interested in the news of the agreement signed by the IKARUS Petroleum Industries Company and Saudi International Petrochemical Company (SIPCHEM) for the commercial completion of the purchase of 11 percent of the shares of two affiliates of Sipchem, namely the International Acetyl Company and International Vinyl Acetate Company, for amount of SR 240 million.

Earlier on Sunday, the KSE ended trading on mixed boards. Price Index was up 8.46 points to reach 5,206.83 points, Weighted Index went down 0.06 points to stand at 357.28 points, while the KSX-15 Index increased 1.08 points, to read 841.63 points. —KUNA

EXCHANGE RATES

AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
ASIAN COUNTRIES		
Japanese Yen	2.565	
Indian Rupees	4.453	
Pakistani Rupees	2.888	
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.093	
Nepali Rupees	2.786	
Singapore Dollar	214.960	
Hongkong Dollar	38.666	
Bangladesh Taka	3.830	
Philippine Peso	6.299	
Thai Baht	8.486	
GCC COUNTRIES		
Saudi Riyal	80.323	
Qatari Riyal	82.740	
Omani Riyal	782.354	
Bahraini Dinar	799.920	
UAE Dirham	82.008	
ARAB COUNTRIES		
Egyptian Pound - Cash	36.950	
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	38.513	
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.406	
Tunisian Dinar	150.370	
Jordanian Dinar	424.160	
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	2.007	
Syrian Lira	2.147	
Morocco Dirham	31.359	
EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES		
US Dollar Transfer	301.050	
Euro	336.570	
Sterling Pound	438.630	
Canadian dollar	217.520	
Turkish lira	103.240	
Swiss Franc	304.710	
Australian Dollar	214.650	
US Dollar Buying	299.850	

	GOLD
20 Gram	237.270
10 Gram	121.550
5 Gram	61.620

UAE EXCHANGE CENTRE WLL

CURRENCIES	TELEX TRANSFER PER 1000
Australian Dollar	201.21
Canadian Dollar	219.93
Swiss Franc	301.04
Euro	333.90
US Dollar	303.30
Sterling Pound	439.41
Japanese Yen	2.55
Bangladesh Taka	3.866
Indian Rupee	4.463
Sri Lankan Rupee	2.108
Nepali Rupee	2.782
Pakistani Rupee	2.887
UAE Dirhams	0.08253
Bahraini Dinar	0.8060
Egyptian Pound	0.03863
Jordanian Dinar	0.4314
Omani Riyal	0.7876
Qatari Riyal	0.08362
Saudi Riyal	0.08084

DOLLARCO EXCHANGE CO. LTD

Rate for Transfer	Selling Rate
US Dollar	303.350
Canadian Dollar	217.070
Sterling Pound	438.140
Euro	332.320
Swiss Franc	309.775
Bahrain Dinar	802.525
UAE Dirhams	82.830
Qatari Riyals	84.045

Saudi Riyals	81.570
Jordanian Dinar	427.325
Egyptian Pound	38.629
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.110
Indian Rupees	4.447
Pakistani Rupees	2.889
Bangladesh Taka	3.859
Philippines Peso	6.337
Cyprus pound	577.785
Japanese Yen	3.530
Syrian Pound	2.375
Nepalese Rupees	3.770
Malaysian Ringgit	72.310
Chinese Yuan Renminbi	46.450
Thai Bhat	9.425
Turkish Lira	102.645

BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
Europe		
British Pound	0.429958	0.438958
Czech Korune	0.004392	0.016392
Danish Krone	0.040894	0.045894
Euro	0.329350	0.337350
Norwegian Krone	0.031124	0.036324
Romanian Leu	0.086357	0.086357
Slovakia	0.008944	0.018944
Swedish Krona	0.031520	0.036520
Swiss Franc	0.296072	0.306272
Turkish Lira	0.097769	0.108069
Australasia		
Australian Dollar	0.205008	0.216508
New Zealand Dollar	0.193523	0.203023
America		
Canadian Dollar	0.211406	0.219906
US Dollars	0.296950	0.301450
US Dollars Mint	0.297450	0.301450

	Asia	
Bangladesh Taka	0.003480	0.004080
Chinese Yuan	0.044355	0.047855
Hong Kong Dollar	0.036742	0.039492
Indian Rupee	0.004160	0.004550
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000018	0.000024
Japanese Yen	0.002492	0.002672
Kenyan Shilling	0.003129	0.003129
Korean Won	0.000243	0.000258
Malaysian Ringgit	0.068812	0.074812
Nepalese Rupee	0.002853	0.003023
Pakistan Rupee	0.002608	0.002888
Philippine Peso	0.006212	0.006492
Sierra Leone	0.000067	0.000073
Singapore Dollar	0.210846	0.216848
South African Rand	0.012793	0.021293
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001741	0.002321
Taiwan	0.008920	0.009100
Thai Baht	0.008152	0.008702

	Arab	
Bahraini Dinar	0.791656	0.799656
Egyptian Pound	0.034297	0.038633
Iranian Riyal	0.000083	0.000085
Iraqi Dinar	0.000198	0.000258
Jordanian Dinar	0.420596	0.428096
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000150	0.000250
Moroccan Dirhams	0.021188	0.045188
Nigerian Naira	0.001238	0.001873
Omani Riyal	0.775529	0.781209
Qatar Riyal	0.081980	0.083193
Saudi Riyal	0.079393	0.080343
Syrian Pound	0.001275	0.001495
Tunisian Dinar	0.146120	0.154120
Turkish Lira	0.097769	0.108069
UAE Dirhams	0.080984	0.082133
Yemeni Riyal	0.001360	0.001440

HOW TO FIX THE EURO: TOP BANKERS URGE CLOSER TIES

FRANKFURT: The top central bankers from France and Germany are joining in an appeal to fix longstanding flaws in the euro currency by more closely integrating their economies and putting more authority over financial policies at the European level. Francois Villeroy de Galhau and Jens Weidmann argue in an article yesterday in the Sueddeutsche Zeitung daily that the 19 member countries must get moving on measures to make the shared currency work better and keep trouble

in one country from infecting others. Those measures include increasing cross-border shareholding in companies, which would spread the burden of downturns as losses from a troubled company would be shared by investors in different countries. Such shareholding is a major factor in smoothing recessions in the United States, but is less common in Europe. They also advocate completing a system of Europe-wide banking regulation and oversight. The EU has

implemented some aspects of the so-called banking union, aimed at preventing bank bailouts from overwhelming national budgets, but the scheme still lacks full-fledged deposit insurance at the EU level.

Such measures, combined with a new EU-wide investment program, could encourage investors to shift money out of savings and toward productive use in the economy, Weidmann and Villeroy de Galhau wrote.

Ultimately, they said, the EU should decide whether to create a European finance ministry and fiscal council that would be subject to parliamentary control. The finance minister idea has been proposed before but gained little political traction. The European Commission, however, is already working on a plan to expand companies' opportunities to link up with investors through share markets.

The shared currency, set up in 1999, was shaken by a crisis starting in 2009

over excessive government and bank debt in member countries such as Greece, Ireland, Portugal, Cyprus and Spain, all of which needed bailout loans from the other member states. The crisis eased as economic growth began to recover and as massive monetary stimulus from the European Central Bank helped calm financial markets. Yet economic growth across the currency union remains modest and debt levels in countries such as Greece and Italy are still high. —AP



PARIS: Former French budget minister Jerome Cahuzac (R) arrives on the first day of his trial for tax fraud at the courthouse of Paris yesterday. —AFP

EX-FRENCH MINISTER IN COURT FOR TAX FRAUD, MONEY LAUNDERING

PARIS: A former French budget minister is appearing in court on charges of tax fraud and money laundering that forced him to dramatically resign three years ago in the first political scandal under President Francois Hollande.

The trial of Jerome Cahuzac, once a champion in the fight against tax evasion, began yesterday afternoon in the main hearing room of the Paris criminal court in the presence of dozens of journalists and a large audience.

The 63-year-old is accused of financing a lavish lifestyle by fraudulently concealing 687,000 euros (\$765,000) of income from French tax authorities in 2009-2012 and laundering money in 2003-2013 through foreign bank accounts based in tax havens, including Switzerland, Panama, the Seychelles and Singapore. The Socialist, once considered a rising star in French politics, faces up to seven years in prison and a 1 million-euro fine if he is convicted of tax fraud. The trial's opening day attracted demonstrators who arrived at the courthouse carrying nearly 200 chairs they say they took from banks they accuse of participating in tax evasion.

Cahuzac's lawyers have said they would use the first hearing yesterday to ask the court to postpone the trial, arguing a defendant shouldn't be under both a criminal and a tax procedure at the same time.

If the court accepts Cahuzac's legal argument, the trial could be postponed for months.

After strongly denying any fraud for months and publicly lying to the Parliament, on television, to the French people and to his government colleagues, he eventually admitted his wrongdoing in a statement in April 2013, saying he had been "trapped in a lying spiral" and that he was "devastated by remorse."

On trial alongside Cahuzac are his former

wife; a banker; a legal adviser; and bank Reyl, a respectable but little known Swiss establishment, accused of tax fraud and/or money laundering. For his transactions with bank Reyl, Cahuzac used a codename, Birdie, in a nod to his passion for golf.

Ex-wife Patricia Menard, a 60-year-old dermatologist, is accused of hiding 2.5 million euros (\$2.8 million) from the French tax authorities until 2013 and laundering money in the British tax haven of the Isle of Man and in Switzerland, allowing her to buy two London apartments estimated at around 3 million euros overall. Menard already paid 2.17 million euros in back taxes to the French tax authorities last year.

Menard and Cahuzac divorced last November. Before being appointed budget minister in the first Hollande government in May 2012, Cahuzac was the leading tax specialist for the Socialist Party. When press reports first revealed the scandal in December 2012, Cahuzac was sponsoring a bill to reinforce the fight against tax evasion and fraud.

Considered an ambitious, self-assured and talented politician, he was forced to quit in March 2013 after only 10 months in the first government of the Hollande presidency and eventually to end his political career after being fired from the Socialist Party the following month.

Described sometimes as a seducer and known for his love of luxury watches, cigars and expensive vacations, Cahuzac built his wealth on his professional activities as a plastic surgeon in the hair transplantation clinic he operated with his ex-wife and as a consultant for big pharmaceutical laboratories. The Cahuzac scandal damaged Hollande's approval rating, which took a 13-point dive in the first quarter of 2013. It also had the effect of increasing the public's demand for probity and transparency by politicians. —AP

US RETAIL SALES, YELLEN TESTIMONY IN FOCUS

LONDON: Global markets have been in turmoil since the start of the year, with stocks and commodities prices reeling, eroding inflation and making central banks increasingly dovish - a trend that could continue with more weak economic data.

China, a focus of much of the recent market concern, released foreign reserves data on Sunday which showed the central bank dumped dollars to defend the yuan and prevent an increase in capital outflows. The country's foreign reserves fell \$99.5 billion to \$3.23 trillion in January, the lowest level since May 2012, central bank data showed.

US retail sales figures will meanwhile give clues to the state of consumer confidence in the world's largest economy, as will US Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen's testimony to the House Financial Services Committee on Wednesday.

Oil prices have tumbled 70 percent since mid-2014, driving down inflation and adding to expectations that central banks will be forced to maintain or even ease further their already ultra-loose monetary policies. Late last month the Bank of Japan unexpectedly took the plunge into negative interest rates, following in the wake of the European Central Bank, which will more than likely shave another 10 basis points off its own sub-zero deposit rate in March.

For its part, the US Fed is looking increasingly unsure about when it will next raise rates, while economists in Reuters polls have pushed back expectations for the first Bank of England hike by six months in the space of three weeks.

"While we don't think that the world's

economy is set to fall off a cliff, the problem is that there is a sizeable output gap, with significant structural excesses in the emerging economies, particularly China, and in commodity-producing countries," said Hiroshi Shiraiishi at BNP Paribas.

Beijing has been struggling to underpin the yuan as the growth rate in the world's second-largest economy grinds to its slowest levels in a quarter of a century.

EYES DOWN FOR FEEBLE EZ GROWTH

Eurozone economic growth was probably a paltry 0.3 percent in the final quarter of 2015, data are likely to show on Feb. 12, matching the third quarter's pace and with inflation nowhere near the ECB's 2 percent target ceiling, expectations are high for more easing.

"The economy in the eurozone is not gathering momentum. For a long time we have been expecting the ECB to loosen its monetary policy again, presumably now in March," said Jorg Kramer at Commerzbank.

ECB President Mario Draghi signalled last month further policy easing could be coming within months, leading markets to price in a deposit rate cut in March.

While economists are pretty convinced the ECB will ease again next month they are less sure about how aggressive the US Fed will be after it hiked interest rates for the first time in nearly a decade at the end of last year.

US employment gains slowed more than expected in January as the boost to hiring from unseasonably mild weather faded, yet surging wages and an unemployment rate at an eight-year low suggested the labour market recovery remains firm. —Reuters

JAZEERA AIRWAYS REPORTS KD15.4M PROFIT FOR 2015

BOARD RECOMMENDS CASH DIVIDENDS OF KD3 MILLION

KUWAIT: Jazeera Airways yesterday announced its full-year financial results for 2015. The company recorded a net profit of KD15.4 million and an operating profit of KD13.6 million, reflecting a 2 percent increase from last year. The board of directors has recommended a 15 percent cash dividend totalling KD3 million.

Jazeera Airways Chairman, Marwan Boodai, said: "I'm pleased to report that 2015 was another profitable year for Jazeera Airways, and a transformational one too. We successfully readjusted the airline's capital to match its size, issued record shareholder payouts worth KD52.7 million in cash, and settled all debts. Today, the company is debt-free, with over KD30.9 million in cash and a growing profitable business. The company's balance sheet has never been as strong as it is today."

Jazeera Airways started the year by announcing a divestment of its fully-owned leasing business, which had accounted for less than 20 percent of its net profit in 2014, by selling its fleet of 15 Airbus A320s for \$507 million. The sale led to a board recommendation to adjust the company's capital to match its current operation. On November 4, 2015, shareholders approved the recommendation to reduce the capital from KD42 million to KD20 million through a share buyback program of 220 million shares at the nominal share price of 100 fils.

This resulted in a KD22 million shareholder payout, which - when combined with payouts during the year - lifted total shareholder cash payouts during the year to a record payout of KD52.7 million. Earlier in the year, the company had issued cash dividends of KD20 million for the year 2014 and a payout of KD10.7 million in accumulated earnings and other reserves that were required by law to be distrib-

uted as part of the capital reduction process. This voluntary share buyback program was the first exercise of its kind in Kuwait and was based on the procedures stated in Kuwait's new Commercial Companies Law (97/2013).

2016 and beyond

In 2015 the company successfully exited the aircraft leasing business to focus on the airline

year this transformation extends to the product.

The Next Big Thing

The Next Big Thing is a series of new ambitious and game-changing initiatives that will boost Jazeera Airways' offering, reinforce its brand, and attract and retain more customers. Below is a glimpse into the four new initiatives and how they will transform Jazeera Airways' offering.



Jazeera Airways Chairman Marwan Boodai.

FULL-YEAR RESULTS HIGHLIGHTS

- Operating revenue: KD58.6 million
- Operating profit: KD13.6 million, up 2% from the previous year
- Net profit: KD15.4 million
- Passengers: up 4.5 percent
- On-time performance: 94.3 percent

business, issued a record shareholder payout, settled all loans, grew the operating profit, increased the net profit, and attracted more passengers despite the political and economic challenges the region faced. The year 2015 was transformational for the balance sheet, and 2016 will be the

Remote check-in

Jazeera Airways is constructing a state-of-the-art check-in facility located two minutes away from the airport to serve as a second option for flight check-in. To be operational in Q3 2016, the facility is a single-stop remote check-in facility with valets for parking and luggage assistance. Once

travelers and their luggage are checked in, they will be shuttled to the terminal where they can proceed directly to passport control, thus completely bypassing the hassle of navigating Kuwait International Airport's parking and check-in congestion.

Business class with a view

Starting Q3 2016, Jazeera Airways business class travellers will enjoy exclusive access to what will be the newest lounge at Kuwait International Airport. The dedicated lounge will be the only lounge at Kuwait International Airport with a direct and unobstructed view of the tarmac. High-speed internet, comfortable seating, food, and drinks will also be offered to business travelers.

In-flight broadband at down-to-earth rates

Starting Q1 2017, Jazeera Airways' fleet will be equipped with cutting-edge broadband internet technology from Rockwell Collins, who have chosen Jazeera Airways to be the launch customer for this new service. In 2017 Jazeera Airways travellers will have the opportunity to live stream their favourite TV shows, movies, news, and sports on any personal device.

Jazeera Airways Long-Haul

Jazeera Airways is currently looking to expand its network to include key long-haul destinations by partnering with an international operator. Though still in its early stages, the airline confirms the new routes will be non-stop and offering through a true partnership with a global airline.

Jazeera Airways Terminal

The airline is in an advanced planning stage to establish a dedicated terminal at Kuwait International Airport, which will help Jazeera Airways better serve its travellers on the one hand and on the other hand, it would help relieve the congestion at the country's single-terminal airport.

SURROUNDED BY DIAMONDS, VILLAGERS GO HUNGRY IN DROUGHT-HIT ZIMBABWE

MUTARE, Zimbabwe: S hylet Mutsago, a 63-year-old who lives near the diamond fields of Marange, cannot hide her anger over how mining in this gem-rich part of eastern Zimbabwe has failed to improve the lives of local people. From a distance she watches as companies turn the ground over in search of the alluvial diamonds, releasing clouds of red dust into the sky.

"Our hopes of benefiting from the diamonds are gone," she said. "And with this severe drought we are now placing our lives in the hands of God. We are living close to these diamond mines, yet we are starving." As crops fail due to a lack of rain, some villagers can no longer afford even one proper meal a day, and are surviving on wild fruits like baobab, Mutsago said.

Amid frequent drought, people in Marange had hoped the diamond industry would invest in reviving irrigation schemes. National law requires mining companies to help local communities develop. Though prone to dry spells, the situation in Marange has been exacerbated by the current El Niño weather phenomenon, which has brought drought to large swathes of Zimbabwe.

The government has declared a state of disaster in most rural parts of the country, saying that 2.44 million people - around a quarter of the population - need food aid.

Irrigation schemes in and around Marange, most constructed decades ago, are no longer operating properly as small-scale farmers cannot pay to main-

tain or replace aging equipment.

"Just a few diamond stones could have helped change our lives, but no one seems to care," said Mutsago. Her frustration is shared by many in Marange, an area home to over 80,000 people.

Malvern Mudiwa said the drought was so serious that villagers had no idea how they would survive through the year. "But imagine - we are surrounded by diamonds!" said Mudiwa, who also heads a local advocacy group, the Marange Development Trust. "The government must order these mining companies to feed the starving people in Marange."

MURKY MANAGEMENT

Marange was regarded as one of the world's richest alluvial diamond deposits, but its resources are depleting, experts say. It was estimated to have produced around 17 million carats in 2013, 13 percent of the global rough diamond supply, according to the Zimbabwe Mining Development Corporation.

Marange produced 12 million carats in both 2012 and 2014, while production figures for 2015 are not yet available. When the Zimunya-Marange Community Share Ownership Trust was set up by President Robert Mugabe in 2012, the five diamond companies operating there promised to put in \$10 million each to support local villagers over the coming five years.

Four years on, they have deposited only \$400,000

in the trust. The basis for such schemes was established under the economic empowerment regulations of 2010, which say communities whose natural resources are exploited by a business must be guaranteed a share of the profits.

In Marange, diamonds are being extracted by Anjin Investments, Diamond Mining Corporation, Jinan Mining, Marange Resources and Mbada Diamonds. The ownership of these companies is opaque, according to a 2012 report by investigative campaign group Global Witness.

Several directors of Anjin were drawn from the Zimbabwean military and police, while a stake in Mbada was given to a company linked with a man reported to be Mugabe's former personal pilot, Global Witness said. Marange grabbed international headlines in 2008 when the government launched police crackdowns on illegal diamond miners and smugglers, resulting in as many as 200 deaths. Even when formal mining began in 2009, reports of abuses against illegal miners caught sneaking into the mining fields continued.

In 2014, the government announced that all diamond companies in Zimbabwe would merge into one entity, the Zimbabwe Consolidated Diamond Company, in an effort to improve transparency and accountability in the sector. The merger is expected to be finalised this year.

The government has a 50 percent shareholding in the new company, while the other half will be split among the private diamond companies.

Anjin director Munyaradzi Machacha told the Thomson Reuters Foundation that issues regarding the Zimunya-Marange trust were being handled by Zimbabwe's mining minister, Walter Chidhakwa.

"We appeared before parliament, and as diamond companies, we clarified the issue," Machacha said. At a parliamentary committee last year, the companies said they had never made a binding pledge to put \$50 million between them into the Zimunya-Marange trust. The agreement was verbal and there was no written contract, they said.

PROMISES TO BE KEPT?

Diamond expert James Mupfumi said the mining companies were taking advantage of a loophole in the Indigenisation and Economic Empowerment Act. "Companies are not forced to put money into the community share ownership trusts. They may choose not to," said Mupfumi, who heads the independent Mutare-based Centre for Research and Development. The rules are unclear, and it is up to the companies to decide how much to contribute, he added. —Reuters



BASRA: Cargo ships docked at the Iraqi port of Umm Qasr near the southern city of Basra. —AFP

GLOBAL STOCKS SLIDE ON FINANCE SECTOR WORRIES

LONDON: Global stock markets mostly fell yesterday as investors fretted about a global economic slowdown after data showed US employers added fewer jobs last month.

European stock markets slumped yesterday giving up initial gains, as focus switched to the banking sector following recent poor earnings and persistent worries over China's economy, analysts said. After a quiet session across Asia owing to the Chinese New Year, Europe opened higher but indices were down almost 2.0 percent in London and nearly 3.0 percent in Frankfurt heading into the afternoon.

Focus returned to the banking sector after

the spotlight having been firmly on commodity stocks in recent weeks owing to slumping oil and metals prices. Global shares had already tumbled on Friday after US jobs data sparked worries that the Federal Reserve could decide to raise rates again as soon as March.

Concerns linger also over weak growth in the eurozone and emerging-market economies. "European markets, after initially opening higher, have been led sharply lower by banking shares, a number of which are hitting multi-year lows," said Michael Hewson, chief market analyst at traders CMC Markets UK.

"The disappointing (recent) earnings across the sector from the big US firms to Credit Suisse and Deutsche Bank in Europe alongside the ugly spectre of negative interest rates have seen investors significantly reassess the chance of an earnings turnaround after years of regulatory fines for past misdeeds."

Among the biggest losers yesterday were HSBC, whose shares were down 3.0 percent. Commerzbank shed 5.0 percent and BNP Paribas gave up 3.4 percent. In foreign exchange meanwhile, the dollar gave up gains won thanks to an increased chance of another US rate rise this year. Friday's latest monthly

jobs report showed that US hiring eased in January but that the unemployment rate slipped to 4.9 percent and wage growth increased modestly.

Elsewhere yesterday, crude prices rebounded as talks between the oil ministers of Saudi Arabia and Venezuela on stabilising the beleaguered market raised hopes of production cuts.

"The absence of Chinese influence on these markets will be felt throughout the week," said Jeremy Cook, chief economist at currency traders World First.

Markets were said to be reacting also to weekend news that China's foreign exchange reserves had fallen to their lowest level in more than three years, as Beijing sells dollars to stop the yuan from depreciating further. The world's largest currency hoard shrank by \$99.5 billion in January to some \$3.2 trillion, the People's Bank of China said on its website, the lowest since May 2012. Worries about China's economy, the world's second biggest, have pushed the yuan to a five-year low. The country saw its first-ever annual decline in foreign exchange reserves last year as Beijing tried to prevent a more drastic devaluation.

terday in thin holiday trading, with gains kept in check as investors fretted about a global economic slowdown after data showed US employers added fewer jobs last month.

KEEPING SCORE: Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 rose 1.1 percent to 17,004.30 while Australia's S&P/ASX 200 was flat at 4,975.40. Thailand's SET added 0.3 percent to 1,307.56. India's Sensex was little changed at 24,632.26. Markets were closed in China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, South Korea, Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines for Lunar New Year holidays. New Zealand's stock market was closed for a national holiday.

US DATA: With much of Asia in holiday mode, attention focused on the discouraging US employment figures for January released on Friday. US employers added 151,000 jobs last month, a sharp deceleration from recent months as companies shed education, transportation and temporary workers. That was below economists' forecasts of 185,000 new jobs, according to a survey of analysts by financial data provider FactSet. The employment report lends weight to the case for the Federal Reserve to delay interest rate hikes, which is a positive for stock markets, but also adds to signs of weakness in major economies. — Agencies

Daily Kuwait Stock Exchange Report						
Monday 08 February 2016						
Index	Change	Closing	Last Closing	High	Low	
Price Index	▲ 2.45	5,295.28	5,206.83	5,216.74	5,169.53	
Weighted Index	▼ -0.57	356.71	357.26	358.14	355.52	
KXS 15	▲ 0.55	542.19	541.63	544.80	538.39	

Volume	Value (KWD)	Number of Trades
215,306,426	16,787,807	4,505

Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KWD)	Trades	Last	Change
MARIN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	114	▲ 0.0
KARIS	84	81	395,844	29,926	24	84	▲ 0.0
IPG	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	320	▲ 0.0
NAFESCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	990	▲ 0.0
ENERGYM	34.5	30.0	100,550	3,017	3	30.8	▼ -1.5
QFI	43.5	41.5	2,832,157	120,555	73	43.6	▲ 0.5
ABAR	116	116	1	0	1	116	▲ 0.0
Oil & Gas			3,290,552	153,838	101	754.79	▲ 5.18

Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KWD)	Trades	Last	Change
KFCUC	220	216	10,000	2,150	2	216	▼ -2.0
BPCO	465	460	63,900	29,710	7	460	▲ 0.0
ALQOUT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	510	▲ 0.0
ALQURAN	164	164	536,700	88,347	38	164	▼ -2.0
Basic Materials			812,660	128,237	47	881.37	▼ -6.20

Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KWD)	Trades	Last	Change
KCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	380	▲ 0.0
REFR	350	340	326,500	111,300	7	345	▲ 10.0
CABLE	355	345	123,925	43,545	25	345	▼ -20.0
SHIP	148	144	45,115	7,075	21	144	▼ -4.0
PCEM	1,000	950	7,650	7,601	5	1,020	▲ 0.0
PAPER	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	380	▲ 0.0
MRC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	67	▲ 0.0
ACICO	275	265	10	3	2	275	▲ 0.0
GGVC	475	445	73,891	34,134	17	475	▲ 28.0
HCC	130	130	1,592	207	1	130	▼ -2.0
KPAK	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	340	▲ 0.0
KBMC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	250	▲ 0.0
KCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	228	▲ 0.0
EQUIPMENT	54	53	346,000	18,325	9	53	▼ -1.0
MCCI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	99	▲ 0.0
GYFSJM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	192	▲ 0.0
SALBORKH	70	58	75,000	5,405	12	68	▼ -1.0
AGLY	436	430	174,863	76,491	13	436	▲ 0.0
EDU	220	208	530	112	3	210	▲ 0.0
CLEANING	41.5	39.0	5,496,422	221,444	147	39.6	▼ -0.5
CITYGRCJP	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	410	▲ 0.0
KCL	43.5	41.5	897,974	38,836	58	41.5	▲ 0.5
KDFC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	210	▲ 0.0
HLMANSOFT	930	930	100	93	1	930	▲ 50.0
MAFAS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	130	▲ 0.0
SARWAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	310	▲ 0.0
GFC	31.0	27.0	2,170	59	5	31.0	▲ 1.5
MAYADEEN	19.0	18.0	1,898,803	35,378	36	19.0	▲ 0.5
OGC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	790	▲ 0.0
VTCD	73	70	1,706,600	128,207	32	70	▼ -2.0
JFAC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	900	▲ 0.0
ALAFDO	180	178	80,700	15,956	5	178	▼ -2.0
MUSARRAD	54	51	5,685,588	436,427	154	52	▼ -3.0
LOGIST CB	52	57	5,377,795	385,929	151	57	▲ 0.0
SOEM	83	52	34,759	2,851	1	83	▲ 0.0
GCEV	80	55	3,798	597	2	80	▲ 0.0
QCEV	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	70	▲ 0.0
FCEM	74	71	9,010	546	4	74	▲ 0.0
RWAC	108	100	1,100	111	2	100	▼ -10.0
SPEC	83	53	35,303	3,013	1	83	▼ -5.0
Industrials			24,817,696	1,573,255	693	952.68	▲ 2.13

Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KWD)	Trades	Last	Change
KSH	204	204	334	68	1	204	▼ -2.0
NSH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	62	▲ 0.0
PAPCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	162	▲ 0.0
CATTL	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	125	▲ 0.0
DANA	71	70	115,250	8,459	6	70	▼ -3.0
PCULT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	190	▲ 0.0
FOOD	2,200	2,200	5,556	12,222	2	2,200	▲ 200.0
Consumer Goods			125,142	20,755	9	1056.48	▲ 16.75

Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KWD)	Trades	Last	Change
MHC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	200	▲ 0.0
ATC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	320	▲ 0.0
YIAD	140	140	42,000	5,800	5	140	▼ -8
Health Care			42,000	5,800	5	946.30	▼ -5.75

Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KWD)	Trades	Last	Change
KCN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	980	▲ 0.0
KHOT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	220	▲ 0.0
SULTAN	53	51	33,740	2,071	5	53	▼ -1
CABLETV	30.0	27.5	116,800	3,275	11	27.6	▼ -3
EYAS	365	335	20	8	1	385	▲ 50
IFA-R	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	186	▲ 0.0
OLUFAJEL	110	110	59,222	6,514	11	110	▲ 2
MUNTAZAH	51	57	20,500	1,795	2	91	▲ 1
JAZSERA	850	800	510	429	5	850	▲ 2
SCOR	112	110	34,627	10,485	15	110	▲ 2
FUTURBIC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	110	▲ 0.0
ALWAKAD	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	94	▲ 0.0
ALRA	142	136	50,611	6,314	23	136	▲ 0.0
ZMAH	105	95	1,030,270	111,032	73	99	▼ -3
JFIC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	96	▲ 0.0
KCUTFOOD	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	540	▲ 0.0
Mezzan	1,100	1,090	90,921	98,196	6	1,100	▲ 20
Consumer Services			1,568,321	242,144	154	952.63	▲ 9.90

Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KWD)	Trades	Last	Change
ZAIN	360	355	922,595	327,587	58	355	▼ -5
QORQOD	1,140	1,090	29,971	33,546	92	1,090	▼ -80
HITSTELEC	27.5	26.5	2,000,980	54,056	27	27.6	▲ 1
VIFA	920	900	101,465	92,435	111	910	▼ -10
Telecommunications			3,585,014	607,780	216	583.34	▼ -7.25

Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KWD)	Trades	Last	Change
NBK	740	720	4,682,780	3,415,439	54	740	▲ 10
QIBK	210	208	87,503	14,076	12	210	▲ 0
CBK	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	500	▲ 0.0
ABK	360	360	25,923	5,331	2	360	▼ -6
ALMUTAHED	450	445	195,505	83,173	9	450	▲ 0.0
QIB	158	158	192,650	35,896	10	158	▼ -2
BURG	300	300	32,955	11,534	5	300	▼ -4
QIN	480	480	5,310,871	2,580,782	166	480	▼ -15
SCUBAYAN	355	355	1,665,876	649,590	38	390	▼ -5
ALB	204	202	50,600	10,222	4	204	▲ 2
THAR	31.0	30.5	2,113,792	65,196	53	31.0	▼ -1
WAFABANK	152	152	7,273,153	1,352,282	243	152	▼ -10
Banks			21,591,583	8,251,589	527	812.16	▼ -7.75

Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KWD)	Trades	Last	Change
QNS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	320	▲ 0.0
QNS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	750	▲ 0.0
QNS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	445	▲ 0.0
QNS	106	104	50,000	5,250	5	104	▲ 0.0
QNS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	200	▲ 0.0
QNS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	52	▲ 0.0
QNS	30.5	30.0	4,000	121	3	30.5	▼ -0.5
QNS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	355	▲ 0.0
Insurance			54,000	5,371	5	1055.09	▼ -1.85

Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KWD)	Trades	Last	Change
SOROK	34.5	33.0	284,540	55,759	57	34.5	▲ 0.5
KRE	49.0	47.5	927,482	44,550	24	47.5	▼ -0.5
JRC	55	53	123,000	9,630	5	53	▼ -2.0
NRE	51	50	427,810	44,234	16	50	▼ -2.0
SRE	335	335	1,000	335	1	335	▼ -20.0
TAV	0.0						



DAVOS: Jeffery Joerres (left) and Omar Alghanim during a panel discussion at the WEF, Davos.

ALGHANIM SPOTLIGHTS FUTURE OF JOBS IN DAVOS

CREATE BETTER WORKPLACE FOR FEMALE EMPLOYEES: OMAR ALGHANIM

KUWAIT: As part of the World Economic Forum (WEF) that took place in Davos, Switzerland last month, which revolved around the theme of "The Fourth Industrial Revolution", Omar Kutayba Alghanim, Chief Executive Officer of Alghanim Industries and Chairman of Gulf Bank, participated in several meetings and panel discussions in which he concentrated on two key topics: the future of jobs, and gender equality in the workplace.

A press conference regarding the future of jobs was held, with a distinguished panel that included: Omar Alghanim; Saadiya Zahidi, Head of Employment and Gender Diversity at the World Economic Forum; Vishal Sikka, Chief Executive Officer of Infosys; Jeffrey Joerres, Executive Chairman Emeritus of Manpower Group. The main question posed at the conference was, "How will the Fourth Industrial Revolution affect employment, education, and skills?"

The Future of Jobs

Stressing the importance of putting the future of jobs in the spotlight at the World Economic Forum, Omar K. Alghanim said, "We have much more data and computing power than any generation before us, and in the years ahead, computers will play a central role in every aspect of our lives. In essence, it means that the world is changing fast. That we have a responsibility like never before to prepare younger generations for that world, and that our ambition of creating the jobs of the future will grow in complexity with every passing year. According to the International Labor Organization, roughly two in five young people around the world are either unemployed or are working but living in poverty. As a citizen of the Gulf, I know the scale of the challenges we face. Statistics show that to meet local employment demands, the Middle East and North Africa region will have to create 80 million new jobs over the next two decades."

Saadia Zahidi also commented on the topic, saying: "Our research for the World Economic Forum Future of Jobs Report didn't just focus on technological factors, it also looked at geopolitical factors as well as socioeconomic factors because they all play into and effect each other. Through working on this report, we found that these factors will change the current business models, creating a storm in the job market during the next 5 years. We also found that job gains in the short term won't be enough to offset the job losses, as there could be up to 5 million job losses. In the long term, there will be more opportunities, but that will require restructuring the educational systems. The skills needed today will not be so



DAVOS: Omar Kutayba Alghanim, Chief Executive Officer of Alghanim Industries and Chairman of Gulf Bank, speaks at WEF, Davos.

The "New Vision for Arab Employment" initiative has successfully prepared 50,000 youth from the region to join the workforce in less than a year

in the future, and that requires employees to keep learning and improving their skillsets, to meet the requirements of the future jobs. Therefore, businesses and governments must put in place reskilling and up-skilling mechanisms in the short term, including fundamental reforms to education systems."

Restructuring Education Systems

Agreeing with Saadia about the need to fix education systems, Vishal Sikka said: "We have to prepare our kids for the world of tomorrow. Not the way the world used to be, but the way the world is going to be. We can create access by providing better con-

nectivity and matching the supply and demand in a better way. We also need to create a culture of creativity and imagination because mechanical jobs will be done by artificial intelligence systems, so people need to be taught innovation at a larger scale. This should be done through a public-private partnership where companies who have abilities for big scale solutions and the resources to do so, work with public organizations that have the purpose and knowhow outside the context of day to day business."

Jeffery Joerres noted the importance of avoiding the job crisis through the implementation of methods on a local level rather

than attempting to copy solutions from one country to another. Further commenting on the subject, he said: "There is going to be a longer gap between when somebody loses their job and when somebody regains their job than in previous kinds of revolutions. This will put tremendous stress on individuals, society, and businesses. A sense of urgency has to exist to create action at the local level, rather than taking it on from a larger scale. The transition gap could be dangerous because people get out of the flow of work, and if you're not in the flow at the current rate of change, it's really hard to get back in."

Speaking specifically about the MENA region, Omar K Alghanim said, "We've learned that there's no silver bullet for solving youth unemployment. It requires a long-term solution: A combination of education, vocational training, effective career advice, and a buoyant private sector, among other things. In MENA, for example, we need to create the right education system which gives our young people the skills and critical thinking to become entrepreneurs. INJAZ, an organization I'm proud to support, is a great example of an NGO of doing exactly that."

It is worth mentioning that the World Economic Forum's Regional Business Council for MENA, which was chaired by Alghanim at the time, invited business leaders and organizations to join a collaborative effort of making 100,000 youth job-ready by 2017. This pledge was made as part of the New Vision for Arab Employment Initiative. During the press conference, Omar K. Alghanim announced that members of the Regional Business Council were able to exceed this target and expect to make further progress over the course of the upcoming year.

Alghanim reiterated the importance of not overlooking the work environment, about which he said: "Part of this is about creating a benign environment. For example, the people we spoke to in the MENA region as part of a recent survey told us that the number one barrier people face in starting a new business isn't lack of finance or opportunity, it's government regulation."

It's also about mindset. That same survey found that, even if guaranteed success, more than 40 percent of respondents with advanced degrees said they would start a retail company, a cafe, or a real estate company. Only 6 percent said they would start an information technology company. I don't want to deride these choices - we applaud all business startups - but restaurants, retail and real estate alone won't deliver regional economic success. That's why it's essential

that we also design educational systems which encourage critical thinking, creativity and entrepreneurship."

Gender Parity

Alghanim also added: "Another key barrier to job creation in the MENA region is gender inequality. Achieving gender parity will make the world a richer place, in many different ways, for everyone. IMF statistics suggest that the Middle East gender gap is three times bigger than in most developing economies. The same statistics suggest that if the gap was narrowed by just one-third, regional GDP would grow by \$1 trillion a year, or 6 percent. At my company, Alghanim Industries, we have a Diversity and Inclusion Steering Committee that focuses specifically on these sorts of issues. To make our culture more appealing to women, we have increased our maternity leave benefits. And we are changing our recruitment policies to encourage the hiring and retaining of more women. The plain fact is that creating a MENA economy of the future will depend on bringing women into the workforce, and I look forward to hearing about the efforts of others in the region."

Alghanim Industries

Alghanim Industries is one of the largest, privately-owned companies in the Gulf region. Originally founded in 1932 by Yusuf Ahmed Alghanim in Kuwait, the company has since grown into a multi-billion dollar conglomerate, employing over 14,000 people in 30 businesses, and present in 40 countries across the Middle East, Eastern Europe and Asia.

Alghanim Industries is a market leader in almost every major sector of its operations. These sectors include engineering, retail, automotive sales and service, insulation and pre-engineered steel building structures, logistics and warehousing, fast moving consumer goods, food & beverage, oil & gas, office automation, advertising, insurance, consumer credit and travel. This range of business activities has allowed it to develop long-standing relationships with more than 300 global brands, including household names such as AC Delco, American Express, Avis, British Airways, British Petroleum, Cathay Pacific, Costa Coffee, Daewoo, General Motors, Honda, Saint-Gobain, Toshiba, Wendy's and Whirlpool. Alghanim Industries has also created successful regional businesses such X-cite by Alghanim Electronics, a leading electronics player in the region, and Safat Home, a lifestyle and home furniture concept.



Vishal Sikka, Chief Executive Officer of Infosys.



Saadiya Zahidi, Head of Employment and Gender Diversity at the World Economic Forum.



Jeffery Joerres, Executive Chairman Emeritus of Manpower Group

KFH LAUNCHES AL-RABEH ACCOUNT

SALARY ACCOUNT OFFERS VALUABLE PRIZES, UNIQUE ADVANTAGES

KUWAIT: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) has launched Al-Rabeh account with unique advantages and valuable prizes stemming from its continuing endeavors to offer outstanding products and services that address clients' requirements and meet their aspirations, yet consolidate Bank's prestigious status and excellence in offering products as per the highest standards of quality.

Al-Rabeh salary account offers clients the opportunity to win two 2016 Range Rover's and 3 KG of Gold every 3 months. Further, Al-Rabeh account is an investment savings account that gives clients annual distributions. KFH invests 100 percent of the sum available in the account according to Mudaraba princi-

ple where profits are calculated as per the minimum monthly balance invested. Clients can open this account at any of KFH 64 branches around Kuwait. It is noteworthy that the account is offered for clients wishing to transfer their salaries and manage their personal accounts with the ability to save and invest.

Al-Rabeh account is available for individuals in KD. It doesn't require minimum opening balance or salary transfer. Also, clients are not allowed to open more than an account.

With regards to the prizes terms and conditions, KFH gives away two Range Rover's 2016 HSE for the first two winners and a 3 KG Gold for the third winner in quarterly draws to be



راتبك يربحك

held in the months of January, April, July, and October, providing that clients should have deposited 3 salaries in the three months prior to the draw, yet their minimum monthly balance is not less than KD 50 by the end

of each month, bearing in mind that each KD 50 in the account entitles clients to one entry in the draw, thus more money in an account means more chances to win.

KFH is keen on improving its

banking products and services in line with clients' requirement in efforts to achieve customer satisfaction and cater more closely for their needs.

KFH was established in Kuwait in 1977 and is enlisted in the Kuwait Stock Exchange. KFH Group is a global pioneer in the field of Islamic banking services, where it offers a wide array of Islamic products and services, not to mention a high standard of innovation and client service.

KFH manages its operations in the GCC, Asia, and Europe through over 446 branches, including KFH-Turkey, in order to offer services for the bank's clients in Turkey, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Germany, Jordan, and Dubai.

KFH's mission is to achieve

highest levels of excellence and innovation in the field of client service, while developing common interest for all those concerned with the financial institution. KFH's vision is to spearhead the global development in Islamic financial services, and to upgrade the bank into the level of becoming the most sustainable profitable Islamic bank in the world.

KFH's values include cementing leadership through all its businesses, including leadership in the Islamic banking services worldwide, through innovation and in client service and the development of its employees. In addition, KFH is committed to all its procedures, and to setting up long-life partnerships with the concerned authorities.

KFH-TURKEY SETS UP PORTFOLIO MANAGEMENT FIRM KT PORTFOY

KFH-TURKEY TO CARRY ITS EXPERIENCE TO CAPITAL MARKETS

KUWAIT: Setting the course of the participation (Islamic) banking sector with its powerful capital, robust partnership structure, and 26-year history, Kuwait Finance House-Turkey (KFH-Turkey) will bring its customers investment products that are yet unavailable or uncommon on the Turkish investment market through its new undertaking, KT Portfoy. The first portfolio management firm ever to be established by a participation bank in Turkey, KT Portfoy will provide private portfolio management and investment consultancy services to legal and real persons besides dealing in collective investment products.

Declaring that they were going to play an active role on the Turkish capital market through KT Portfoy, KFH-Turkey Executive Vice President,

nificant contribution to the development of the Turkish capital markets in keeping with the principles of Islamic finance."

Meanwhile, KT Portfoy General Manager Tayfun Ozkan said, "We're going to both introduce new products and new investors - domestic and foreign - to the Turkish capital markets and bring new investment products to life through KT Portfoy. We want to draw the potential investors who are unable to find in Turkey products and services that comply with the principles of sharia as well as investors from the Gulf Region, with which Kuveyt Turk has intensive dealings through its subsidiaries, and from Europe to the Turkish capital markets by offering them a large variety of investment funds. We aim to contribute to the product diversity and trans-

tomers to access the investment instruments outside Turkey by means of a diversified-risk portfolio or even by means of a foreign currency investment if they wish."

Tayfun Ozkan informed that two umbrella funds had been established; one being a "participation" fund and the other a "free" fund, and that KT Portfoy had applied to the Capital Markets Board (SPK) for the approval of the establishment of five investment funds under these umbrella funds. "Our customers will soon be able to access the funds we're going to establish under the "Participation Umbrella" from the internet branches of all banks thanks to the Turkey Electronic Fund Distribution Platform (TEFAS). They will be able to invest in the funds managed in accordance with Islamic finance principles by purchasing participation shares. As for the funds we're going to establish under the "Free Umbrella," they will be available at Kuveyt Turk," he said.

Drawing attention in his speech to the fact that the ratio of the total fund magnitude in the world to GDP had shrunk back to its pre-2008-crisis level, Ozkan observed, "We see that 'values-based investing' strategies have a special place in this vast market."

Evaluating participation-based asset size on a global scale, Ozkan commented, "Although the magnitude of the assets that are compliant with the principles of participation finance managed across the world represents a very small market share such as 0.1 percent, it's estimated to have reached \$77 billion as of 2014. This figure was \$56 billion in 2013. We believe there's a huge growth potential in this market niche. According to Thomson Reuters's Global Islamic Assets Management Report 2014, while corporate investors account for 70 percent of the overall investor base on the traditional fund management market, this ratio stands at 20 percent on the interest-free asset management market. This presents an opportunity for the sector. Corporate investors such as pension companies, takaful companies, and sovereign funds are proliferating and growing rapidly."

Ozkan noted that KT Portfoy was interested in managing the funds established on the basis of participation finance principles and that they had made their first deal in this area with Katilim Emeklilik providing for one of this organization's funds to be managed by KT Portfoy as of January 2016.

Set to serve its customers in all aspects of fund management, KT Portfoy will provide individual portfolio management and investment consultancy services along with collective investment products.



Tayfun Ozkan and Dr Ahmet Albayrak

Treasury and International Banking Dr Ahmet Albayrak said, "KFH-Turkey has become the first participation bank to assume an active role in capital markets through KT Portfoy which will operate as per the principles of sharia. The establishment of KT Portfoy was a key part of the overall strategy we'd been implementing in asset management for the last couple of years as a follow-up to KFH-Turkey's stepping up its operations in the field of sukuk in Turkey. Following our cooperation with Katilim Emeklilik ve Hayat A. (Participation Pension and Life plc) for the private pension system, we set up the first Private Banking Directorate in participation banking and now we've completed the big picture in our asset management strategy with KT Portfoy. I'm confident that KT Portfoy is going to make a sig-

action depth of the Turkish capital markets this way."

Tayfun Ozkan went on to say, "In a way, this means additional resources for the companies that finance their business and investments by issuing shares or sukuk or by using similar instruments sanctioned by the principles of Islamic finance on capital markets. Besides, channeling these resources to the nation's productive sectors will help reduce the current deficit and give an extra boost to Turkey's economy."

Explaining that funds were going to be set up that would allow investing in international sharia-compliant investment instruments and that local investors could easily access these instruments at low cost, Ozkan said, "KT Portfoy is going to establish funds that will allow its cus-

S AFRICA'S AMPLATS TO CUT 1,000 JOBS AT TWICKENHAM

CAPE TOWN: South Africa's Anglo American Platinum will cut 1,000 jobs at its struggling Twickenham mine, the firm's chief executive said yesterday, but ruled out a sale of the mine.

Amplats, a unit of global mining group Anglo American, is pivoting its strategy on newer and more mechanised mines and removing unprofitable ounces following a record five-month strike in 2014 that damaged the viability of its mines.

Platinum prices have been battered by growth concerns in key consumer China and oversupply worries forcing firms to abandon projects and sell mines to cope.

"That's unfortunately one of the outcomes of putting a project like that on care and maintenance. And it's about 1,000 people affected," Chief Executive Chris Griffith told Reuters at a mining conference in Cape Town when asked about job cuts. Amplats said last year that its mechanisation drive would be implemented at Twickenham, a mine project it has been developing in South Africa as it prepares to shed labour-intensive assets.

Griffith yesterday said the company ruled out selling Twickenham project and will consider restarting the project again when the platinum market improves.

It was not immediately clear how many people work at the mine, or when the job cuts would take effect. "It's a very tough pricing environment and we have to make sure that we look at every area of costs," he said, adding that the

mine was losing money.

Amplats impaired Twickenham, which is based in the northern Limpopo province, for 3.5 billion rand (\$219 million) and has started a consultation process with unions on job cuts.

The National Union of Mineworkers, which is the majority union at the mine, said it would oppose the job cuts. "We are worried about the jobs bloodbath in the South African mining industry. Are mining companies here to create jobs or are they here to cut jobs? It looks like the

companies are here to cut jobs and focus on profits," NUM spokesman Livhewani Mamburu said.

Mining firms in Africa's most industrialised are struggling due to weakening global commodity prices for the country's platinum, gold, iron ore and coal exports.

Amplats reported an 86 percent drop in full-year profit yesterday, hit by write-downs and restructuring costs amid plunging commodity prices. — Reuters



CAPE TOWN: Mosebenzi Zwane, South African Minister of Mineral Resources, addresses the first day of the Mining Indaba 2016 Conference yesterday at the Cape Town International Convention Centre in Cape Town. —AFP



MUMBAI: An Indian woman carrying a sack of wheat walks past under construction buildings in Mumbai, India. India said its economy grew 7.3 percent in the last three months of 2015, a rate of expansion that puts the South Asian nation ahead of China's 6.8 percent growth during the same period. —AP

INDIA'S ECONOMY GROWS 7.3% IN THIRD QUARTER

NEW DELHI: India's economy expanded 7.3 percent in the third quarter of the financial year, official data showed yesterday, suggesting it remains on track as the world's fastest-growing major economy.

The year-on-year expansion in gross domestic product (GDP) for the three months to end-December represented a slowdown from the previous quarter but beat a 7.1 percent median estimate forecast by economists in a Bloomberg survey. The robust data will provide a boost for Prime Minister Narendra Modi, coming as India's rightwing leader nears two years in power amid mounting calls to enact promised reforms. India's statistics ministry yesterday also forecast the economy would grow 7.6 percent over the full year 2015-16. It sharply revised up the growth rate for the previous two quarters, including raising the figure for the July-September quarter to 7.7 percent, up from 7.4 percent reported earlier.

However, several experts questioned the data, saying it did not tally with the signals coming from many sectors of the Indian economy. "I'm absolutely surprised by this," said Kunal Kundu, India Economist at Societe Generale in Bangalore, of the upward quarterly data revision.

"The growth they are talking about becomes all the more untenable on the face of what we are seeing in the coal sector, roads, freight, exports contracting for 13 months in a row," he told AFP. Modi has made boosting economic growth a priority since sweeping to power in May 2014 and has been buoyed in recent months by a growth rate that has exceeded that of powerhouse China.

But investors have raised concerns about the pace of promised economic reforms needed to create jobs for India's tens of millions of young people.

The rupee is Asia's worst-performing

currency so far this year as global funds have pulled out of Indian stocks, according to Bloomberg. "At face value these are extremely strong figures. The bigger doubts arise when we try to align the GDP data with what we know of the economy's health from other sources," analysts at Capital Economics said in a note, following Monday's data. "We should take the official GDP data, and the rate of growth they are suggesting, with a pinch of salt," they said.

Data revision

Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party-led government will present its next budget on February 29, with the private sector clamouring for tax reforms to simplify the current regime, among other demands.

India's central bank kept interest rates on hold last week, citing the importance of controlling inflation, which has ticked up in recent months. The Reserve Bank of India said the benchmark repo rate, the level at which it lends to commercial banks, would remain at 6.75 percent.

Although it is a much smaller economy, India's current growth rate compares favourably with that of China, which expanded 6.9 percent in 2015, its slowest pace in a quarter of a century.

Yet India is still dogged by concerns over the reliability of its economic growth data a year after the government introduced a revised formula for calculating GDP which some analysts have criticised.

The government says the new method of calculating GDP is closer to international standards.

The main change is that India now measures its economic growth at market prices to incorporate "gross value addition" in goods and services as well as indirect taxes. The base year to calculate India's GDP has also been advanced to 2011-12 from 2004-05. —AFP

EMERGING MARKETS HIT BY OIL, CREDIT AND CURRENCIES

LONDON: The global economy is being hit by a slowdown in growth, large swings in exchange rates and tumbling commodity prices. These three factors are often portrayed as separate "shocks" but should really be seen as manifestations of the same maturing financial and economic cycle.

The case for a single interconnected adjustment was made by Jaime Caruana, general manager of the Bank for International Settlements (BIS) on Friday ("Credit, commodities and currencies" BIS, Feb 5). The BIS, nicknamed the central bankers' central bank, has long worried about growing indebtedness in the global economy and the links between credit conditions, borrowing and growth. But Caruana highlighted the rapid increase in indebtedness by private sector, non-financial borrowers in emerging markets. Private non-financial sector debt in emerging market economies has increased from 75 percent to 125 percent of GDP since 2009. Borrowing by non-financial companies

in emerging markets now represents a higher proportion of GDP than in advanced economies. Corporations in emerging markets have been raising their leverage even as their profitability has been falling in recent years. Much of the borrowing has been conducted in US dollars and was made possible by low interest rates in the United States and the relative weakness of the US currency.

The BIS found a "strong association between the strength of the dollar and the dollar-denominated borrowing by emerging market economy borrowers."

"A 1 percent depreciation of the US dollar is associated with a 0.6 percentage point increase in the quarterly growth rate of US dollar-denominated cross border lending outside the United States."

Until 2011, the steady depreciation of the US dollar supported emerging market corporate borrowing. The US currency has been appreciating gently since then, but remained relatively weak. —Reuters

TECHNOLOGY, ANCIENT AND MODERN, CAN HELP BUILDINGS SURVIVE QUAKE

TOKYO: Shocking images of a Taiwan apartment complex felled like a tree by a magnitude 6.4 earthquake have highlighted what is needed to build a structure that can withstand seismic shocks.

Like Taiwan, Japan is quake-prone-it suffers about a fifth of the world's most powerful tremors. It has used a mix of ancient and modern technologies to make its buildings increasingly quake-proof.

Lessons have been consistently learnt and building standards subsequently raised in the wake of deadly disasters such as the 1995 Kobe earthquake, which killed 6,434 people.

When a massive 9.0 magnitude earthquake struck off northeastern Japan on March 11, 2011, the shaking in Tokyo was violent.

But buildings-including the nearly complete 634-metre (2,080 feet) Tokyo Skytree tower and other skyscrapers-survived intact.

Here is a look at advanced technologies that Japan uses to protect its buildings: Basic steps to make a building quake-resistant: Resisting the

force of a tremor is the most conventional way to protect structures from earthquakes.

That means basically reinforcing the walls and supporting columns. One often-seen example is strengthening bridges by wrapping their support columns with steel frames.

After the March 2011 quake, many schools reinforced their buildings by adding cross-beams to window frames, another example of that extra bit of strength that can go a long way to make buildings safer.

MECHANISMS FOR PROTECTING SKYSCRAPERS

Tall buildings can be constructed to absorb shocks from an earthquake. The idea is for the building to control the tremor rather than the other way around. Oil dampers-oil-filled cylinders that work like giant shock absorbers-are a key technology employed in Tokyo skyscrapers.

When a powerful quake hits, such buildings are designed to sway like a pendulum so that the

movement effectively absorbs the shockwaves.

The high-rise Mori Tower in Tokyo's Roppongi Hills development uses the technology. During the March 2011 quake, not a single glass was broken in a 50th-floor restaurant.

FRESH IDEAS

The latest idea is to "isolate" tremors, which means separating the building from the earth by measures including embedding absorbent rubber in its foundation.

"This mechanism is often applied to mid- and low-rise buildings lacking structural flexibility, such as condominiums, rather than high-rise structures," said Kenji Sawada, executive director of the Japan Society of Seismic Isolation.

By using "seismic isolation" technologies, the scale of tremors felt in the topping structure could be greatly reduced, experts say.

But Sawada also said: "It doesn't mean reinforcing building structure (with beams and steel frames) is an outdated idea. We should examine

the structural nature of a building and apply these three types of technologies, depending on suitability."

ANCIENT KNOWLEDGE

Japan has been dealing with earthquakes for centuries and technological principles from ages past are still valid-with one used in the construction of the Tokyo Skytree.

Parts of the 7th century Horyuji Buddhist temple complex in the ancient capital of Nara, including its five-storey pagoda, are the oldest wooden structures in the world.

The pagoda's central pillar is only attached to the top storey, remaining separated from the four lower ones. This ensures the structure will be flexible when shaken by an earthquake.

"Thanks to the pillar, any distortion by an earthquake would be evenly distributed among the five storeys, therefore preventing the shock from focusing on a single point and causing a break," Sawada said. —AFP

FEDS FIND FIAT CHRYSLER GEAR SHIFTERS CAN CONFUSE DRIVERS

DETROIT: Electronic gear shifters on some newer Fiat Chrysler SUVs and cars are so confusing that drivers have exited the vehicles with the engines running and while they are still in gear, causing crashes and some serious injuries, US safety investigators have determined.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, in documents posted during the weekend, has doubled the number of vehicles involved in an investi-

gation of the problem, but it stopped short of seeking a recall. The agency found more than 100 crashes and over a dozen injuries, mostly in newer Jeep Grand Cherokees.

Agency tests found that operating the shifter "is not intuitive and provides poor tactile and visual feedback to the driver, increasing the potential for unintended gear selection," investigators wrote in the documents. —AP

COMPETING WITH CABLE'S INTERNET OFFERINGS

NEW YORK: Chet Kanojia, the founder of startup TV service Aereo, has a new offering that could shake up the cable industry again. His new Internet service, Starry, would compete with cable companies in big cities.

Across the country, only one-third of homes have a choice of broadband providers, according to government figures. Starry will use a wireless technology that has long existed, but hasn't been used extensively before. The service is expected to launch this summer, starting in Boston. Kanojia hasn't disclosed prices, though.

Kanojia's previous effort offered local TV channels over the Internet at a lower cost than cable, but broadcasters shut it down with a copyright lawsuit. Kanojia says he doesn't expect legal challenges with Starry.

In an interview with The Associated Press, Kanojia insists he's not going after the cable industry - but his service would compete directly with cable companies' residential and small-business offerings. Here's what he had to say. Responses have been edited for length and clarity.

Q: Why go up against the cable industry?

A: People have a misconception that we're going against someone. Competition is not part of bringing somebody down. It's about better products, better prices. There's a lack of competition and there's pent-up demand.

Q: Do you expect pushback from cable?

A: It's not clear to me that we are a threat to anybody. Everybody wants more options. That includes the Federal Communications Commission. Lots of other companies are doing this. In rural areas and less-dense

areas, there are things called WISPs (wireless Internet service providers). I think there's like a thousand of them, small operations, mom-and-pop stuff. Urban areas should have an option as well.

Q: Why go the wireless route?

A: It's a pretty interesting advantage compared with the wired approach, in terms of cost of construction, time to market. I don't think we would succeed if we were building out the same technology that current providers use. We think our technological approach gives us an advantage. My cost advantage is so dramatic, it's worth my while.

Q: Won't tall buildings in big cities be a problem for wireless offerings?

A: Millimeter waves (which Starry is using) have highly reflective properties. They bounce around between buildings, urban canyons and rooftops very well. You don't need a direct line of sight.

Q: Why aren't you offering video service, too, like cable companies do? Will that hurt you?

A: There is a market shift underway where people are streaming more and more. Second, you take a step back and see what other market segments are there, like small businesses that don't get TV. There are really large pockets you can service effectively and well without worrying about video packages and stuff.

Q: Where in Boston are you starting this?

A: We haven't finalized that. The initial focus is going to be in areas where there is a single provider. —AP



INDIA REGULATOR DEALS BLOW TO FACEBOOK IN INTERNET ROW

NEW DELHI/MUMBAI: India introduced rules yesterday to prevent Internet service providers from having different pricing policies for accessing different parts of the Web, in a setback to Facebook Inc's plan to roll out a pared-back free Internet service to the masses.

The new rules came after a two-month long consultation process that saw Facebook launching a big advertisement campaign in support of its Free Basics programme, which runs in more than 35 developing countries.

The programme offers pared-down Internet services on mobile phones, along with access to the company's own social network and messaging services, without charge.

The service, earlier known as internet.org, has also run into trouble in other countries that have accused Facebook of infringing the principle of net neutrality -

the concept that all websites and data on the Internet are treated equally.

Critics and Internet activists argue that allowing access to a select few apps and Web services for free would put small content providers and start-ups that don't participate at a disadvantage.

"While disappointed with the outcome, we will continue our efforts to eliminate barriers and give the unconnected an easier path to the Internet and the opportunities it brings," Facebook said in an emailed statement.

Yesterday, the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), which had suspended the free Facebook service pending a policy decision, said Internet service providers would not be allowed to discriminate on pricing for different Web services.

"Essentially everything on the Internet is agnostic in the sense that it cannot be priced differently," TRAI chairman Ram

Sevak Sharma said at a news conference.

Although the new rules will also have implications for plans by Indian telecom operators to make money from rapidly surging Web traffic through differential pricing, Facebook's campaign turned the spotlight on the social networking giant.

Free Basics is part Facebook's ambition to expand in its largest market outside the United States. Only 252 million out of India's 1.3 billion people have Internet access.

"We are delighted by the regulator's recognition of the irreversible damage that stands to be done to the open Internet by allowing differential pricing," said Mishi Choudhary, a New York-based lawyer who led an online campaign against Facebook.

Facebook shares were down 2.7 percent at \$101.30 in early trading on the Nasdaq amid broad weakness in US markets. —Reuters

MAKING SURE FACEBOOK WORKS AT THE SUPER BOWL

NEW YORK: It's the pain of crowds: Texts, photos and video streams take forever or just can't get through. You might have run into this at a concert where everyone's trying to post selfies with the headliners at once, or at

big conferences and sporting events. Fans at Super Bowl in Santa Clara, California, might see a similar cellular jam. Here's why it happens and what phone companies are doing about it:

WHY DOESN'T MY PHONE WORK IN A CROWD?

Lots of phones are competing for the attention of a cellular network's antennas. Networks are further strained because these are

times when people are apt to use data-heavy applications such as photo and video sharing.

You might see bars on your phone showing there's a signal available, yet nothing's getting through. That happens because the phone's failing to get "associated" to the network, says Don Bowman of Sandvine, which sells networking equipment.

"Your phone knows it's there but doesn't know how to use it," he says. "You'll have the bars but it won't seem to connect." One clue: The "LTE" letters fail to show up next to the bars.

WHAT CAN CELLPHONE COMPANIES DO?

Phones have gotten better at sending requests to the network, and networks have gotten better at managing traffic. But then again, smartphone use continues to grow, so jams are difficult to avoid.

Phone companies can mitigate congestion when they know of a big event ahead of time.

The phone companies have a mix of strategies, but collectively they have added or upgraded antennas in the stadium and cell towers nearby and installed "small cells" to improve capacity in the stadium. Small cells typically look like boxes, says Monica Paolini, the president of wireless advisory firm Senza Fili Consulting, and, yes, are smaller than the cells you'd find on rooftops and cell towers. These small cells have a smaller range

than regular cell towers, but they can supplement those towers to boost capacity in dense areas.

Many of these improvements are permanent, so coverage should improve even after the game.

Verizon, AT&T, Sprint and T-Mobile are also bringing in temporary cell sites, called "Cell on Wheels," or cows, to cover Santa Clara, where the stadium is, and events in San Francisco.

WI-FI HELPS, TOO

Newer sports venues are more likely to have Wi-Fi, which relieves stress on the cellphone network. Levi's Stadium, where the Super Bowl is taking place, got Wi-Fi when it opened in 2014. It's free for visitors.

Historically, Wi-Fi equipment has been installed high up in ceilings or walls. At Levi's, routers are sprinkled underneath seats throughout the stadium to improve Wi-Fi performance. That helps prevent obstructions from steel and other construction materials and gets people physically closer to the routers.

Comcast Business provides the stadium's Wi-Fi network connectivity and has brought in temporary Wi-Fi systems at events elsewhere, such as golf tournaments.

WHY DOES THE SUPER BOWL REQUIRE MORE INVESTMENT AND EQUIPMENT?

People are expected to use more data than the 6.4 terabytes at last year's Super Bowl. Last year's

number alone is more than double what's typical for a San Francisco 49ers football game at Levi's. A million visitors are expected in the San Francisco Bay Area, which Gartner analyst Bill Menezes says has traditionally been a hard area for cell companies to cover because of its hills.

YOUR PHONE ISN'T WORKING. WHAT SHOULD YOU DO?

"You hate to think of this, being the old-fashioned way," says Menezes - but holding your phone high in the air and walking around could help you find a signal. And texts will get through more readily than a phone call.

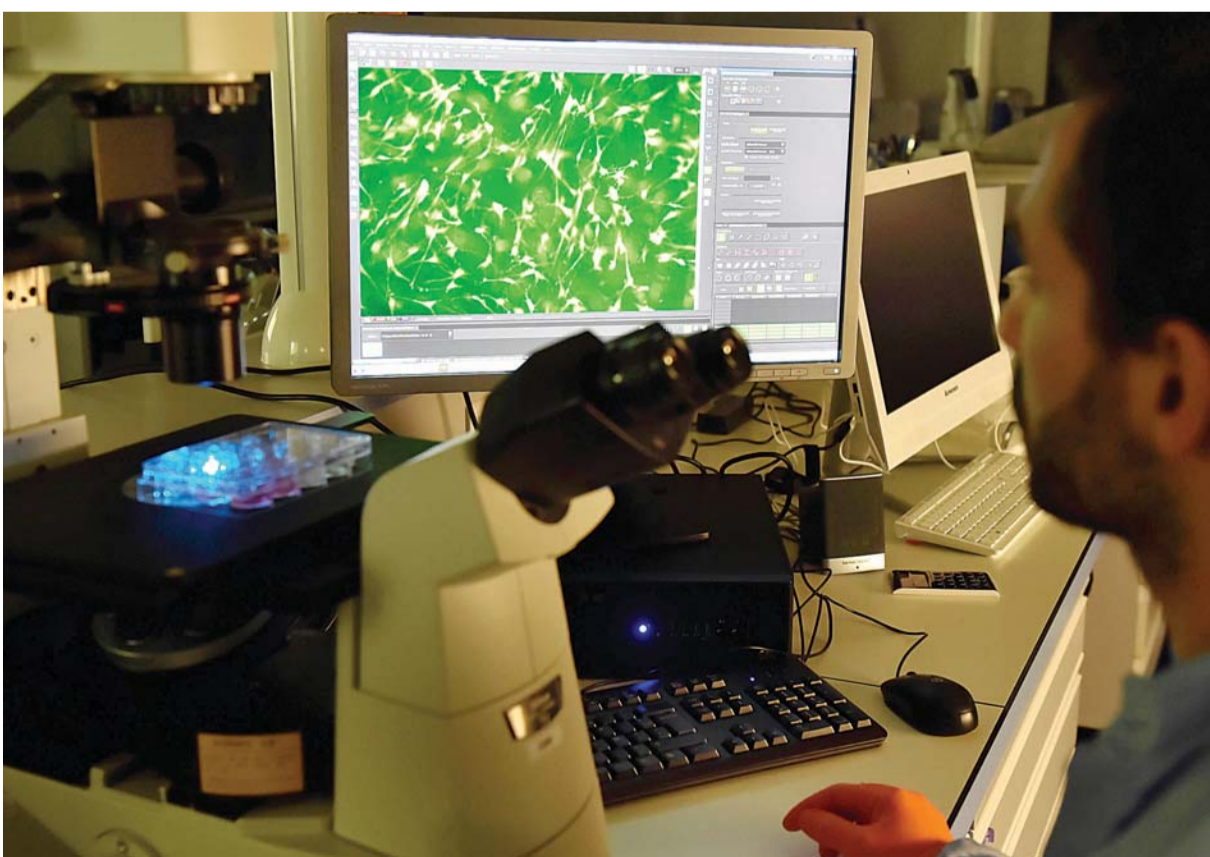
Menezes also recommends using apps put out by signal-testing companies like RootMetrics and OpenSignal. They can show you where connectivity has been working better recently.

Paolini recommends going outside if you're indoors, trying to find a Wi-Fi hotspot and holding off on sending photos and video.

BACK TO THE SUPER BOWL - WILL CELLPHONES WORK NORMALLY?

That's the goal. But there are unknowns. For instance, mass use of newer live video-streaming apps like Twitter's Periscope could clog the networks.

"If everybody was in Periscope at one time, at the exact same time, yeah things wouldn't move as quickly," said John Guillaume, a vice president with Comcast Business. —AP



PESSAC: A laboratory engineer controls the quality during the printing of cells under a microscope at the laboratory of biotechnology company Poietis in Pessac, southwestern France on January 22, 2016. In the southwestern French city of Pessac, near Bordeaux, the young company Poietis has developed a promising technology that reproduces skin: Creating human tissue by using 3D laser printing. —AFP

LIMITED LEGAL OPTIONS FOR WORKERS SENT IN ZIKA'S WAY

NEW YORK: Employees of US companies seeking to avoid exposure to the Zika virus likely have few legal avenues to either refuse travel to affected areas or sue if they actually become sick from the virus. But it may be a different story if such workers subsequently give birth to Zika-infected babies. Since Zika was detected in Brazil last year, the mosquito-borne virus has spread to 33 countries, most of them in the Americas. The World Health Organization declared an international health emergency because of strong suspicions that infections in pregnant women may cause microcephaly, a condition in which infants are born with abnormally small heads and can suffer developmental problems.

While the virus had typically caused mild symptoms in adults, it also has been linked to an autoimmune disorder called Guillain-Barre syndrome that can cause paralysis. US and world health authorities are not currently warning against all travel to affected areas, as they did with the 2014 Ebola outbreak in West Africa. They are, however, advising pregnant women to consider postponing travel, and all travelers to take precautions to avoid mosquito bites.

Adherence to the recommendations of the US Department of State or the World Health Organization would shield companies to a large degree from claims they acted recklessly in sending employees into Zika-affected areas, lawyers who typically represent employers say. The US

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) further recommends that travelers wear insect repellent and sleep with mosquito nets in places where they might be bitten, among other measures. "Your defense to any sort of claim is that you follow the public health



SAN SALVADOR: The *Aedes Aegypti* mosquito larvae are photographed at a laboratory of the Ministry of Health of El Salvador on Sunday. — AFP

guidance," said Mark Lies, a lawyer with the firm Seyfarth Shaw, which specializes in advising companies on employment issues.

Such advisories also mean workers probably would not be protected from termination if they refuse to go to an affected area, lawyers said. While the federal Occupational Safety and Health Act

gives workers the right to refuse dangerous tasks, those tasks must pose an immediate risk of death or serious injury. Something like working with a "defective tool that has electrical sparks coming out of it" would meet that standard, said Ben Huggett of Littler, another employment

law firm. Traveling to a Zika-affected area, on the other hand, would probably not, he said. Lies said upgraded warnings in the event Zika proves more lethal or virulent could give workers more of a right to refuse travel. But he said OSHA affords no special protection for pregnant women under current threat levels. The law gov-

erns only the safety of employees, not any unborn children they may be carrying. If employees contract Zika while traveling on the job, any immediate harm they suffer would be covered by worker's compensation insurance, a form of no-fault insurance that applies to injuries suffered on the job. Virtually all states require employers to obtain worker's compensation insurance and mandate that it be the sole remedy for workplace injuries. Worker's compensation covers lost wages and medical care but awards are typically smaller than private lawsuits, which can seek to recover damages for pain and suffering, as well as punitive damages for negligence. Whether worker's compensation would cover any purported Zika-related injuries in an employee's baby is less clear. Huggett said that a fetal injury might be covered as being derivative of the mother's injury. Huggett said he was unaware of any case that directly addressed worker's compensation for a fetus harmed by an infectious disease. "It's really an open question," he said.

Lies said he did not believe worker's compensation would generally cover injury to a fetus but thought it could open the door for an employee to bring a lawsuit against her employer for negligence. "If someone is pregnant, or trying to get pregnant, or could get pregnant, you could have a case," said Katherine Dudley Helms, a lawyer with

employment law firm Ogletree Deakins. Many states limit worker's compensation to several years' pay, while a damage award for a severely impaired child could reach tens of millions of dollars, according to Michael Jones, an employment lawyer with Reed Smith.

Michael Gerson of California firm Boxer & Gerson, who brings claims on behalf of employees, said such a case would still be a challenge if the company followed official warnings. The evidence would have to show "that the mother was never given adequate warning to protect herself as she was going into this type of environment," he said. But Jones said such cases would be tough for the employer too. "I would be concerned if I sent an employee to a high risk region," he said. "If that claim gets in front of a jury, you're going to be looking at a very sympathetic plaintiff."

Reuters reported last week that several international airlines are allowing flight crew members who are or may become pregnant to request reassignment to routes that avoid Zika-affected areas. A spokeswoman for one of the airlines, American, declined to comment on possible legal liability requiring such travel could have created, saying the company's policy was motivated by concern for employees' well-being. United and Delta, which have also offered to reassign their employees, could not immediately be reached. — Reuters

UTAH LEGISLATORS BACK PLAN TO DECLARE PORN A HEALTH CRISIS

SALT LAKE CITY: A state senator in Utah wants to declare pornography a public health crisis, echoing an argument being made around the US by conservative religious groups as porn becomes more accessible on smartphones and tablets. Republican Sen Todd Weiler, a Mormon, contends children are being exposed at young ages to pornography, leading them to engage in riskier sexual behavior. He has said recent research from the United Kingdom found that people who compulsively view porn showed similar brain activity as seen in drug addicts.

Weiler's proposal wouldn't regulate or ban anything, but it has attracted attention, including being debated on talk show "The View." He said he's been "mocked internationally" but feels it's triggered an important conversation. "It's not just a kooky thing that some, you know, politician from Mormon Utah came up with," Weiler said. "When I was a kid, people might sneak a Playboy magazine and look at it. Now, you've got all kinds of horrible, graphic images that are available to anyone with an Internet connection one or two clicks away." Four Republicans and one Democrat on a Utah Senate health committee agreed with Weiler and endorsed the resolution Friday afternoon in Salt Lake City after an hour-long meeting where they heard from anti-pornography activists, a marriage therapist and residents who said they or loved ones struggled with

pornography addictions. "We are on fire with this problem," said Sen Kevin Van Tassel. "It is becoming a terrible scourge in our society today."

Defenders of pornography say critics are spouting hyperbole. There seems to be a consensus that kids have more access to porn than in the past because many have smartphones. But there's not much research to show the effects. More than half of Utah's 3 million residents belong to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, among religions in recent years that have worked to shed light on what they consider the harms of pornography. Here, the cultural aversion to scantily dressed women is evident. Magazines or TV commercials featuring women wearing low-cut shirts or bikinis are considered by some to be soft pornography, and lingerie catalogs have been called "gateway porn."

Weiler said the Washington-based National Center on Sexual Exploitation wrote the resolution and asked him to run it. He said he hopes other states will follow and encourage the federal government to take steps to do something, such as requiring Internet providers to make pornography only accessible if subscribers opt-in. Republican Gov Gary Herbert supports Weiler's resolution. This week he suggested it may be worth developing a 12-step program for porn addicts.

But John Stagliano, owner of a California-based porn video company called Evil Angel Productions, said pornography offers a healthy outlet for sexual desires. Stagliano suggests that without that option, people would try to satisfy their needs outside the home and sex crimes would increase. Dr Carl Shubs, a psychologist in Beverly Hills, California who specializes in issues of sexuality, said calling pornography a public health crisis is "way off on so many levels."

Shubs said anything can be addictive, but that many people find pornography enjoyable and use it in a healthy way. Some couples watch it to enhance their relationships, and some without partners view pornography to fill a void, he said. Children viewing pornography is a parenting issue, Shubs said. What people consider pornography varies. "One person's pornography may be another person's eroticism," Shubs said. "One person's art may be another person's pornography." — AP



SALT LAKE CITY: In this March 5, 2015 file photo, Todd Weiler, a Republican senator from Woods Cross, speaks during a committee hearing. — AP

POT FANS, FOES FUME IN DC

WASHINGTON: Almost a year has passed since it became legal to smoke, but not sell, marijuana in Washington, DC, and pot enthusiasts and opponents alike are chafing under a compromise that leaves smokers in a haze over how to obtain their weed. Sales of equipment to grow the plants indoors are booming, bartenders are getting joints as tips and the city council is deliberating whether to license cannabis clubs. Both smokers and police complain that the city's ban on sales, imposed by congressional conservatives, are leaving residents to bump up against legal limits around the drug.

"It is kind of the Alice in Wonderland of cannabis legalization. It's like there's all these rules and regulations that no one follows," said Alex Jeffrey, executive director of DC NORML, a marijuana reform advocacy group. Possession and transfer of small amounts of marijuana became legal in the city of 660,000 people on Feb 26, 2015, following overwhelming approval in a 2014 referendum. The states of Colorado, Washington, Oregon and Alaska have also made pot lawful for recreational use through referendums, although it remains illegal under federal law.

Those states have cleared the way for

sales of pot, creating a bustling trade in smokable and edible versions of the drug. Campaigns are under way in a half-dozen other US states, including California and Massachusetts, to place legalization initiatives on ballots this November. Last year Washington Mayor Muriel Bowser and other city leaders limited pot to home cultivation and consumption when Congress, which has oversight over the heavily Democratic city, blocked sales through a rider, or add-on, to a spending bill.

Before legalization, city finance officials estimated the District marijuana market at \$130 million a year. "This limbo that we're in because of the congressional rider is untenable," said District Councilmember Brianna Nadeau. "It's a big problem." Nadeau and other lawmakers voted unanimously this month to study whether to license private pot clubs. Proponents say the clubs would provide a place to smoke for people living in federal public housing or who do not want to smoke in front of their children.

The Washington law has meant a "green rush" of cultivation in basements, bedrooms and closets. The 2015 District of Columbia State Fair even started a "Best Bud" marijuana category. — Reuters



RIO DE JANEIRO: Workers hold a flag that reads in Portuguese "Out Zika" as part of a campaign to warn people about the spread of the Zika virus during carnival celebrations at the Sambadrome on Monday. — AP

US ATHLETES SHOULD NOT BE AT OLYMPICS IF FEAR ZIKA

NEW YORK: The United States Olympic Committee told US sports federations that athletes and staff concerned for their health over the Zika virus should consider not going to the Rio 2016 Olympic Games in August. The message was delivered in a conference call involving USOC officials and leaders of US sport federations in late January, according to two people who participated in the call. Federations were told that no one should go to Brazil "if they don't feel comfortable going. Bottom line," said Donald Anthony, president and board chairman of USA Fencing.

The USOC's briefing to sport federations is the latest sign that Olympics officials are taking the Zika threat to the games in Rio de Janeiro seriously, and acknowledging that at least some athletes and support staff could face a tough decision over whether to attend. The United States won most medals at the last Olympics in London in 2012, so any disruption to its presence would be important for the Rio games.

Global health authorities suspect the mosquito-borne Zika virus has caused a spike in Brazil of microcephaly, a birth defect marked by an abnormally small head. As a result, the World Health Organization declared an international health emergency Feb. 1, and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is advising pregnant women or those considering becoming pregnant to avoid travel to places with Zika outbreaks.

The USOC's Alan Ashley, its chief of sport performance, and other USOC officials, briefed the leaders of the federations. Ashley did not respond to email or phone calls requesting comment. USOC spokesman Mark Jones confirmed by email that Ashley had "briefed federation leaders on the CDC's recommendations and we will continue to ensure that athletes and officials affiliated with Team USA receive any updates from the CDC." The USOC has not issued its own set of recommendations for athletes and staff beyond what the CDC and WHO have issued. Jones declined to comment further.

Expressed Optimism

Recalling the conference call, Anthony, a former Olympian, said: "One of the things that they immediately said was, especially for women that may be pregnant or even thinking of getting pregnant, that whether you are scheduled to go to Rio or no, that you shouldn't go." "And no one should go if they feel at all as though that that threat could impact them," said Anthony, who praised the USOC's handling of the outbreak so far. Zika outbreaks have been reported in 33 countries, most of them in the Americas. Symptoms of infection often are mild or imperceptible. But the outbreak in Brazil that began last year has been accompanied by more than 4,000 cases of suspected microcephaly; investigators have confirmed more than 400. The link to Zika is unproven but strongly suspected. In El Salvador, which is experiencing outbreaks of the virus,

women are being advised to put off pregnancy until 2018. Will Connell, Director of Sport at the US Equestrian Federation, said the USOC was leaving the decision up to individual athletes and staff members. "They said no one who has reasons to be concerned should feel obliged to go," Connell said. "If an athlete feels that way, of course they may decide not to go." During the call, the USOC did not indicate they were concerned that large numbers of athletes would avoid Rio or that Zika could derail the Games, the two federation leaders said.

Instead, officials expressed optimism that risk would be minimized by close cooperation among health agencies, mosquito control efforts and the Games' timing during Brazil's winter when mosquito-borne illnesses are less common. The USOC officials on the call said the organization would adhere to the recommendations of health agencies including the CDC, the sport federation leaders said. "As we get closer to the Olympics the guidance could get updated," Connell said.

In a Jan 29 letter from the International Olympic Committee (IOC) to national committees, the IOC's chief doctors said they were monitoring the situation closely. They passed along mosquito avoidance advice, but remained confident the games would go ahead as planned. Both Connell and US Fencing's Anthony said the USOC's message was focused primarily on the potential risks for women

who are pregnant or are thinking about trying to become pregnant.

Since the call, the CDC has issued more guidance in light of increasing suspicion that Zika can be transmitted sexually. The CDC said Friday that men who reside in or have traveled to Zika-affected areas may want to abstain from sexual activity or use condoms. The Olympics have long promised to be a triumphant showcase for Latin America, which is playing host to the global sports spectacle for the first time. Rio has also been expecting more than 380,000 tourists for the Games, which come as Brazil's economy is mired in recession and its government reels from a corruption scandal at state oil company Petrobras.

An ongoing Zika epidemic could prompt some athletes, staff, sponsors and high-spending tourists to steer clear of the Games. Even if the risk of infection to any given visitor is very low - as health experts expect - uncertainties persist. There is no Zika vaccine, and currently available blood tests cannot always detect the virus. Olympics officials "are taking the right approach from a standpoint of, let's be cautious, do not do anything that is going to put anybody, our staff or our athletes in danger," Anthony said. Anthony said no US fencers had spoken to him about Zika. "I think our athletes are aware," he said. "But it has not become a mission critical issue yet. Not yet." — Reuters

OBAMA TO ASK CONGRESS FOR \$1.8BN TO TACKLE ZIKA CRISIS

WASHINGTON: US President Barack Obama will ask Congress for more than \$1.8 billion in emergency funding to tackle the fast-spreading Zika virus both at home and abroad, the White House said yesterday. The administration will submit the request "shortly," the White House said in a statement that did not specify a timeframe. "The requested resources will build on our ongoing preparedness efforts and will support essential strategies to combat this virus," the White House said in a statement.

Zika has been linked to a surge in Latin America of births of children with microcephaly, or abnormally small heads and brains. The World Health Organization has declared the growing outbreak a global medical emergency. The hardest hit country is Brazil, which hosts the Summer Olympics starting in August. Some countries are taking the extraordinary step of urging women to put off

having children for now, as it is believed the virus is passed on from infected pregnant women to their fetuses. The continental United States has yet to see cases of transmission of the virus, which is carried by a mosquito. But Puerto Rico and other US territories in warmer areas with that kind of mosquito are looking for evidence of transmission, the US statement said. And some Americans have returned to the continental US from affected countries in Latin America and the Pacific with Zika infection. US authorities report 50 laboratory-confirmed cases among US travelers from December of last year to Feb 5. "As spring and summer approach, bringing with them larger and more active mosquito populations, we must be fully prepared to mitigate and quickly address local transmission within the continental US, particularly in the southern United States," the statement said. — AFP



Barack Obama



MONROVIA: In this March 11, 2015 file photo, relatives weep as they bury a loved one suspected of dying from the Ebola virus at a new graveyard on the outskirts of the Liberian capital. — AP

EBOLA WIDOWS LEARN TO BECOME BREADWINNERS

MONTERRADO, Liberia: Huddled together in the bedroom of their mud-brick home in rural Liberia, Marthaline Sweet's children stare at her hungrily as she picks up her one-month-old baby. Sweet, an Ebola survivor and mother of five, chokes back tears as she recalls contemplating an abortion after the virus killed her husband - leaving her alone to fend for their children. "We don't have a good home, we have no food and we must beg other people for help," Sweet said, gazing at the railroad that runs past her village in Liberia's central Grand Bassa County. "We are really suffering - we are slowly dying," said the 39-year-old, gently rocking her baby girl back and forth.

Sweet is one of thousands of women in Liberia mourning the loss of their loved ones to the world's worst Ebola outbreak, which has infected 28,000 people and killed 11,300 in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone since Dec 2013. Liberia, the hardest-hit nation with 4,800 deaths, was declared Ebola-free for a third time last month. As the West African country begins to recover from the crisis, many women like Sweet are struggling to face a future without their husbands or fathers - the main breadwinners in their families.

About half of Liberia's 6,000 Ebola survivors are women. Besides financial hardships, many must also endure rejection from their friends, families and communities. Survivor and social worker Vivian Kekula dropped out of university and stopped going to work because her peers and colleagues refused to talk to her after she caught the virus. "People stopped drawing water from our well, and didn't let their children come near me or my house," Kekula said.

Farmers to Entrepreneurs

Recognizing the need to rebuild the Ebola-stricken lives of women across Liberia, a host of non-governmental groups have launched programs to provide vocational training and grants. "It is not sufficient to only supply Ebola survivors with food and aid," said Abel Thomas of the Forum for African Women Educationalists (FAWE). "We want these women to have skills that they can survive on for the rest of their lives."

Women in Liberia tend to work in agriculture, and have traditionally been expected to collect crops and care for animals,

said Jafar Eqbal from the Liberian office of BRAC, the world's largest non-governmental development organization. Yet more and more women have branched out in the wake of the Ebola epidemic to take on other activities - from rearing animals to selling livestock at markets, he said. "We are getting an increasing number of success stories ... many women have transformed from farmers to entrepreneurs."

Other groups like FAWE are training women who survived or were widowed by Ebola in skills like pastry and soap-making. "Before I had nothing, but now I make soap and sell it at the market," said Ebola survivor Fatu Knuckles, 32, who lost nine relatives to the virus, including her father and brothers.

Sexual Violence

In addition to stigma, abuse and loss of income, the threat of violence and rape also hangs over women in Liberia, a country with one of the world's highest rates of sexual violence, women's rights advocates say. Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf last month said the nation must enact laws to protect women and girls from violence. "Regrettably, the inhumanity of rape is still being perpetrated ... this wickedness must be brought to an end," Sirleaf said in her annual state of the nation address.

Rape is the most frequently reported crime in Liberia, and one in four women and girls have been raped by a stranger, according to a 2013 study by the Overseas Development Institute think-tank. There was a rise in rape, early marriages and teenage pregnancies at the height of the Ebola outbreak, and women and girls - especially widows and orphans - are now even more vulnerable to gender-based violence than before, activists say. "Prevention and response services have been affected and poverty is increasing sexual violence, exploitation and abuse," said Catherine Klirodokou from Womankind Worldwide. Pacing around her home's makeshift kitchen, the cawing and chirping of birds audible through the smoke-stained tarpaulin roof, Sweet is forlorn as she talks about her family's future. "We are not receiving the kind of help people say we are getting from the government or local and international NGOs," she said, tightly gripping the shoulders of nine-year-old Mercy. "All we can do is try our best to survive." — Reuters

INDIAN HOSPITALS OFFERING INTENSIVE CARE FROM AFAR

INDIA HAS 7 DOCTORS FOR EVERY 10,000 PEOPLE

NEW DELHI: A doctor at a hospital in India's capital, New Delhi, was recently tracking a wall of monitors displaying the vital signs of intensive care patients admitted hundreds of miles away when red-and-yellow alerts rang out. The oxygen flow to a 67-year-old patient had stopped when no critical care doctors were present in a hospital in the northern city of Amritsar. But the doctor in the New Delhi centre run by Fortis Healthcare quickly issued a set of instructions and stopped the patient from suffering brain damage or death, the Indian hospital chain said in an account of the episode.

India's top private hospitals, seizing on a shortage of critical-care doctors, are expanding into the remote management of intensive care units around the country and, starting this month, in neighboring Bangladesh too. India has seven doctors for every 10,000 people, half the global average, according to the World Health Organization. Data from the Indian Medical Association shows the country needs more than 50,000 critical care specialists, but has just 8,350.

Such a shortage of doctors means small facilities in India's \$55 billion private hospital market are ill equipped to provide critical care even as numbers seeking private healthcare rise because the public health system is in even worse shape.

India's largest healthcare chain, Apollo Hospitals Enterprise, and Fortis will this year expand their network of electronic intensive care units (eICUs), scaling up operations thanks to advances in communications technology. "We want to leverage (doctors) using technology," said K Hari Prasad, head of hospitals business at Apollo that employs more than 700 critical care doctors.

Apollo, which monitors 200 patients in six states from its only eICU in Hyderabad city, will open three new centres to track 1,000 more patients. Prasad said he is also in talks to extend the service to government hospitals. Fortis will start remote monitoring of intensive care patients in the Bangladeshi city of Khulna this week, its first such cross-border operation. The hospital chain tracks 350 patients from its New Delhi centre but will start two more eICUs by mid-2017.

Jayant Singh, director of healthcare at Frost & Sullivan India, a consultancy, estimates that eICUs are boosting industry revenues by \$220 million a year by giving smaller hospitals the ability to treat critical patients at the hands of top flight intensive-care specialists, even if they are in another city. India's eICU beds will expand by 15-20 percent each year from about 3,000 now, Singh said.

Saving Lives

With multiple computer screens inside these high-tech eICUs, doctors suggest treatment procedures after assessing medical history and real-time heart rate charts of patients fighting for their lives in distant facilities. Doctors recently saved a 30-year-old pregnant woman in a hospital in the southern city of Warangal after her heart stopped beating, assisting a resident doctor not specialized in intensive care to carry out chest compressions through a video link. "We save about 25 lives a month," said Shamit Gupta, medical director at Fortis' eICU unit.

Hospitals charge between \$10 and \$30 a day to virtually monitor a patient from their eICU, with revenues shared between hospitals and companies such as General Electric and Philips that have developed the tracking software. That comes on top of standard critical care costs of about \$200 a day in a small city hospital. At that price, eICUs do little to address concerns of millions of India's poor patients who often share beds or wait for days to gain admission to a public hospital. "This technology basically is not bridging the gap between the poor and the rich, but increasing access to specialized healthcare for those who can afford it," Frost & Sullivan's Singh said. —Reuters

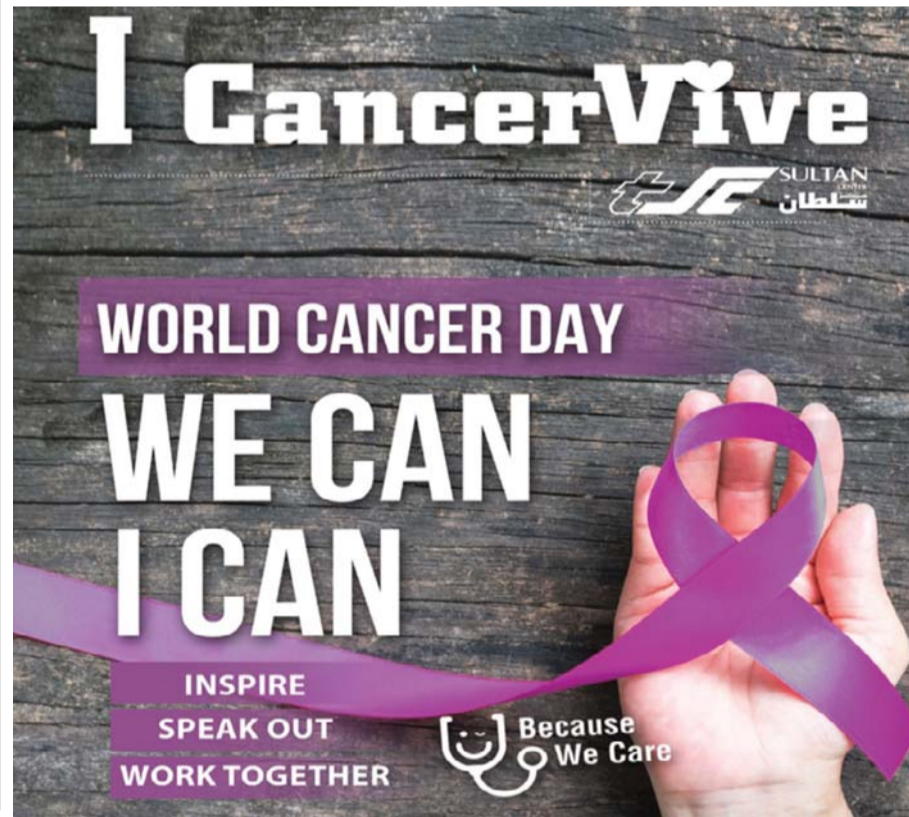
TSC SUPPORTS WORLD CANCER DAY WITH 'I CANCERVIVE' CAMPAIGN

KUWAIT: TSC supported World Cancer Day by partnering with Cancer Awareness Nation (CAN), the media arm of the Commission on Tumors at the Kuwait Society for Anti-Smoking and Cancer, to launch the campaign "I CancerVive". The campaign kicked off on Feb 1.

Lisa Al Ghareeb, TSC's Marketing Manager, stated, "As part of TSC's Because We Care initiative, and in support of the World Cancer Day awareness campaign, TSC is hosting activities and highlighting products across its stores to promote healthy living. Moreover, the I CancerVive initiative mainly aims to raise awareness on creating a healthy environment through

lifestyle choices and by working together to get regular screenings and checkups.

"During this month TSC has created an online catalogue featuring a range of products and information on health topics while launching a social media contest to rally people to speak out, take control and make changes that promote a healthy living. On this occasion, TSC is partnering with CAN in support of a walkathon, and is hosting staff and community seminars during the month of February." Taking good care of one's self through proper dietary choices, regular exercise and a general positive attitude in life goes a long way toward achieving well-being and good health.



TOP DOG: SCIENTISTS MEASURE CANINE IQ

LONDON: Dog owners who think their beloved pets are just smarter than the others might be right, according to a report published in Britain yesterday based on intelligence tests on 68 border collies. Researchers from the London School of Economics (LSE) and University of Edinburgh said they used a "purpose-built barn" to measure navigation ability, speed and skills in following a pointed arm. One of the tests involved the dogs, who were all from farms in Wales, finding their way to a food reward they could see but was behind a barrier.

Another involved offering two plates of food and measuring how quickly the dogs would go to the one with the bigger portion. They said that because "confounding" factors such as drinking, smoking and different socio-economic backgrounds did not apply, it was easier to measure differences in intelligence and links between longevity and intelligence than with humans.

Dogs also develop dementia in similar ways to their human masters, the researchers said in a research paper published in Intelligence, meaning that the findings could be comparable to human beings. "Even within one breed of dog... there is a variability in test scores. A dog that is fast and accurate at one task has a propensity to be fast and accurate at another," the researchers said. This type of research "will provide crucial information on the relationship between intelligence and health, ageing and mortality," they added.

Rosalind Arden, a research associate at the LSE, said the research was "the first step in trying to develop a really snappy, reliable dog IQ test." Mark Adams, research fellow at the University of Edinburgh, said the research could be the foundation of a "dognitive epidemiology". "Dogs are excellent for this kind of work because they are willing to participate and seem to enjoy taking part," he said. —AFP

CLINIC PAGE



Kuwait Times
248 33 199





Dr. Fahad Al-Mukhaizeem
فهد علي المخيزيم

Consultant Pediatrician استشاري أطفال
M.B. Bch. FRCPC. FAAP. PEM



Al-Jabriya - Block 1A - St. 1 - Mazaya Building - 15th Floor - Clinic B - Tel.: 22269369 - Fax: 22269368



(From left) Rennie Fritschy, Chancellor and Chairman of CQU, Warren Hauck, Australian Ambassador to Kuwait and Abdullah Al-Sharhan, ACK's Chairman at the ceremony.



Abdullah Al-Sharhan, ACK's Chairman honors student Mariam Al-Omar.

ACK EXPANDING ITS STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP WITH CQU AUSTRALIA

A delegation from Central Queensland University (CQU) visited the Australian College of Kuwait (ACK) for the official opening of the "CQU International Office". Abdullah Al-Sharhan, ACK's Chairman, Rennie Fritschy, Chancellor and Chairman of CQU and Warren Hauck, Australian Ambassador to the State of Kuwait were present at the opening which signals another significant step in the strategic partnership between the two educational institutions.

As a result of the new partnership agreement, CQU will endorse all programs of study at Diploma and Degree levels in Engineering and Business delivered by ACK. Commenting on this initiative, ACK Dean, Dr Gad Elbeheri noted that previously there were separate partnership arrangements with a number of

international partners. By consolidating agreements with one major international partner, Dean Elbeheri explained that students will benefit from a more seamless flow of learning between their diploma and degree studies.

In addition, Dean Elbeheri highlighted that through the CQU International Office ACK students will gain access to valuable information regarding CQU, as well as learning more about the opportunity for ACK Bachelor's Degree graduates to continue into a Master's Degree program at CQU in Australia. Dean Elbeheri also announced that ACK will be sending its first "Master's Scholarship" recipient, Maryam Omar (Bachelor's Degree Engineering graduate), to begin her post-graduate studies at CQU in Australia in July 2016.

Students' exchange

Another key element of this strategic agreement is the exchange of faculty and students between ACK and CQU. For ACK's students, this will enable them to benefit from life experiences and learning more about the culture while in Australia; students from CQU would have the opportunity of spending a semester in Kuwait. ACK academic staff will also have the opportunity to spend time at CQU in Australia, strengthening close ties between the two institutions. Dean Elbeheri added that the strategic agreement also includes the establishment of a Joint Research Committee as well as reciprocal adjunct faculty status for ACK and CQU academics. He noted that this will enable ACK faculty to share and collaborate on research projects with their CQU counterparts.

Commenting on the partnership, Rennie Fritschy, Chancellor and Chairman of CQU said: "It is a very important day for both institutions. A memorandum of understanding has been signed and the future relationship is secured and expanding. Through having a CQU representative office here at ACK, benefits include more effective communication, as well as exploring collaborations in research which will be a very important development for both universities."

Training and research

Professor Scott Bowman, Vice-Chancellor and President of CQU, commented: "It is really fantastic to open a CQU office here. It will definitely add to the professional relationship between ACK and CQU, developing a close

relationship between the people at our university and ACK. That's what makes it so special. We are looking forward to working with ACK not only in training and education but also in research. We have lots of interesting plans which will grow to be significant for our relationship."

In conclusion, Warren Hauck, the Australian Ambassador to the State of Kuwait, stated: "I am very pleased to be at the opening of the CQU International Office here at ACK. We've put in a lot of effort to increase educational linkages between Australia and Kuwait. We had our Minister for International Education in Kuwait last week discussing potential projects and it is so great that right after that we have a concrete step to bring Australia and Kuwait closer together."



MARRIOTT HOTELS IN KUWAIT LAUNCH #MARRIOTTCelebratesQ8 COMPETITION TO CELEBRATE KUWAIT'S NATIONAL AND LIBERATION DAYS

Kuwait will soon be celebrating the 55th anniversary of the National Day, the 25th anniversary of Liberation Day and the 10th anniversary of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's ascension to the throne.

To celebrate this special occasion, Marriott Hotels in Kuwait will launch a social media competition on Facebook and Instagram called #MarriottCelebratesQ8.

To participate in the competition, all you need to do is take a photo with friends or family members that best reflect your love for Kuwait, near any landmark, attired in national dress or holding the Kuwaiti flag, upload it to Facebook or Instagram using the hashtag #MarriottCelebratesQ8, tag @CourtyardKuwait and @JWMarriottKuwait, and you could win a wide range of valuable prizes, including free nights at Courtyard by Marriott Kuwait City or Free lunch or dinner vouchers at JW Marriott Kuwait City.

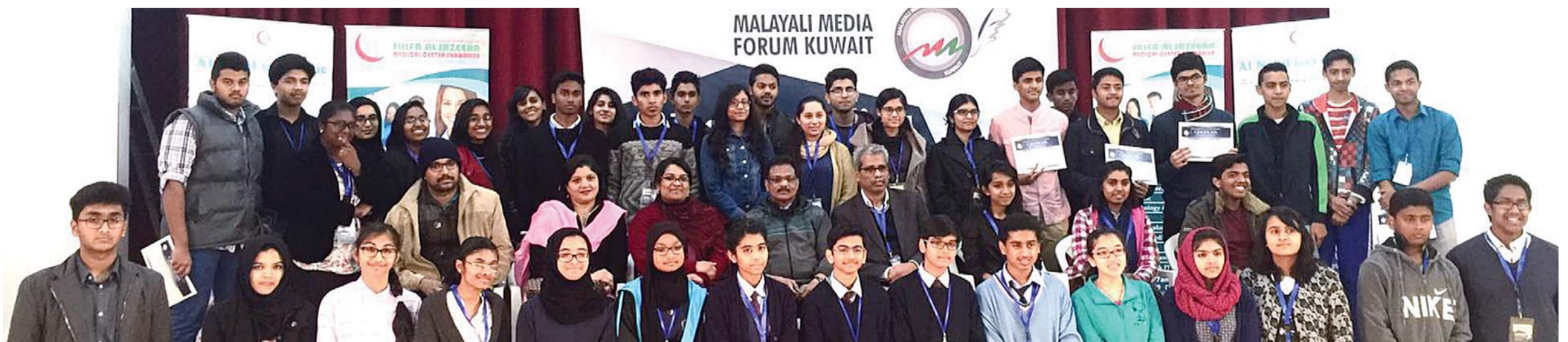
#MarriottCelebratesQ8 competition will take place on February 4-20, and the winners will be announced on February 25th, 2016.

George Aoun, Cluster General Manager at Kuwait Marriott Hotels said, "National and Liberation Days Celebration is always special, as it brings people together in harmony and unity. We encourage everybody to participate in #MarriottCelebratesQ8 campaign and show their true love for Kuwait."

Celebrate Kuwait's National & Liberation Days and enjoy free stays.



#MarriottCelebratesQ8



MMF HOLDS WORKSHOP FOR STUDENTS ON MEDIA

Malayali Media Forum (MMF), Kuwait held a workshop on journalism for Indian school students on 'Understanding Media' as part of its annual media conference at the Indian Community School, Khaitan. The workshop, an interactive session on the World Newspapers, TV, New Media and Advertisements, was conducted by well-known Indian journalist and Associate Editor of The Hindu C Gouridasan Nair. In the first segment, Nair presented an overview on the world of newspapers tracing their historical evolution with the help of a PowerPoint presentation. He also gave a brief description on the different stages of the making of a newspaper.

Nair said media is a constant pres-

ence in our lives, regardless of where we live. They are our windows on the world. We understand the world in which we live, form our opinions and take crucial decisions based on the inputs-both positive and negative-that we receive from the media. Our main sources of such inputs and information might differ depending on where we live, but in a world that is getting increasingly wired and networked, the media in its diverse forms is an important contributor to this process.

In the interactive session that followed, he answered queries of the students and cautioned them about the possible negative influence of the media-particularly, the new media-on them.

A certificate of participation signed by Gouridasan Nair was given to each participant at the end of the session. Around 50 students from Indian Community School, Salmiya, Indian Educational School, Gulf Indian School, Fahaheel Al-Wataniyah Indian Private School, Indian Learners Own Academy, Indian Community School, Khaitan and India International School and Indian Central School attended the workshop.

Earlier, the workshop coordinator Sajeev K Peter introduced Nair to the delegates. MMF General Convenor Abdulfattah Thayyil, convenors Anwar Sadath Thalassery and Muneer Ahmad and other MMF executive members oversaw the success of the program.



Congratulation to all members of English and Tagalog St Josech choir for the successful performance last Friday, February 5, 2016 held at Holy Cathedral Church.



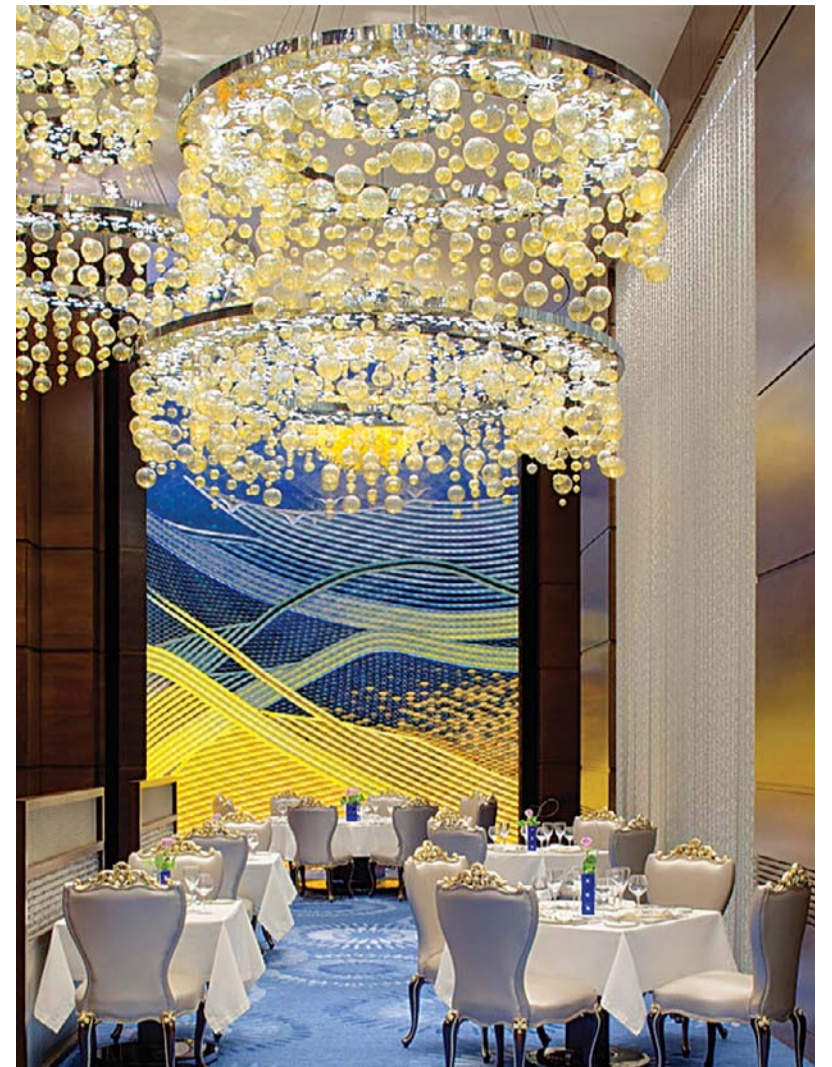
Jumeirah Messilah Beach Hotel and Spa's signature Private Gazebo



Italian restaurant, Olio



Middle Eastern restaurant, Arabesque



Seafood and International restaurant, Salt

CELEBRATE VALENTINE'S DAY AT JUMEIRAH MESSILAH BEACH HOTEL AND SPA IN KUWAIT



The Secret Garden

Jumeirah Messilah Beach Hotel and Spa invites couples to celebrate this special occasion and enjoy exquisite dining experiences at the hotel's restaurants. Try 'Dinner by the Sea' and dine within the private Gazebo while overlooking the Arabian Gulf. The experience includes a private butler service, a four-course set menu, complementary sparkling grape juice, roses and a special Valentine's Day cake.

Over in the 'Secret Garden,' diners can indulge in a five-course set menu, live barbecue and be served by a private butler. The special package includes a bottle of sparkling grape juice, shisha, a bouquet of fresh roses and a heart-shaped cake. For an additional

cost, couples can also be serenaded with live romantic violin music.

At Pepper Steakhouse, steak lovers can opt for a four-course set menu of gourmet meat cuts, flame-grilled to perfection. An international buffet and Middle Eastern cuisines will also be offered at Garden Café.

The authentic Italian restaurant, Olio, will offer couples a four-course 'Evening in Venice' themed dinner of sumptuous Italian specialties. At Middle Eastern restaurant Arabesque, a special two-course 'Valentine's Dinner' will be served.

A selection of the freshest seafood can also be enjoyed at Salt restaurant where couples can opt for a special four course set menu.



Pepper Steakhouse



MOVENPICK ARRANGES MOCK FIRE DRILL

Movenpick Hotel Kuwait - Free Trade Zone initiated a mock fire extinguishing and evacuation drill for Hotel staff and guests as fire alarms sounded. The drill aims at verifying the actual technical preparedness of the Hotel should such emergency occur. It also allows evaluating emergency plans and considering improvements to be more effective during emergencies. The Hotel's security team and Kuwait fire service directorate team initiated the fire extinguishing process and relieved an injured successfully. Hotel staff and guests assembled in the design-

nated Assembly Point which is outside the building.

Hassan Hassanien General Manager said "This training has been launched in line with the Hotel directions and approved policies to ensure adopting the highest safety procedures for its facilities, staff and guests to preserve lives and properties.

Mohamed Anwar Security Manager said "The Hotel management supervised this drill as it usually does every year. They briefed all staff and guests about the importance of security and safety instructions should any emergency

may occur. The whole building was evacuated in 2.5 minutes according to the management comprehensive plan developed prior to the evacuation. Emergency exits as well as staff and guests gathering areas were determined beforehand.

Elsayed Elasy Communication Manager said "It is worth mentioning that Movenpick hotel Kuwait is always keen on developing evacuation scenarios and plans from its facilities and buildings for staff and guests as part of pre-determined programs in case of fire to ensure security and safety."



Andrea Masini

MASINI NAMED DEAN OF HEC PARIS MBA

Andrea Masini, a Mechanical Engineering graduate from La Pienza University in Rome and holder of a PhD in Management from ISNEAD, has been appointed as the new Dean of the HEC Paris MBA program. Masini, who taught at the London Business School before joining HEC in September 2010, and has also taught in Executive Education programs in HEC Paris in Qatar, was appointed to his new post by Peter Todd, Dean of HEC Paris.

For Andrea Masini, "The HEC MBA is unquestionably a reference model, with high-level teaching delivered by internationally renowned professors, a diverse profile of students, capped off professionally by a structured network of

graduates who are active throughout the world. This position presents me with a new challenge that I am sure can be accomplished with motivation and commitment".

His research focuses on the operational and organizational impact of technological innovations, renewable energies, and sustainable development. His works have been published in some of the most prestigious scientific journals, such as M&SOM, Journal of Operations Management and Energy Policy. He teaches on the MBA and PhD programs, as well as teaching executives and managers in through Executive Education. Moreover, he is regularly consulted by private and public bodies on projects linked to the opti-

mization of process, information systems and technological innovation.

Andrea Masini takes over from Bernard Garrette, whose 5 year mandate comes to an end on December 31st "Bernard Garrette has carried out a lot of great work at the head of the MBA, as much on an academic level as on a personal one", underlines Peter Todd. "Under his direction, the international renown of the program has been reinforced, in the same way as the quality and implementation of the curriculum. HEC Paris owes him an awful lot". The HEC Paris MBA is one of the leading MBAs in the world, and was ranked first in Europe by The Economist in 2014 and 2015.

ANIMAL PLANET HD

- 00:50 River Monsters
- 01:45 Swamp Brothers
- 02:15 Swamp Brothers
- 02:40 Treetop Cat Rescue
- 03:10 Treetop Cat Rescue
- 03:35 Tanked
- 04:25 Gangland Killers
- 05:15 Gator Boys
- 06:02 Treehouse Masters
- 06:49 Treetop Cat Rescue
- 07:13 Treetop Cat Rescue
- 07:36 Swamp Brothers
- 08:00 Swamp Brothers
- 08:25 Too Cute!
- 09:15 Treetop Cat Rescue
- 09:45 Treetop Cat Rescue
- 10:10 Treehouse Masters
- 11:05 Tanked
- 12:00 Bad Dog
- 12:55 Bondi Vet
- 13:50 Treetop Cat Rescue
- 14:20 Treetop Cat Rescue
- 14:45 Gator Boys
- 15:40 Treehouse Masters
- 16:35 Tanked
- 17:30 Gangland Killers
- 18:25 River Monsters
- 19:20 Wild Capture School
- 19:50 Wild Capture School
- 20:15 Tanked
- 21:10 Roaring With Pride
- 22:05 Treehouse Masters
- 23:00 Wild Capture School
- 23:30 Wild Capture School
- 23:55 Gator Boys

DISCOVERY CHANNEL HD

- 00:20 Fast N' Loud
- 01:10 Gold Rush
- 02:00 Gold Divers
- 02:50 Pacific Warriors
- 03:40 Storage Hunters
- 04:05 The Liquidator
- 04:30 Auction Hunters: Pawn Shop Edition
- 05:00 How It's Made: Dream Cars
- 05:30 How Do They Do It?
- 06:00 Siberian Cut
- 06:50 Cuban Chrome
- 07:40 Fast N' Loud
- 08:30 Storage Hunters
- 08:55 The Liquidator
- 09:20 Auction Hunters: Pawn Shop Edition
- 09:45 How It's Made: Dream Cars
- 10:10 How Do They Do It?
- 10:35 Gold Rush
- 11:25 Gold Divers
- 12:15 Pacific Warriors
- 13:05 Storage Hunters
- 13:30 The Liquidator
- 13:55 Auction Hunters: Pawn Shop Edition
- 14:20 Flying Wild Alaska
- 15:10 Cuban Chrome
- 16:00 Fast N' Loud
- 16:50 How It's Made: Dream Cars
- 17:15 How Do They Do It?
- 17:40 The Island With Bear Grylls
- 18:30 Sean Corway - Running Britain
- 19:20 The Pop Illusionist
- 20:10 The Liquidator
- 20:35 Auction Hunters: Pawn Shop Edition

DISCOVERY SCIENCE

- 00:35 Weird Or What?
- 01:20 How It's Made
- 02:08 Strangest Weather On Earth
- 02:55 How The Universe Works
- 03:42 Mythbusters
- 04:29 Weird Or What?
- 05:16 Strangest Weather On Earth
- 06:03 How The Universe Works
- 06:50 Prototype This
- 07:37 How Do They Do It?
- 08:23 Weird Or What?
- 09:08 Mythbusters
- 09:53 Prototype This
- 10:38 How It's Made
- 11:23 Stephen Hawking's Universe
- 12:08 How The Universe Works
- 12:53 Prototype This
- 13:38 Weird Or What?
- 14:23 How It's Made
- 14:46 How It's Made
- 15:10 Mythbusters
- 15:57 Stephen Hawking's Universe
- 16:44 How The Universe Works
- 17:31 Prototype This
- 18:18 Mythbusters
- 19:05 Weird Or What?
- 19:50 Food Factory
- 20:15 Food Factory
- 20:40 Space Pioneer
- 21:25 How It's Made
- 21:50 How It's Made
- 22:15 Mythbusters
- 23:00 Food Factory
- 23:45 Space Pioneer

ID. INVESTIGATION DISCOVERY

- 00:15 California Investigator
- 00:40 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
- 01:30 The Haunted
- 02:20 Ghost Lab
- 03:10 House Of Horrors: Kidnapped
- 04:00 California Investigator
- 04:45 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
- 05:30 The Haunted
- 06:20 Fatal Encounters
- 07:10 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones
- 08:00 Dr. G. Medical Examiner
- 08:50 On The Case With Paula Zahn
- 09:40 Fatal Encounters
- 10:30 Murder Shift
- 11:20 Deadly Affairs
- 12:10 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones
- 13:00 The Will
- 13:50 I Almost Got Away With It
- 14:40 California Investigator
- 15:05 Dr. G. Medical Examiner
- 15:55 Fatal Encounters
- 16:45 On The Case With Paula Zahn
- 17:35 Murder Shift
- 18:25 I Almost Got Away With It
- 19:15 The Will
- 20:05 Deadly Affairs
- 20:55 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones
- 21:45 California Investigator
- 22:10 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
- 22:35 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
- 23:00 Deadly Sins
- 23:50 Deadly Women

DISNEY CHANNEL

- 00:00 Violetta
- 00:45 The Hive
- 00:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 01:15 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 01:40 Hank Zipzer
- 02:05 Binny And The Ghost
- 02:30 Violetta
- 03:15 The Hive
- 03:20 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch

- 03:45 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 04:10 Hank Zipzer
- 04:35 Binny And The Ghost
- 05:00 Violetta
- 05:45 The Hive
- 05:50 Mouk
- 06:00 Lolirock
- 06:25 Sofia The First
- 06:50 That's So Raven
- 07:15 Gravity Falls
- 07:40 Jessie
- 08:05 Shake It Up
- 08:55 That's So Raven
- 09:45 Austin & Ally
- 10:35 A.N.T. Farm
- 11:25 Jessie
- 11:50 Jessie
- 12:20 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug & Cat Noir
- 12:45 Fish Hooks
- 13:10 Good Luck Charlie
- 13:35 I Didn't Do It
- 14:00 Dog With A Blog
- 14:30 H2O: Just Add Water
- 14:55 Girl Meets World
- 15:20 Jessie
- 15:45 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug & Cat Noir
- 16:10 Violetta
- 17:00 The Next Step
- 17:25 Liv And Maddie
- 17:50 Jessie
- 18:15 Austin & Ally
- 18:40 I Didn't Do It
- 19:05 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug & Cat Noir
- 19:30 Violetta
- 20:20 The Next Step
- 20:45 Good Luck Charlie
- 21:35 H2O: Just Add Water
- 22:00 Binny And The Ghost
- 22:25 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 22:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 23:10 Hank Zipzer
- 23:35 Binny And The Ghost

EHD

- 00:00 Christina Milian Turned Up
- 00:55 The Grace Helbig Show
- 01:25 Kourtney And Khloe Take The Hamptons
- 02:20 E! News
- 03:15 Hollywood Cycle
- 04:10 The E! True Hollywood Story
- 05:05 Beyond Candid With Giuliana
- 06:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
- 06:55 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
- 07:50 Style Star
- 08:20 E! News
- 09:15 Giuliana & Bill
- 11:10 #RichKids Of Beverly Hills
- 12:05 E! News
- 13:05 House Of DVF
- 14:05 Fashion Police
- 14:30 Fashion Bloggers
- 15:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
- 16:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
- 17:00 Giuliana & Bill
- 18:00 WAGs
- 19:00 WAGs
- 20:00 Christina Milian Turned Up
- 21:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
- 22:00 E! News
- 23:00 Dash Dolls

FOOD NETWORK

- 00:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 01:00 Staten Island Cakes
- 02:00 Mystery Diners
- 03:00 Roadtrip With G. Garvin
- 04:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 05:00 Iron Chef America
- 06:00 Chopped
- 07:00 Roadtrip With G. Garvin
- 08:00 Chopped
- 09:00 Grandma's Secret Cookbook
- 10:00 The Kitchen
- 11:00 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics
- 11:30 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics
- 12:00 Chopped
- 13:00 Guy's Big Bite
- 14:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 15:00 Man Fire Food
- 16:00 Chopped
- 17:00 The Kitchen
- 18:00 Siba's Table: Fast Feasts
- 18:30 Grandma's Secret Cookbook
- 19:00 Chopped
- 20:00 Iron Chef America
- 21:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 21:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 22:00 Man v Food
- 22:30 Roadtrip With G. Garvin
- 23:00 Roadtrip With G. Garvin

- 00:10 The Chase
- 01:05 Emmerdale
- 01:30 Tales From Northumberland With Robson Green
- 02:00 Coronation Street
- 02:30 Murdoch Mysteries
- 03:25 Vera
- 05:15 Pick Me!
- 06:10 Who's Doing The Dishes?
- 07:05 The Royal Variety Performance 2015
- 09:20 Murdoch Mysteries
- 10:15 The Chase
- 11:10 Tales From Northumberland With Robson Green
- 11:35 Pick Me!
- 12:30 Who's Doing The Dishes?
- 13:25 Emmerdale
- 13:50 Tales From Northumberland With Robson Green
- 14:00 Dog With A Blog
- 14:20 Coronation Street
- 14:45 Murdoch Mysteries
- 15:35 Pick Me!
- 16:30 Shetland
- 17:25 Chasing Shadows
- 18:20 Who's Doing The Dishes?
- 19:10 Coronation Street
- 19:35 Pick Me!
- 20:30 Shetland
- 21:25 Chasing Shadows
- 22:20 Coronation Street
- 22:50 Emmerdale
- 23:15 Who's Doing The Dishes?

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC CHANNEL HD

- 00:10 Lawless Island
- 01:00 Survive The Tribe
- 02:00 Taiwan: Island Of Fish
- 02:55 Planes That Changed The World
- 03:50 Lawless Island
- 04:45 The Known Universe
- 05:40 Britain's Greatest Machines
- 06:35 Cold Water Gold
- 07:30 Monster Fish
- 08:25 Zeb's River Journey Thailand
- 09:20 The Known Universe
- 10:15 Big Fish, Texas
- 11:10 Air Crash Investigation
- 12:05 The Border
- 13:00 Rescue Ink
- 14:00 Monster Fish
- 15:00 Cold Water Gold
- 16:00 Big Fish, Texas
- 17:00 Lockdown: Scam City
- 18:00 Drugs Inc
- 19:00 The Border
- 20:00 Cold Water Gold
- 20:50 Lockdown: Scam City
- 21:40 Drugs Inc
- 22:30 The Border
- 23:20 Britain's Greatest Machines

OSN FIRST HD COMEDY

- 04:30 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
- 06:00 T! Death
- 06:30 Community
- 07:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers
- 08:30 Cristela
- 10:30 Community
- 11:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
- 12:00 T! Death
- 13:00 Cristela
- 13:30 Community
- 16:30 T! Death
- 17:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers
- 18:00 New Girl
- 18:30 The Goldbergs
- 19:00 Modern Family
- 20:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
- 21:30 The Nightly Show With Larry Wilmore
- 22:00 South Park
- 22:30 You're The Worst
- 23:30 Late Night With Seth Meyers

OSN FIRST HD

- 00:00 Chicago Fire
- 01:00 Quantico
- 02:00 Rosewood
- 03:00 Allegiance
- 04:00 Good Morning America
- 06:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
- 07:00 Backstrom
- 08:00 American Crime
- 09:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
- 10:00 Quantico
- 11:00 Backstrom
- 12:00 Coronation Street
- 13:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
- 14:00 American Crime
- 15:00 Live Good Morning America
- 17:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
- 18:00 American Crime
- 19:00 Complications
- 20:00 The Night Shift
- 21:00 The Night Shift
- 22:00 Supergirl

OSN MOVIES ACTION

- 00:00 300
- 02:00 The Package
- 04:00 Wrath
- 06:00 Jack The Giant Killer
- 08:00 Superfast
- 10:00 Betrayed
- 12:00 Forget And Forgive
- 14:00 Wrath
- 16:00 R.I.P.D.
- 18:00 Superfast
- 20:00 Stranded
- 21:45 Need For Speed

OSN MOVIES HD ACTION

- 00:00 The Package-PG15
- 02:00 Wrath-PG15
- 04:00 Jack The Giant Killer-PG15
- 06:00 Superfast-PG15
- 08:00 Betrayed-PG15
- 10:00 Forget And Forgive-PG15
- 12:00 Wrath-PG15
- 14:00 R.I.P.D.-PG15
- 16:00 Superfast-PG15
- 18:00 Stranded-PG15
- 19:45 Need For Speed-PG15
- 22:00 300: Rise Of An Empire-18

OSN MOVIES HD COMEDY

- 00:00 Keith Lemon: The Film
- 02:00 Walk Of Shame
- 04:00 Serial (Bad) Weddings
- 06:00 Big Fat Liar
- 08:00 Blues Brothers 2000
- 10:15 Serial (Bad) Weddings
- 12:00 Good Deeds
- 14:00 Mr. Wonderful
- 15:45 Blues Brothers 2000
- 18:00 When In Rome
- 20:00 Fading Gigolo
- 22:00 Kick-Ass 2

OSN MOVIES HD DRAMA

- 01:15 Breathless-PG15
- 03:00 Decoding Annie Parker-PG15
- 05:00 United Passions-PG15
- 07:00 InSight-PG15
- 09:00 At Middleton-PG15
- 11:00 United Passions-PG15
- 13:00 Breathe In-PG15
- 15:00 1911-PG15
- 17:00 At Middleton-PG15
- 19:00 71-PG15
- 21:00 A Thousand Times Good Night-PG15
- 23:00 The Devil's Hand-18

OSN MOVIES HD FESTIVAL

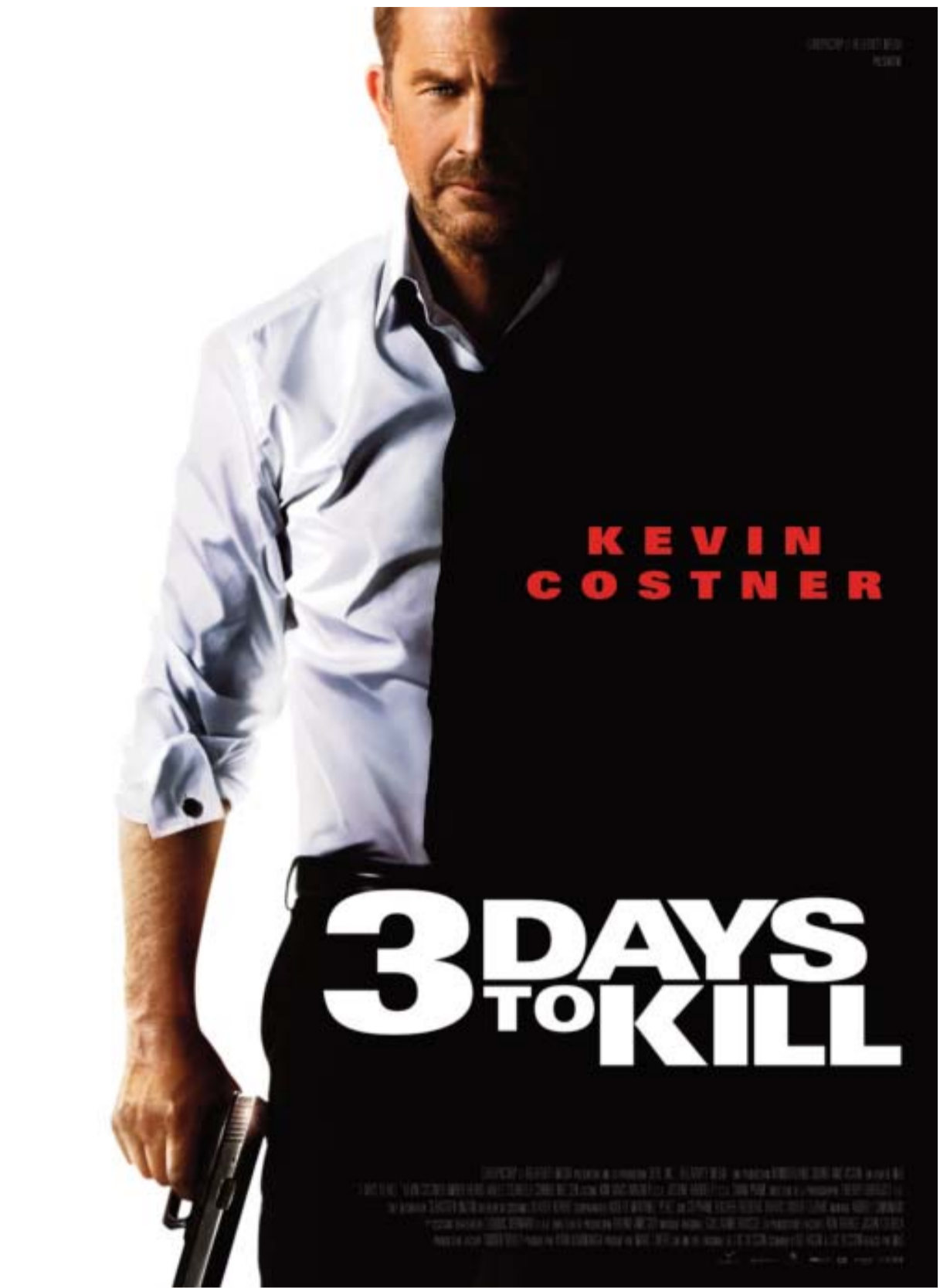
- 01:00 Tea With Mussolini
- 03:00 Gaicca
- 05:00 The Way We Were
- 07:00 Memories
- 09:00 Waitress
- 11:00 Memories
- 13:00 Julie And Julia
- 15:15 We Are Family
- 17:00 Waitress
- 19:00 Rent
- 21:15 Frank
- 23:00 Heaven's Gate

OSN MOVIES HD PREMIERE

- 00:45 Seventh Son-PG15
- 02:45 I, Frankenstein-PG15
- 04:30 The Mistle-Tones-PG15
- 06:15 The Remaining-PG15
- 08:00 Philomena-PG15
- 09:45 Taken 3-PG15
- 11:45 Mandela: Long Walk To Freedom-PG15
- 14:15 Edge Of Tomorrow-PG15
- 16:15 Philomena-PG15
- 18:00 The Last Of Robin Hood-PG15
- 20:00 Sleepless In Seattle-PG
- 22:00 Inside Llewyn Davis-PG15

OSN MOVIES HD KIDS

- 01:00 Bolts And Blip
- 02:45 Memory Loss
- 04:30 Milly The Movie
- 06:00 Minuscule: Valley Of The Lost Arts
- 08:00 Ghatokhach - Master Of Magic
- 10:00 The Adventures Of Don Quixote
- 11:30 Columbus In The Last Journey
- 13:00 Memory Loss
- 14:30 Jungle Book: Mowgli's



3 DAYS TO KILL ON OSN MOVIES HD

- Adventure
- 16:00 The Heart Of The Oak
- 18:00 The Adventures Of Don Quixote
- 20:00 Worms
- 22:00 Jungle Book: Mowgli's Adventure
- 23:30 The Heart Of The Oak
- 08:05 Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners...
- 08:55 Dare To Wear
- 09:45 Jon & Kate Plus 8
- 10:10 Little People, Big World
- 10:35 My Five Wives
- 11:25 Cake Boss
- 11:50 The Autistic Gardener
- 12:40 Catwalk 30+
- 13:30 Belief
- 14:20 Oprah's Lifeclass
- 15:10 Jon & Kate Plus 8
- 15:35 Little People, Big World
- 16:00 Hoarding: Buried Alive
- 16:50 My Five Wives
- 17:40 Cake Boss
- 18:05 Say Yes To The Dress
- 18:30 Secret Eaters
- 19:20 Born Without Limbs
- 20:10 Catwalk 30+
- 21:00 An Hour To Save Your Life
- 21:50 The Day I Almost Died
- 22:40 Long Island Medium
- 23:05 90 Days To Wed
- 23:55 An Hour To Save Your Life
- 00:00 What The Killer Saw
- 01:00 Measuring Evil: Britain's Worst Killers
- 02:00 Monster In My Family
- 03:00 What The Killer Saw
- 04:00 Nightmare In Suburbia
- 05:00 Beyond Scared Straight
- 06:00 Killer Kids
- 07:00 The FBI Files
- 08:00 The FBI Files
- 09:00 Private Crimes
- 09:30 Frenemies
- 10:00 Crimes That Shook Britain
- 11:00 Nightmare In Suburbia
- 12:00 Beyond Scared Straight
- 13:00 Fatal Vows
- 14:00 Crime Stories
- 15:00 Crimes That Shook Britain
- 16:00 Private Crimes
- 16:30 Frenemies
- 17:00 The FBI Files
- 18:00 Beyond Scared Straight
- 19:00 Crime Stories
- 20:00 Nightmare In Suburbia
- 21:00 Crimes That Shook Britain
- 22:00 Private Crimes
- 22:30 Frenemies
- 23:00 Monster In My Family
- 01:20 Last Light
- 03:10 Har
- 05:10 American Rhapsody
- 06:55 One Summer Love
- 08:35 Grayeagle
- 10:20 Alexander The Great
- 12:35 Movers And Shakers
- 13:55 A Guy Thing
- 15:40 Groundhog Day
- 17:20 Fuzz
- 18:55 The Apartment
- 21:00 Assassination Tango
- 22:55 Peggy Sue Got Married
- 01:45 Calimero
- 02:00 Zou
- 02:15 Loopdido
- 02:30 Art Attack
- 02:55 Henry Hugglemonster
- 03:00 Calimero
- 03:20 Zou
- 03:30 Loopdido
- 03:45 Art Attack
- 04:10 Henry Hugglemonster
- 04:20 Calimero
- 04:35 Zou
- 04:45 Loopdido
- 05:00 Art Attack
- 05:25 Henry Hugglemonster
- 05:35 Calimero
- 05:50 Zou
- 06:00 Loopdido
- 06:15 Art Attack
- 06:35 Henry Hugglemonster
- 06:50 Calimero
- 07:00 Zou
- 07:20 Loopdido
- 07:35 Art Attack
- 08:00 Calimero
- 08:10 Zou
- 08:25 Loopdido
- 08:40 Miles From Tomorrow
- 09:05 Sofia The First
- 09:30 Doc McStuffins
- 09:45 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
- 10:10 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
- 10:35 Doc McStuffins
- 11:00 Sofia The First
- 11:30 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
- 12:00 Miles From Tomorrow
- 12:25 Special Agent Oso
- 12:40 The Hive
- 12:50 Handy Manny
- 13:15 Jungle Junction
- 13:30 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
- 14:00 Sofia The First
- 14:25 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
- 14:50 Doc McStuffins
- 15:15 Zou
- 15:30 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
- 15:55 Loopdido
- 16:10 Miles From Tomorrow
- 16:35 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
- 17:00 Sofia The First
- 17:25 Jungle Cubs
- 17:50 Aladdin
- 18:15 Gummi Bears
- 18:40 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
- 19:05 Miles From Tomorrow
- 19:30 Sofia The First
- 19:55 Doc McStuffins
- 20:10 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
- 20:35 Miles From Tomorrow
- 21:00 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
- 21:30 Sofia The First
- 22:00 Jungle Cubs
- 22:25 Aladdin
- 22:50 Gummi Bears
- 23:20 Lilo And Stitch
- 23:45 Cars Toons
- 23:50 Zou



300: RISE OF AN EMPIRE ON OSN MOVIES ACTION HD

XD

- 00:00 Programmes Start At 7:00am KSA
- 07:00 Star vs The Forces Of Evil
- 07:25 K. C. Undercover
- 07:50 Supa Strikas
- 08:15 Annedroids
- 08:40 Lab Rats
- 09:10 Kirby Buckets
- 09:35 Wander Over Yonder
- 10:00 Rocket Monkeys
- 10:25 Ultimate Spider-Man
- 10:50 Boyster
- 11:20 Boyster
- 11:45 Pair Of Kings
- 12:10 Pair Of Kings
- 12:35 Lab Rats
- 13:00 Lab Rats
- 13:30 Phineas And Ferb
- 13:55 Phineas And Ferb
- 14:20 Kickin' It
- 14:45 Kickin' It
- 15:10 Disney Mickey Mouse
- 15:15 Rocket Monkeys
- 15:40 Wander Over Yonder

CLASSIFIEDS

Kuwait Times
Now you can browse
www.kuwaittimes.net
e-mail: info@kuwaittimes.net



KNCC PROGRAMME FROM THURSDAY TO WEDNESDAY (04/02/2016 TO 10/02/2016)

Program	Time	Program	Time	Program	Time	Program	Time
SHARQIA-1	11:45 AM	FLIPPED	1:30 PM	FLIPPED	7:30 PM	THE FINEST HOURS - 3D	1:00 PM
FLIPPED	2:00 PM	ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: THE ROAD CHIP	1:30 PM	FLIPPED	9:45 PM	ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: HE ROAD CHIP	1:30 PM
FLIPPED	2:00 PM	ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: THE ROAD CHIP	3:30 PM	FLIPPED	12:05 AM	ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: HE ROAD CHIP	3:30 PM
ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: THE ROAD CHIP	2:00 PM	FLIPPED	5:30 PM	360- 1	11:30 AM	ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: HE ROAD CHIP	5:30 PM
FRI+SAT		FLIPPED		JANE GOT A GUN	1:30 PM	ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: HE ROAD CHIP	7:30 PM
ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: THE ROAD CHIP	4:00 PM	FLIPPED	9:45 PM	JANE GOT A GUN	3:45 PM	ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: HE ROAD CHIP	9:30 PM
ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: THE ROAD CHIP	6:00 PM	FANAR-3	11:45 PM	JANE GOT A GUN	6:00 PM	THE FINEST HOURS	12:05 AM
AMERICAN HERO	8:00 PM	STANDOFF	1:00 PM	JANE GOT A GUN	8:15 PM		
FLIPPED	10:15 PM	STANDOFF	3:00 PM	JANE GOT A GUN	10:30 PM		
FLIPPED	12:15 AM	EVERYTHING ABOUT HER - Filipino	5:00 PM	JANE GOT A GUN	12:45 AM		
		MIN DAHAR RAGEL - Arabic	7:00 PM			BAIRAQ-2	
SHARQIA-2	12:00 PM	MIN DAHAR RAGEL - Arabic	9:30 PM	FLIPPED	1:15 PM	GHAYAL ONCE AGAIN - Hindi	11:45 AM
THE FINEST HOURS	2:30 PM	MARINA-1	12:30 AM	FLIPPED	3:15 PM	NO THU	12:30 PM
THE FINEST HOURS	5:00 PM	FLIPPED	1:00 PM	FLIPPED	5:15 PM	CAPTURE THE FLAG	2:30 PM
THE FINEST HOURS	7:30 PM	NO FRI+SAT	3:00 PM	FLIPPED	7:15 PM	CAPTURE THE FLAG	4:30 PM
THE FINEST HOURS	10:00 PM	CAPTURE THE FLAG	3:00 PM	FLIPPED	9:15 PM	FLIPPED	6:30 PM
THE FINEST HOURS	12:30 AM	FLIPPED	5:00 PM	FLIPPED	11:15 PM	FLIPPED	8:30 PM
		FLIPPED	7:00 PM		11:55 PM		10:30 PM
SHARQIA-3	12:45 PM	FLIPPED	9:00 PM		1:15 AM		12:30 AM
JANE GOT A GUN	2:45 PM	FLIPPED	11:00 PM		1:00 AM	BAIRAQ-3	
JANE GOT A GUN	4:45 PM	FLIPPED	1:00 AM	360- 3	11:45 AM	JANE GOT A GUN	12:00 PM
CAPTURE THE FLAG	6:45 PM	MARINA-2	2:15 PM	CAPTURE THE FLAG	2:00 PM	JANE GOT A GUN	2:00 PM
JANE GOT A GUN	8:45 PM	THE FINEST HOURS	4:45 PM	CAPTURE THE FLAG - 3D	4:15 PM	ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: HE ROAD CHIP	4:00 PM
JANE GOT A GUN	10:45 PM	THE FINEST HOURS	7:45 PM	CAPTURE THE FLAG - 3D	6:30 PM	GHAYAL ONCE AGAIN - Hindi	6:00 PM
JANE GOT A GUN	12:45 AM	THE FINEST HOURS	10:00 PM	STANDOFF	8:45 PM	NO THU	6:00 PM
		THE FINEST HOURS	12:15 AM	STANDOFF	11:00 PM	JANE GOT A GUN	6:00 PM
		THE FINEST HOURS		STANDOFF	1:00 AM	JANE GOT A GUN	8:45 PM
MUHALAB-1	11:45 AM					JANE GOT A GUN	10:45 PM
JANE GOT A GUN	1:45 PM	MARINA-3	12:00 PM	AL-KOUT.1	11:45 AM	JANE GOT A GUN	12:45 AM
NO FRI+SAT		JANE GOT A GUN	2:00 PM	THE FINEST HOURS	2:30 PM		
ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: THE ROAD CHIP	1:45 PM	JANE GOT A GUN	2:00 PM	THE FINEST HOURS	5:00 PM	PLAZA	
ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: THE ROAD CHIP	3:45 PM	ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: THE ROAD CHIP	4:00 PM	THE FINEST HOURS	7:30 PM	ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: HE ROAD CHIP	3:45 PM
ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: THE ROAD CHIP	5:45 PM	ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: THE ROAD CHIP	6:00 PM	THE FINEST HOURS	10:00 PM	ADI KAPYARE KOOTAMANI - Malayalam	5:45 PM
JANE GOT A GUN	7:45 PM	ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: THE ROAD CHIP	8:00 PM	THE FINEST HOURS	12:30 AM	THU+ FRI+ SAT+ MON	6:00 PM
JANE GOT A GUN	9:45 PM	ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: THE ROAD CHIP	10:00 PM	THE FINEST HOURS		JANE GOT A GUN	6:00 PM
JANE GOT A GUN	11:45 PM	JANE GOT A GUN	12:05 AM	THE FINEST HOURS		THU	6:00 PM
		JANE GOT A GUN		THE FINEST HOURS		JANE GOT A GUN	8:15 PM
MUHALAB-2	1:00 PM	FLIPPED	1:00 PM	THE FINEST HOURS		JANE GOT A GUN	8:15 PM
CAPTURE THE FLAG	3:00 PM	CAPTURE THE FLAG	3:15 PM	THE FINEST HOURS		JANE GOT A GUN	10:45 PM
CAPTURE THE FLAG	5:00 PM	CAPTURE THE FLAG	5:30 PM	THE FINEST HOURS			
FLIPPED	7:00 PM	CAPTURE THE FLAG	7:45 PM	THE FINEST HOURS			
FLIPPED	9:00 PM	MIN DAHAR RAGEL - Arabic	10:00 PM	THE FINEST HOURS			
FLIPPED	11:00 PM	STANDOFF	1:00 AM	THE FINEST HOURS			
FLIPPED	1:00 AM			THE FINEST HOURS			
		AVENUES-1	12:15 AM				
MUHALAB-3	11:30 AM	CAPTURE THE FLAG	1:00 PM				
THE FINEST HOURS	2:00 PM	CAPTURE THE FLAG	3:15 PM				
THE FINEST HOURS	4:30 PM	CAPTURE THE FLAG	5:30 PM				
THE FINEST HOURS	7:00 PM	CAPTURE THE FLAG	7:45 PM				
THE FINEST HOURS	9:30 PM	MIN DAHAR RAGEL - Arabic	10:00 PM				
THE FINEST HOURS	12:05 AM	STANDOFF	1:00 AM				
FANAR-1	1:00 PM						
AMERICAN HERO	2:45 PM	AVENUES-2	12:15 PM				
CAPTURE THE FLAG	4:45 PM	AMERICAN HERO	2:15 PM				
CAPTURE THE FLAG	6:45 PM	STANDOFF	4:15 PM				
AMERICAN HERO	8:45 PM	AMERICAN HERO	6:15 PM				
AMERICAN HERO	10:30 PM	STANDOFF	8:15 PM				
AMERICAN HERO	12:15 AM	AMERICAN HERO	10:15 PM				
		AMERICAN HERO	12:15 AM				
FANAR-2	11:30 AM						
FLIPPED		AVENUES-3	12:45 PM				
		FLIPPED	3:00 PM				
		FLIPPED	5:15 PM				

EIG
BUSINESS IN OMAN
We Are Providing
**Visas, Registration,
Local Sponsor,
Business Partner,
Decoument Clearing.**
Contact Us: 00968-98457638
Email: Info@EigIcoman.Com

ACCOMMODATION
Sharing accommodation
available in a C-AC flat for
decent couple or working
ladies at Jabriya, area 10,
near Jabriya Indian school
from 1st March 2016. Please
contact: 99300513.
(C 5130)
7-2-2016

CHANGE OF NAME
I Amir Karim Makandar
holder of Indian Passport
No. F7734039, A/P - 173
Aggani Tal-khed Dist.
Ratnagiri, hereby changed
my name to Amir Karim
Nevarekar. **(C 5129)**
6-2-2019

Prayer timings

Fajr: 05:12
Shorook 06:33
Duhr: 12:02
Asr: 15:10
Maghrib: 17:33
Isha: 18:51

Directorate General of Civil Aviation Home Page (www.kuwait-airport.com.kw)



Flight Schedule

**In case you are not travelling, your proper cancellation
of bookings will help other passengers to use seats**

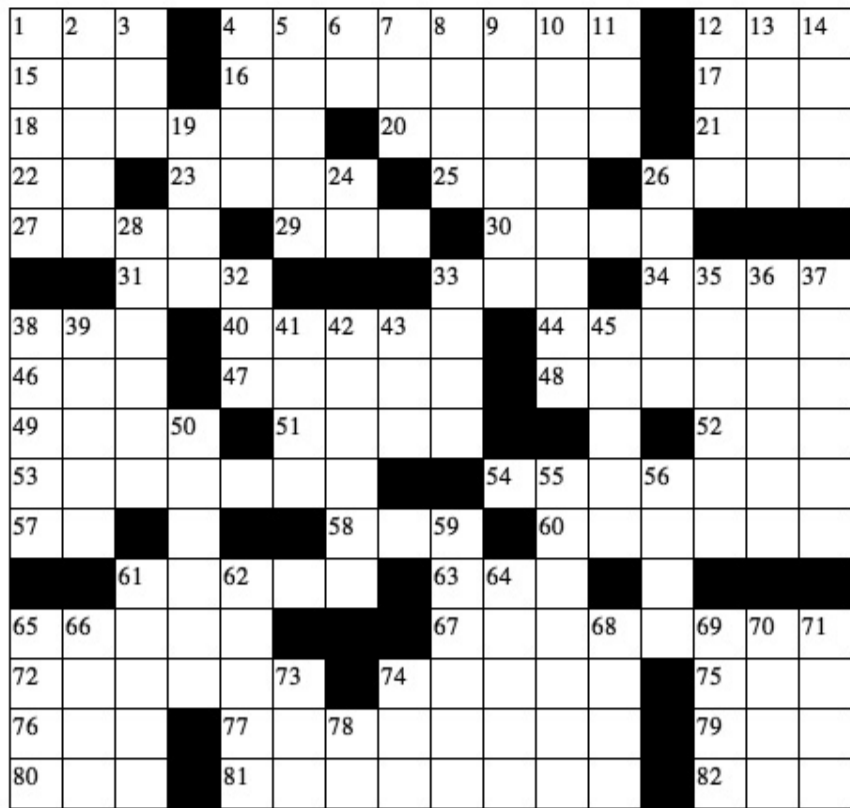
Arrival Flights on Tuesday 9/2/2016

Airlines	Fit	Route	Time	FBA	831	Al Najaf	14:15
BBC	143	Dhaka	00:05	AXB	393	Kozhikode	14:20
MSC	415	Sohag	00:05	SVA	500	Jeddah	14:30
KLM	411	Amsterdam/Dammam	00:20	KAC	672	Dubai	14:45
JZR	267	Beirut	00:30	KAC	788	Jeddah	14:50
JZR	539	Cairo	00:40	GFA	221	Bahrain	15:00
FDB	069	Dubai	00:55	KNE	472	Jeddah	15:05
THY	772	Istanbul	01:05	OMA	645	Muscat	15:30
DLH	635	Doha	01:35	NIA	251	Alexandria	15:30
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	01:45	KAC	562	Amman	15:40
PGT	858	Istanbul	02:00	ABY	127	Sharjah	15:45
UAE	853	Dubai	02:30	UAE	857	Dubai	15:45
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:30	JAD	301	Amman	15:55
SAW	701	Damascus	02:35	QTR	1072	Doha	16:10
OMA	643	Muscat	02:55	FDB	051	Dubai	16:30
FDB	067	Dubai	03:05	ETD	303	Abu Dhabi	16:40
RJA	644	Amman	03:05	KAC	542	Cairo	16:55
MSR	612	Cairo	03:10	RJA	640	Amman	16:55
QTR	1076	Doha	03:15	SVA	510	Riyadh	17:15
KKK	6507	Istanbul	03:20	GFA	215	Bahrain	17:30
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:25	MSR	614	Cairo	17:50
LMU	510	Cairo	04:00	JZR	777	Jeddah	17:55
THY	6376	Istanbul	05:05	JZR	325	Al Najaf	17:55
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:40	UAE	875	Dubai	18:00
THY	770	Istanbul	05:55	KAC	502	Beirut	18:00
FDB	5061	Dubai	06:30	FDB	063	Dubai	18:05
BAW	157	London	06:40	JZR	177	Dubai	18:20
PAL	668	Manila/Dubai	06:55	KAC	680	Muscat	18:25
KAC	412	Manila/Bangkok	07:20	KAC	786	Jeddah	18:30
QTR	1086	Doha	07:40	ABY	123	Sharjah	18:45
FDB	053	Dubai	07:45	KAC	1080	Doha	18:55
SVA	512	Riyadh	07:50	KAC	742	Dammam	19:05
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:50	KAC	614	Bahrain	19:10
OMA	641	Muscat	08:00	KAC	774	Riyadh	19:25
KAC	354	BLR	08:15	GFA	217	Bahrain	19:30
KAC	206	Islamabad	08:25	KAC	166	Paris/Rome	19:30
KAC	352	Kochi	08:30	KAC	618	Doha	19:35
UAE	855	Dubai	08:40	KAC	104	London	19:40
KAC	332	Trivandrum	08:50	KA	C674	Dubai	19:45
KAC	362	Colombo	08:50	MSR	618	Alexandria	20:05
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:00	FDB	061	Dubai	20:20
KAC	284	Dhaka	09:10	OMA	647	Muscat	20:20
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	09:20	FDB	5053	Dubai	20:50
QTR	1070	Doha	09:25	DLH	634	Frankfurt	20:55
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	JAI	572	Mumbai	20:55
KAC	416	Jakarta/Kuala Lumpur	10:15	QTR	1088	Doha	21:00
IRC	6507	Shiraz	10:30	ETD	307	Abu Dhabi	21:20
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	MEA	402	Beirut	21:20
IRA	675	Lar	10:40	ALK	229	Colombo	21:25
UAE	873	Dubai	11:05	UAE	859	Dubai	21:40
RBG	553	Alexandria	11:15	GFA	219	Bahrain	21:45
JZR	165	Dubai	11:30	QTR	1082	Doha	22:00
MEA	404	Beirut	11:55	JZR	125	Bahrain	22:00
FDB	075	Dubai	12:25	KLM	415	Amsterdam	22:05
MSC	401	Alexandria	12:30	AIC	987	Chennai/Hyderabad	22:25
JZR	561	Sohag	12:45	ETD	309	Abu Dhabi	22:25
UAE	871	Dubai	12:50	FDB	059	Dubai	22:30
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00	PIA	239	Sialkot	22:35
KAC	382	Delhi	13:50	JZR	239	Amman	23:05
FDB	057	Dubai	14:10	JZR	185	Dubai	23:15
QTR	1078	Doha	14:10	FDB	071	Dubai	23:45
KAC	514	Tehran	14:10	THY	764	Istanbul	23:50
				JAI	574	Mumbai	23:55
				MSC	403	Asyut	23:55

Departure Flights on Tuesday 9/2/2016

Airlines	Fit	Route	Time	UAE	872	Dubai	14:15
AIC	976	Goa/Chennai	00:05	JZR	324	Al Najaf	14:25
FDB	072	Dubai	00:40	PAL	669	Manila	14:55
MSC	404	Asyut	00:55	KAC	673	Dubai	15:00
JAI	573	Mumbai	00:55	QTR	1079	Doha	15:10
MSC	416	Sohag	01:00	FDB	058	Dubai	15:10
BBC	143	Chittagong/Dhaka	01:35	AXB	394	Kozhikode	15:20
KLM							

CROSSWORD 1163



ACROSS

1. Enlarged prostate.
4. Something that causes irritation and annoyance.
12. A light touch or stroke.
15. A unit of surface area equal to 100 square meters.
16. Any of several herbivorous leaping marsupials of Australia and New Guinea having large powerful hind legs and a long thick tail.
17. Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
18. English inventor who published the first book illustrated with photographs (1800-1877).
20. A frame of iron bars to hold a fire.
21. The money risked on a gamble.
22. Being one more than one hundred.
23. Type genus of the Anatidae.
25. The compass point that is one point east (clockwise) of due north.
27. A Loloish language.
29. The compass point that is one point west of due north.
30. A ballistic missile that is capable of traveling from one continent to another.
31. South American wood sorrel cultivated for its edible tubers.
34. Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
38. A caustic detergent useful for removing grease.
40. Any of various hard resins from trees of the family Dipterocarpaceae and of the genus Agathis.
44. An immunosuppressive drug (trade name Imuran) used to prevent rejection of a transplanted organ.
46. Headgear that protects the head from bad weather.
47. Any of numerous low-growing cushion-forming plants of the genus Draba having rosette-forming leaves and terminal racemes of small flowers with scapose or leafy stems.
48. A winged often one-seed indehiscent fruit as of the ash or elm or maple.
49. A slender double-reed instrument.
51. Mild yellow Dutch cheese made in balls.
52. According to need (physicians use PRN in writing prescriptions).
53. Tropical American insectivorous bird having a long sharp bill and iridescent green or bronze plumage.
54. Abnormal position of a part or organ (especially at the time of birth).
57. Not out.
58. An ester of adenosine that is converted to ATP for energy storage.
60. Cause to suffer.
63. A flat wing-shaped process or winglike part of an organism.
65. Primitive chlorophyll-containing mainly aquatic eukaryotic organisms lacking true stems and roots and leaves.
67. Any of various plants of the genus Sesbania having pinnate leaves and large showy pea-like flowers.
72. A high-crowned black cap (usually made of felt or sheepskin) worn by men in Turkey and Iran and the Caucasus.
75. The basic unit of electric current adopted under the System International d'Unites.
76. A strong emotion.
77. A cut of pork ribs with much of the meat trimmed off.
79. The Tibeto-Burman language spoken in the Dali region of Yunnan.
80. An insecticide that is also toxic to animals and humans.
81. A large estate in Spanish-speaking countries.
82. A benevolent aspect of Devi.

DOWN

1. All the loaves of bread baked at the same time.
2. The capital of Cape Verde on Sao Tiago Island.
3. Goddess of the dead and queen of the underworld.
4. A visual representation of an object or scene or person produced on a surface.
5. A switch made from the stems of the rattan palms.
6. A radioactive gaseous element formed by the disintegration of radium.
7. One of the five major classes of immunoglobulins.
8. A mountain lake (especially one formed by glaciers).
9. A peninsula between the Red Sea and the Persian Gulf.
10. Tiger snakes.
11. Having a toe or toes of a specified kind.
12. A Chadic language spoken south of Lake Chad.
13. American novelist (1909-1955).
14. A Chadic language spoken south of Lake Chad.
19. The Tibeto-Burman language spoken in the Dali region of Yunnan.
24. A metallic element having four allotropic forms.
26. (Islam) The man who leads prayers in a mosque.
28. Found in moist places as rounded jellylike colonies.
32. A condition (mostly in boys) characterized by behavioral and learning disorders.
33. A unit of apothecary weight equal to an eighth of an ounce or to 60 grains.
35. Italian brandy made from residue of grapes after pressing.
36. United States diplomat who was instrumental in opening Japan to foreign trade (1804-1878).
37. A genus of tropical American plants have sword-shaped leaves and a fleshy compound fruit composed of the fruits of several flowers (such as pineapples).
39. Hungarian choreographer who developed Labanotation (1879-1958).
41. A particular geographical region of indefinite boundary (usually serving some special purpose or distinguished by its people or culture or geography).
42. A state in southeastern India on the Bay of Bengal (south of Andhra Pradesh).
43. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
45. A republic on the island of Malta in the Mediterranean.
50. One of two flaps attached to a cap to keep the ears warm.
55. Member of a Jewish sect that observes a form of strict Orthodox Judaism.
56. Predatory black-and-white toothed whale with large dorsal fin.
59. Out of fashion.
61. Metal or plastic sheath over the end of a shoelace or ribbon.
62. Restraint consisting of a rope (or light chain) used to restrain an animal.
64. Acquire or gain knowledge or skills.
66. Soft white semisolid fat obtained by rendering the fatty tissue of the hog v.1.
68. A small cake leavened with yeast.
69. (Babylonian) God of wisdom and agriculture and patron of scribes and schools.
70. (Islam) The man who leads prayers in a mosque.
71. The capital of Western Samoa.
73. An accountant certified by the state.
74. The use of nuclear magnetic resonance of protons to produce proton density images.
78. A radioactive element of the actinide series.

STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

If you have been making decisions and then changing your mind lately... Today will be different. There are circumstances now that will help you make some important decisions. This is a great day to sign contracts, conclude business deals or make plans. Your sharp mind will see all aspects from all angles. Any high-level mental pursuits should be rewarding. Welcome all new ideas! Financial ties to other people are highlighted. Money matters and investments may be a focus before the end of this working day. If you find a break in the weather this afternoon, you will enjoy some sort of outdoor activity with friends. There are incredibly romantic feelings fostered in you today. This evening is one where relationships can be enjoyed.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Courage and confidence reign today. Others will follow your lead in any group effort. Your zeal is high-perfect for getting some exercise or chopping wood. Just make sure any new projects are short-term. If ever there was a day to make a good first impression this is it. If you are looking for a new job, take your resume instead of mailing it. If you give your best effort now, considerable success will follow. This is a good time to lead the way on a project, for your originality is unusually heightened. This is an excellent time to sway others to your cause through speeches or clever arguments; your thinking is most lucid and grasping. You should be able to perceive and help to heal most any problem that your friends may have just now.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You make your way now by using practical vision and common sense. This is an excellent time to get many things accomplished. You will most likely be full of eagerness at this time and ready to take on the world. Your heart is as big as all outdoors, not only for those close to you emotionally, but for the general public as well. You just cannot be mad at anybody. All you want to do is help, protect and nurture. From those who perceive this, it will be reflected back to you. You may feel the need to secure your own feelings about yourself through another person. Therefore, you may try to increase your power of attraction-whether consciously or subconsciously. A shopping expedition keeps you busy this evening.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

You may face criticism from co-workers or your boss, particularly about a project or idea of yours. Stand firm and do not be afraid to hear negative remarks. Communication is the key. What a day to charge your batteries with a two-way flow of ideas and information! You are eager for everyone to hear your point of view and just as eager to hear theirs. This is a prime day for conferences and negotiations. This afternoon you will have some time to write letters and make phone calls if you wish. A family friend wants to trade favorite cookie or muffin recipes, and you may find yourself thumbing through some of your old favorite family recipes.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

There is a surge of intellectual zeal that can help you accomplish many things. Do not let competition draw you into any debates, unless the outcome is very important in protecting your integrity. Use restraint. This could be a useful time to reflect on exactly what principles are important to you. You should take note not to be accommodating to superiors but enthusiastic to complete a job well done. You are apt to enjoy considerable success at work. You have a sense of togetherness with close friends and relatives this afternoon. Relating with old chums is easy and extremely pleasant. However, this is not the best time to make new friends.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

If you have been considering a new business venture-today is an excellent day to begin. It is also a good day for travel. Your communication skills are at their peak and a sales position would be positive. Ideas that need expression or paperwork that needs finishing can be efficiently handled at this time. Ongoing projects now have possibilities of ending soon. You could overdo and feel frustrated, but don't take this too seriously-it will pass. This afternoon there is talk about giving a young person an award. You may decide to help with this endeavor and bring about some great results for this presentation. The power of attraction and desire for love is great, but you should exercise caution before entering a new relationship just now.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

Today may bring about an end to many projects at work, especially large ones. You could be susceptible to activities that will be favorable to success at the workplace. You may think it is luck but you make good choices. Try to avoid any romantic intrigues and keep your mind on your work. Use the time you have this afternoon to take full stock of your accounts and debts. Things may not be as bad as they seem. You take an active interest in improving the home or at least planning on the improvements you will want to make soon. This is a good time to try and foster a sense of togetherness and team play among family members. You should try hard at this time to squelch the desire to do everything by yourself. Get the family together and plant a tree.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

You will be extremely busy today. There may be many instances when you will have to supply a solution to a particular problem. Be prepared to work hard today! You should be attentive to all work you do just now-there is a tendency to gloss over anything that needs to be done. Be especially careful in any business dealings or purchases that may cause you to go into debt. This is a day when relations with a spouse or business partner are on a solid ground. Your sensitivity is heightened and your physical attractiveness is strong. The desire for intimacy and love with a partner is great at this time, with the expression of affection being most satisfying to you. Your ability to perceive another person's thoughts will bring unexpected rewards.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

There is a possibility that your work will come under scrutiny-you definitely need to feel secure in the professional realm of life. Clear thinking and good interaction with others are most important with co-workers today. You should not hesitate in going to great lengths to make yourself clear. At this time there may be numerous romantic interests in your life. As such, you may spend a great deal of time, effort and worry balancing commitments. Also, this time marks a period when you seek intellectual stimulation in both love life and social and leisure activities. Your powers of creativity are great and you could be taking an interest in some form of volunteer work. You may find yourself teaching some form of art to young people this evening.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

This may be more of a catch up day for you. Stick to routine tasks and avoid starting new projects or heading out in new directions-if possible. You could wind up going in circles-careful. If you focus, in a creative direction, you will be able to come up with new techniques or patterns of working that will make things move along at a quicker pace in the future. Use the confidence you feel to get the most pressing projects completed-this could bring about considerable success. You will feel the urge for excitement and should consider traveling this spring. Avoid extravagance however. On many levels tonight it is best to take it easy and let others have their way.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

There is a lot of conversation at the snack bar before work begins this morning and you enjoy a little hot drink and a little chatter among co-worker friends. You are cheerful and friendly to all, making you quite popular. As the workday proceeds, you should not have any trouble completing the projects set before you. You are willing and positive when it comes to learning new things. Your communication skills are sharp and on a more mundane level, it is an excellent day to talk on the phone. There are favorable energies for financial dealings, but you must make sure that you have complete information before gambling with an investment. You truly desire fun and you enjoy getting to know new people on this day.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

You could have an abundance of mental zeal today, inflating your ego-take care to avoid being temperamental and touchy. If you channel this eagerness, you can be very influential. It's best to rely on facts rather than feelings just now. Meetings with co-workers, group gatherings and all sorts of conference or lecturing situations bring people together. You are a good and wise guide. Your emotions should be sailing on relatively calm seas, giving you an unhurried chance to sit down and take stock of things. If there is any problem on the horizon, you will have a bit of a breather just now-at least for today. Your understanding of the needs of others is helpful and informative.

WORD SEARCH PUZZLE

Head & Neck

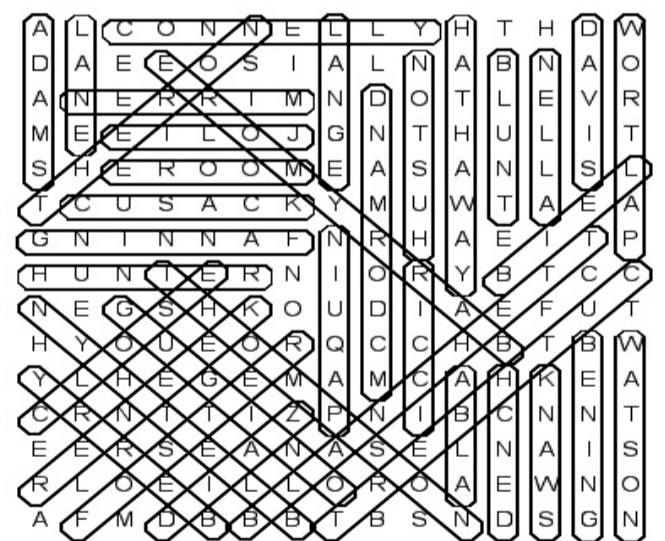
Find and circle all of the words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell an additional word.

G H T E E T S D I L E Y E
 U E Y S D U B E T S A T T
 M S R T U E T R L E O T H
 S A W V O R Y I A E L E R
 E L U O A N R E S I X M O
 E L I C R T B G O S D N P A
 A A H S T B P U S A Y L T
 L E R O N H E K E E R E A
 A L N D A O E Y N H A S R
 P I U G R E T E E E H O I
 L P U K H U C P S R P N A
 A S H C S K M A M O U T H
 C E S L A R Y N X F W A J
 S N I H C E A R L O B E S

BRAIN	HAIR	SCALP
CHEEKS	JAW	SKULL
CHIN	LARYNX	TASTE BUDS
EAR LOBES	LIPS	TEETH
EARDRUM	MOUTH	TEMPLES
EARS	NAPE	THROAT
EYEBROWS	NECK	TONGUE
EYELIDS	NOSE	TONSILS
EYES	NOSTRILS	TRACHEA
FOREHEAD	OESOPHAGUS	UVULA
GUMS	PHARYNX	

Yesterday's Solution

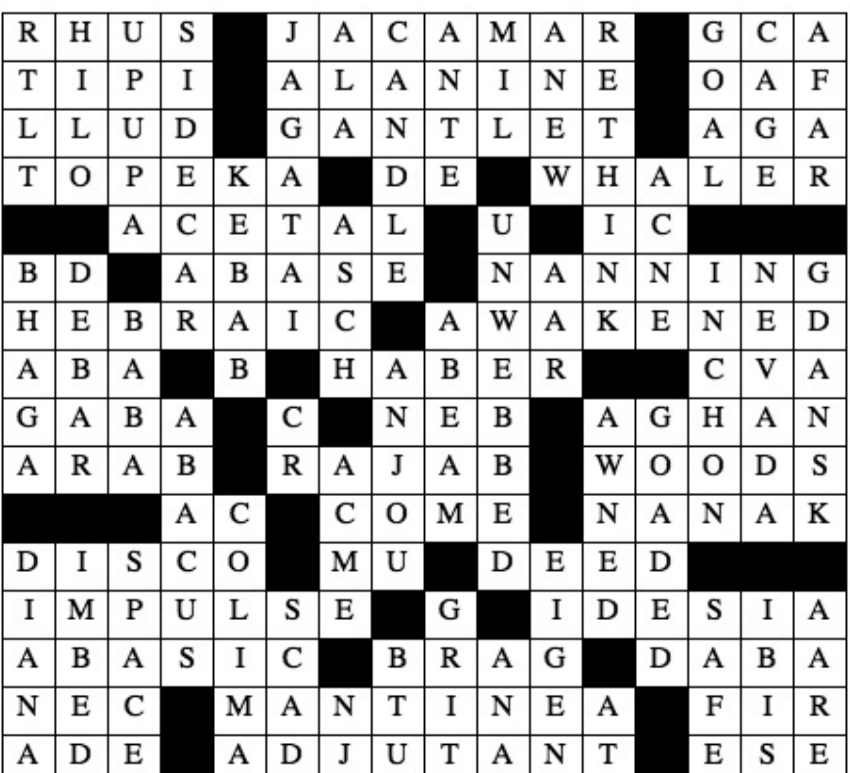
Movie Actresses 1



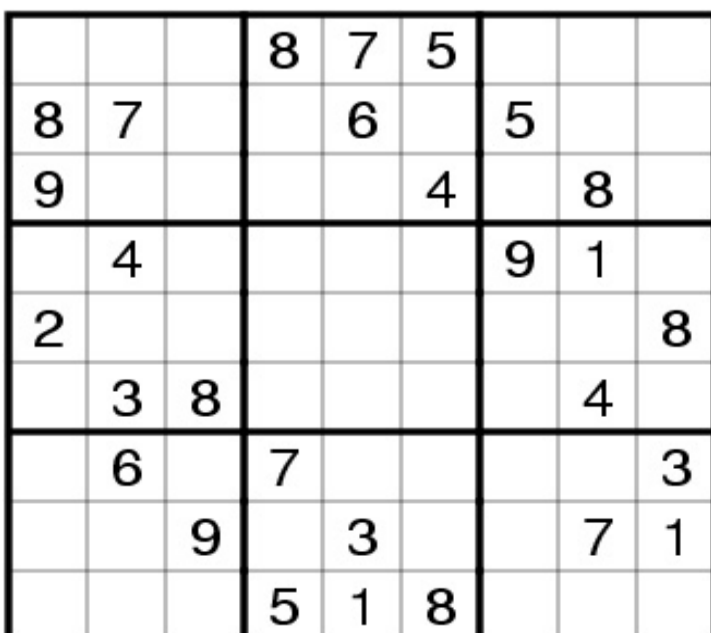
ADAMS, Amy	CUTHBERT, Elisha	LANE, Diane
ALBA, Jessica	DAVIS, Hope	LANGE, Jessica
ALLEN, Joan	DENCH, Judi	MCDORMAND, Frances
BARRYMORE, Drew	DIAZ, Cameron	MIRREN, Helen
BENNING, Annette	FANNING, Dakota	MOORE, Demi
BERRY, Halle	FOSTER, Jodie	PALTRON, Gwyneth
BIEL, Jessica	GUGINO, Carla	PAQUIN, Anna
BLANCHETT, Cate	HATHAWAY, Anne	RICCI, Christina
BLETHYN, Brenda	HUNTER, Holly	SWANK, Hilary
BLUNT, Emily	HUSTON, Anjelica	THERON, Charlize
CLOSE, Glenn	JOLIE, Angelina	THOMPSON, Emma
CONNELLY, Jennifer	KEENER, Catherine	WATSON, Emily
CUSACK, Joan		

The hidden movie title is: THE SILENCE OF THE LAMBS

Yesterday's Solution

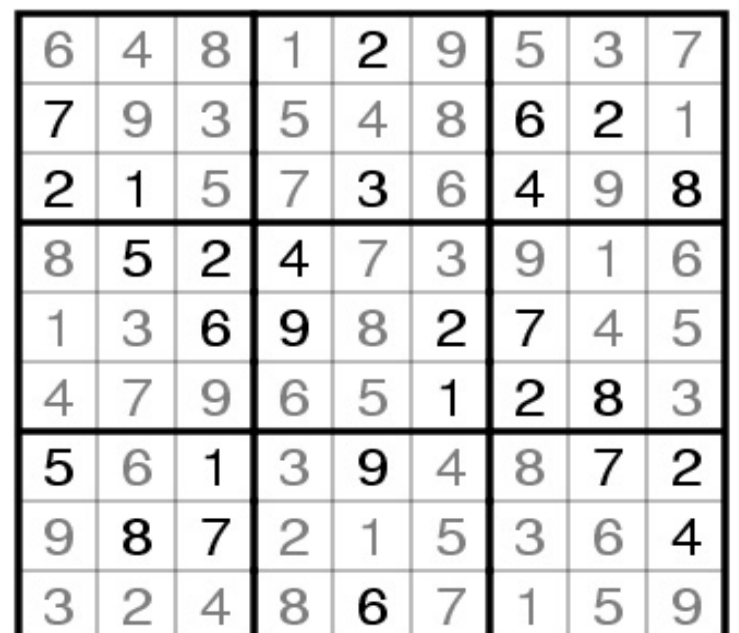


Daily SuDoku



medium

Yesterday's Solution



very hard

For labor-related inquiries and complaints:
Call MSAL hotline 128

Hospitals

Sabah Hospital	24812000
Amiri Hospital	22450005
Maternity Hospital	24843100
Mubarak Al-Kabir Hospital	25312700
Chest Hospital	24849400
Farwaniya Hospital	24892010
Adan Hospital	23940620
Ibn Sina Hospital	24840300
Al-Razi Hospital	24846000
Physiotherapy Hospital	24874330/9

Clinics

Kaizen center	25716707
Rawda	22517733
Adaliya	22517144
Khalidiya	24848075
Kaifan	24849807
Shamiya	24848913
Shuwaikh	24814507
Abdullah Salem	22549134
Nuzha	22526804
Industrial Shuwaikh	24814764
Qadsiya	22515088
Dasmah	22532265
Bneid Al-Gar	22531908
Shaab	22518752
Qibla	22459381
Ayoun Al-Qibla	22451082
Mirqab	22456536
Sharq	22465401
Salmiya	25746401
Jabriya	25316254
Maidan Hawally	25623444
Bayan	25388462
Mishref	25381200
W Hawally	22630786
Sabah	24810221
Jahra	24770319
New Jahra	24575755
West Jahra	24772608
South Jahra	24775066
North Jahra	24775992
North Jleeb	24311795
Ardhiya	24884079
Firdous	24892674
Omariya	24719048
N Khaitan	24710044
Fintas	23900322



PHARMACIES ON 24 HRS DUTY

GOVERNORATE	PHARMACY	ADDRESS	PHONE
Ahmadi	Sama Safwan Abu Halaifa Danat Al-Sultan	Fahaeel Makka St Abu Halaifa-Coastal Rd Mahboula Block 1, Coastal Rd	23915883 23715414 23726558
Jahra	Modern Jahra Madina Munawara	Jahra-Block 3 Lot 1 Jahra-Block 92	24575518 24566622
Capital	Ahlam Khalidiya Coop	Fahad Al-Salem St Khalidiya Coop	22436184 24833967
Farwaniya	New Shifa Ferdous Coop Modern Safwan	Farwaniya Block 40 Ferdous Coop Old Kheitan Block 11	24734000 24881201 24726638
Hawally	Tariq Hana Ikhlas Hawally & Rawdha Ghadeer Kindy Ibn Al-Nafis Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop	Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Salmiya-Amman St Hawally-Beirut St Hawally & Rawdha Coop Jabriya-Block 1A Jabriya-Block 3B Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop	25726265 25647075 22625999 22564549 25340559 25326554 25721264 25380581 25628241

INTERNATIONAL CALLS



Afghanistan	0093	Luxembourg	00352
Albania	00355	Macau	00853
Algeria	00213	Macedonia	00389
Andorra	00376	Madagascar	00261
Angola	00244	Majorca	0034
Anguilla	001264	Malawi	00265
Antigua	001268	Malaysia	0060
Argentina	0054	Maldives	00960
Armenia	00374	Mali	00223
Australia	0061	Malta	00356
Austria	0043	Marshall Islands	00692
Bahamas	001242	Martinique	00596
Bahrain	00973	Mauritania	00222
Bangladesh	00880	Mauritius	00230
Barbados	001246	Mayotte	00269
Belarus	00375	Mexico	0052
Belgium	0032	Micronesia	00691
Belize	00501	Moldova	00373
Benin	00229	Monaco	00377
Bermuda	001441	Mongolia	00976
Bhutan	00975	Montserrat	001664
Bolivia	00591	Morocco	00212
Bosnia	00387	Mozambique	00258
Botswana	00267	Myanmar (Burma)	0095
Brazil	0055	Namibia	00264
Brunei	00673	Nepal	00977
Bulgaria	00359	Netherlands	0031
Burkina	00226	Netherlands Antilles	00599
Burundi	00257	New Caledonia	00687
Cambodia	00855	New Zealand	0064
Cameroon	00237	Nicaragua	00505
Canada	001	Nigar	00227
Cape Verde	00238	Nigeria	00234
Cayman Islands	001345	Niue	00683
Central African	00236	Norfolk Island	00672
Chad	00235	N. Ireland (UK)	0044
Chile	0056	North Korea	00850
China	0086	Norway	0047
Colombia	0057	Oman	00968
Comoros	00269	Pakistan	0092
Congo	00242	Palau	00680
Cook Islands	00682	Panama	00507
Costa Rica	00506	Papua New Guinea	00675
Croatia	00385	Paraguay	00595
Cuba	0053	Peru	0051
Cyprus	00357	Philippines	0063
Cyprus (Northern)	0090392	Poland	0048
Czech Republic	00420	Portugal	00351
Denmark	0045	Puerto Rico	001787
Diego Garcia	00246	Qatar	00974
Djibouti	00253	Romania	0040
Dominica	001767	Russian Federation	007
Dominican Republic	001809	Rwanda	00250
Ecuador	00593	Saint Helena	00290
Egypt	0020	Saint Kitts	001869
El Salvador	00503	Saint Lucia	001758
England (UK)	0044	Saint Pierre	00508
Equatorial Guinea	00240	Saint Vincent	001784
Eritrea	00291	Samoa US	00684
Estonia	00372	Samoa West	00685
Ethiopia	00251	Sao Marino	00378
Falkland Islands	00500	Sao Tome	00239
Faroe Islands	00298	Saudi Arabia	00966
Fiji	00679	Scotland (UK)	0044
Finland	00358	Senegal	00221
France	0033	Seychelles	00284
French Guiana	00594	Sierra Leone	00232
French Polynesia	00689	Singapore	0065
Gabon	00241	Slovakia	00421
Gambia	00220	Slovenia	00386
Georgia	00995	Solomon Islands	00677
Germany	0049	Somalia	00252
Ghana	00233	South Africa	0027
Gibraltar	00350	South Korea	0082
Greece	0030	Spain	0034
Greenland	00299	Sri Lanka	0094
Grenada	001473	Sudan	00249
Guadeloupe	00590	Suriname	00597
Guam	001671	Swaziland	00268
Guatemala	00502	Sweden	0046
Guinea	00224	Switzerland	0041
Guyana	00592	Syria	00963
Haiti	00509	Serbia	00381
Holland (Netherlands)	0031	Taiwan	00886
Honduras	00504	Tanzania	00255
Hong Kong	00852	Thailand	0066
Hungary	0036	Toga	00228
Ibiza (Spain)	0034	Tonga	00676
Iceland	00354	Tokelau	00690
India	0091	Trinidad	001868
Indian Ocean	00873	Tunisia	00216
Indonesia	0062	Turkey	0090
Iran	0098	Tuvalu	00688
Iraq	00964	Uganda	00256
Ireland	00353	Ukraine	00380
Italy	0039	United Arab Emirates	00976
Ivory Coast	00225	United Kingdom	0044
Jamaica	001876	Uruguay	00598
Japan	0081	USA	001
Jordan	00962	Uzbekistan	00998
Kazakhstan	007	Vanuatu	00678
Kenya	00254	Venezuela	00582
Kiribati	00686	Vietnam	0084
Kuwait	00965	Virgin Islands UK	001284
Kyrgyzstan	00996	Virgin Islands US	001340
Laos	00856	Wales (UK)	0044
Latvia	00371	Yemen	00967
Lebanon	00961	Yugoslavia	00381
Liberia	00231	Zambia	00260
Libya	00218	Zimbabwe	00263
Lithuania	00370		

STATE OF KUWAIT DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT



Tel: (+965) 161 Ext: 2627 - 2630 Fax: (+965) 24348714 www.met.gov.kw

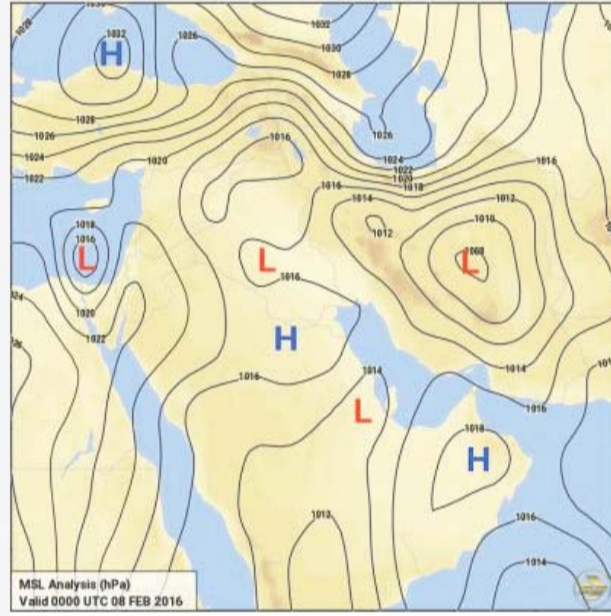
Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

Issued 08/02/2016-07:00 LT UTC +3hr

Max Temperature 22 °C

By Day : Sunny with light to moderate north westerly wind, with speed of 10 - 32 km/h
By Night : Cold with light to moderate north westerly wind, with speed of 15 - 38 km/h

SFC. CHART



MSL Analysis (hPa) Valid 0000 UTC 08 FEB 2016

Four-Day Forecast

	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Expected Weather	Sunny	Sunny + high clouds	Cloudy + chance of scattered rain	Sunny + raising dust
Min Temp °C	08	07	08	08
Max Temp °C	20	20	18	18
Wind Direction	North westerly	North westerly to light variable	Northerly changing to north westerly	North westerly
Wind Speed km/h	12 - 35	08 - 28	15 - 40	15 - 40

All times are local time (GMT+3) unless otherwise stated

Warnings & Weather Watches

no warnings or weather watches

Kuwait Forecast

Station	MIN °C	REC	Max °C	EXP
KUWAIT CITY	12		23	
KUWAIT AIRPORT	08		22	
ABDULY	08		23	
BUBYAN	10		19	
JAHRA	09		26	
FALAKA ISLAND	10		20	
SALMIYAH	13		17	
AHMADI	14		19	
JAL ALIYAH	08		24	
QAROH ISLAND	16		19	
UMM AL-MARADEM	16		19	
NUWAISIB	11		25	
WAFRA	11		27	
MANAGISH	08		24	
SALMY	08		23	
MUTRIBA	08		24	

Recorded Yesterday at Kuwait Airport

Max Temp (°C)	25
Min Temp (°C)	13
Max Rel Hum (%)	80
Min Rel Hum (%)	18
Max Wind Speed (km/h) and Direction	53 S
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR	.17 mm
Sunrise	06:33
Sunset	17:32

Prayer Times

Fajr	05:12
Sunrise	06:33
Zuhr	12:02
Asr	15:09
Sunset	17:32
Isha	18:50



PRIVATE CLINICS

Ophthalmologists	
Dr. Abdallah Al-Mansoor	25622444
Dr. Samy Al-Rabaa	25752222
Dr. Masoma Habeeb	25321171
Dr. Mubarak Al-Ajmy	25739999
Dr. Mohsen Abel	25757700
Dr. Adnan Hasan Alwayl	25732223
Dr. Abdallah Al-Baghly	25732223
Ear, Nose & Throat (ENT)	
Dr. Ahmed Fouad Mouner	24555050 Ext 510
Dr. Abdallah Al-Ali	25644660
Dr. Abd Al-Hameed Al-Taweel	25646478
Dr. Sanad Al-Fathalah	25311996
Dr. Mohammad Al-Daory	25731988
Dr. Ismail Al-Fodary	22620166
Dr. Mahmoud Al-Booz	25651426
General Practitioners	
Dr. Mohamme Y Majidi	24555050 Ext 123
Dr. Yousef Al-Omar	24719312
Dr. Tarek Al-Mikhaezem	22636920
Dr. Kathem Maarafi	25730465
Dr. Abdallah Ahmad Eyadah	25655528
Dr. Nabeeb Al-Ayoobi	24577781
Dr. Dina Abdallah Al-Refae	25333501
Urologists	
Dr. Ali Naser Al-Serfy	22641534
Dr. Fawzi Taher Abul	22639955
Dr. Khaleel Abdallah Al-Awadi	22616660
Dr. Adel Al-Hunayan FRCS (C)	25313120
Dr. Leons Joseph	66703427

Plastic Surgeons	
Dr. Mohammad Al-Khalaf	22547272
Dr. Abdal-Redha Lari	22617700
Dr. Abdel Quttainah	25625030/60
Family Doctor	
Dr Divya Damodar	23729596/23729581
Psychiatrists	
Dr. Esam Al-Ansari	22635047
Dr. Eisa M. Al-Balhan	22613623/0
Gynaecologists & Obstetricians	
Dr Adrian arbe	23729596/23729581
Dr. Verginia s. Marin	2572-6666 ext 8321
Dr. Fozeya Ali Al-Qatan	22655539
Dr. Majeda Khalefa Aliyami	25343406
Dr. Ahmad Al-Khooly	25739272
Dr. Salem soso	22618787
General Surgeons	
Dr. Amer Zawaz Al-Amer	22610044
Dr. Mohammad Yousef Basher	25327148
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

Paediatricians	
Dr. Khaled Hamadi	25665898
Dr. Abd Al-Aziz Al-Rashed	25340300
Dr. Zahra Qabazard	25710444
Dr. Sohail Qamar	22621099
Dr. Snaa Maarouf	25713514
Dr. Pradip Gujare	23713100
Dr. Zacharias Mathew	24334282
Dermatology	
Dr. Mohammed Salam Bern University	23845955
Dentists	
Dr Anil Thomas	3729596/3729581
Dr. Shamah Al-Matar	22641071/2
Dr. Anesah Al-Rasheed	22562226
Dr. Abdallah Al-Amer	22561444
Dr. Faysal Al-Fozan	22619557
Dr. Abdallateef Al-Katrash	22525888
Dr. Abdallah Al-Duweisan	25653755
Dr. Bader Al-Ansari	25620111
Neurologists	
Dr. Sohal Najem Al-Shemeri	25633324
Dr. Jasem Mola Hassan	25345875
Gastrologists	
Dr. Sami Aman	22636464
Dr. Mohammad Al-Shamaly	25322030
Dr. Foad Abdallah Al-Ali	22633135

Endocrinologist	
Dr. Abd Al-Naser Al-Othman	25339330
Dr. Ahmad Al-Ansari	25658888
Dr. Kamal Al-Shomr	25329924
Physiotherapists & VD	
Dr. Deyaa Shehab	25722291
Dr. Mused Faraj Khamees	22666288
Rheumatologists:	
Dr. Adel Al-Awadi	25330060
Dr. Khaled Al-Jarallah	25722290
Internist, Chest & Heart	
DR.Mohammes Akkad	24555050 Ext 210
Consultant Cardiologist	
Dr. Mohammad Zubaid MB, ChB, FRCP, PACC Assistant Professor Of Medicine Head, Division of Cardiology Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital	25339667
Dr. Farida Al-Habib MD, PH.D, FACC	2611555-2622555
Inaya German Medical Center	Te: 2575077 Fax: 25723123

Psychologists / Psychotherapists	Soor Center Tel: 2290-1677 Fax: 2290 1688	info@soorcenter.com www.soorcenter.com	Kaizen center 25716707	Noor Clinic 23845955	William Schuilenberg, RPC 2290-1677 Zaina Al Zabin, M.Sc. 2290-1677
----------------------------------	---	--	------------------------	----------------------	---

Jagger and Scorsese strum up rock 'n' roll's 'Game of Thrones'

The 1970s may have been the decade that fashion forgot, but Martin Scorsese believes that was because the world was too busy with drugs, sex and rock 'n' roll to care. The acclaimed director has brought all that excess to the small screen in his new hard rocking television series, "Vinyl", set in the bacchanalian world of a New York record company. Scorsese, who made his name with "Mean Streets" in 1973 as the city's music scene roared its loudest, has been working on and off on the project for 18 years with none other than Mick Jagger.



This file photo shows director Martin Scorsese attending the New York premiere of "Vinyl" at Ziegfeld Theatre in New York City. — AFP

The Rolling Stones frontman was already rock royalty by the early 1970s, and his insider knowledge of the industry is clear in the no holds barred HBO series which premieres in the United States and Europe on February 14 and 15. Jagger's son James even plays the snarling singer of a fictional punk band called the Nasty Bits who arrives hungry and raw on the books of the failing America Music

Company just as it is about to go bust. But it is the label's cocaine-fuelled owner Richie Finestra, played by with manic gusto by Bobby Cannavale, who is the center of the story. "Vinyl starts in '73" when a bizarre mix of glam rock, Led Zeppelin and the early strains of disco, punk and hip-hop shared the New York scene, Scorsese told AFP while he was still shooting the two-hour pilot.

Gangsters and big money

"It's full of stories of gangsters, drugs, rock 'n' roll and big money," he added. The series starts with Finestra trying to cash in the chaotic list of bands he has signed—often at random—by off-loading the company and its cooked books onto German giant Polygram. While he lives the rock 'n' roll lifestyle to the full, rubbing shoulders with Elvis Presley, Lou Reed, David Bowie and Zeppelin's Robert Plant, his wife Devon (played by Olivia Wilde of "House" fame) goes quietly mad at home.

She has swapped life hanging out with the Velvet Underground in Andy Warhol's Factory with the bored conformity of Stepford Wives suburbia. Jagger has gone to pains to deny that the Finestra character is even loosely based on Ahmet Ertegun, the legendary Turkish boss of Atlantic Records with whom the singer was close, but he said the industry was full of "crazy people" at the time.

"They were so wacky that it was hard to write up how mad they were in real life and expect people to actually believe that a businessperson could behave like that," he told Billboard magazine. He also made no bones about the fact that as executive producer he suggested that his musician son would be great as the heroin addict punk singer Kip Stevens.

British Rolling Stones' (from left) Charlie Watts, Keith Richards, Mick Jagger and Ronnie Wood arrive to the National Stadium in Santiago on February 1, 2016, for a sound test. — AFP



'Screaming racket'
"He loves that kind of music that kind of screaming racket. So I thought I'd put James into the mix. I'm very pleased with him," the 72-year-old added. Scorsese and Jagger previously worked together on his 2008 feature on the Stones, "Shine a Light", one of a series of landmark music documentaries the director has made including "No Direction Home: Bob Dylan", "Eric Clapton: Nothing but the Blues", as well as the major series

"The Blues", which marked the centenary of the music's birth.

"Mick and I started working on 'Vinyl' in 1998," Scorsese told AFP, but their plans for a feature film fell victim to the financial crisis in 2008, when studio bosses would no longer bankroll the project, then called "The Long Play". Instead Scorsese's longtime collaborator Terence Winter, who wrote the script for "The Wolf of Wall Street", said there was so much material it would be better as a TV

series and suggested they put their heads together. Winter and Scorsese were working on their Prohibition era gangster epic "Boardwalk Empire" at the time for HBO, now regarded as a television classic. Already critics are talking about "Vinyl" in the same hushed tones, with the Hollywood Reporter calling the "propulsive new series... a kind of rock 'n' roll 'Game of Thrones'" and Variety declaring it one of the year's "most anticipated TV series". — AFP

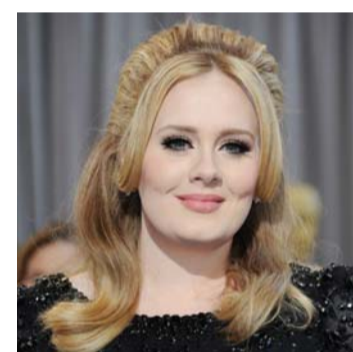
Adele officially best-selling artist of 2015

Adele, who broke records with her song "Hello" and latest album "25", was officially the biggest artist of 2015. Global music industry body IFPI said that the British ballad singer was the top-selling musical act last year based on worldwide sales of recordings. Adele achieved the feat for the full year even though she did not release "25" until November 20 and declined to put the album on streaming sites, a rare move at a time when such on-demand services are growing rapidly. "25"—Adele's third album which came more than four years after its predecessor—broke records for first-week sales in both the United States and Britain.

The first track "Hello," an intro-

spective ballad in line with Adele's previous work, was the first single to be downloaded more than one million times in the United States in one week. IFPI chief executive Frances Moore, in a statement issued from Europe yesterday, called "25" the "runaway global sensation of 2015" and said Adele's achievement was "simply phenomenal." IFPI, which stands for the International Federation of the Phonographic Industry, presents its annual award based on an artist's physical and digital sales as well as streaming, although the group does not release figures.

Tracking service Nielsen SoundScan reported Sunday that "25" had sold eight million copies in the United States—becoming only the sixth album to reach that



This file photo taken on February 24, 2013 shows singer Adele as she arrives on the red carpet for the 85th Annual Academy Awards in Hollywood, California. — AFP

threshold since 2001, when iTunes and other digital music

innovations shook up the industry. Number two for 2015 was another British artist, singer-songwriter Ed Sheeran, whose career has soared in the past couple of years on the popularity of his ballad "Thinking Out Loud." US country-turned-pop superstar Taylor Swift, who won the IFPI Global Recording Artist award the previous year when she released her chart-topping album "1989", fell to number three in 2015.

Rounding off the top five were Canadian pop celebrity Justin Bieber, who in November released his latest album "Purpose," and British boy band One Direction who called a hiatus in late 2015 after a fifth album and departure of founding member Zayn Malik. — AFP



Beyoncé, Chris Martin and Bruno Mars perform during Super Bowl 50.

Beyoncé, Coldplay 'believe in love' at Super Bowl show



Lady Gaga performs the American National Anthem prior to the start of Super Bowl 50 between the Carolina Panthers and the Denver Broncos at Levi's Stadium in Santa Clara, California. — AFP

Coldplay and Beyoncé went both retro and inspirational on Sunday as they put on a colorful Super Bowl halftime show full of flowers and happy children. While Coldplay was nominally the headliner at the American football championship game, it was Beyoncé who made news—moments after the show finished, a brief television advertisement announced that she will head on a world tour. With more than 100 million people estimated to be tuning into the Super Bowl, likely the top US television event of the year, Beyoncé was ensured of maximum exposure.

The 40-date tour of stadiums across North America and Europe will open April 27 in Miami and close July 31 in Brussels, Beyoncé's promoters announced shortly afterward. Beyoncé, who had been relatively quiet in 2015, on the eve of the Super Bowl released a new song, "Formation," a hip-hop-driven track with a theme of racial pride. Beyoncé put on "Formation" at the Super Bowl, backed by a synchronized squad of dancers in matching black leather bodysuits with golden highlights. She took over the show from Coldplay, who paid tribute to the Super Bowl's host city of San Francisco with a stage that flashed in the tie-dye of the city's 1960s counterculture as dancers on the field hoisted giant flower shapes. The show ended with the stars together on stage as spectators in the stands held up colorful cutouts to read out the words, "Believe in Love."

Indian theme for Coldplay

Coldplay also pursued a fascination with India. The British rockers together with Beyoncé recently released an Indian-themed video for "Hymn for the Weekend," eliciting much negative feedback on social media from

Indians who found the imagery clichéd. Coldplay decorated the Super Bowl stage with marigolds and wrote the band's name in Hindi on their amplifiers and drumset. Singer Chris Martin raced onto stage singing the upbeat Coldplay track "Viva La Vida" as the Youth Orchestra Los Angeles, led by Venezuelan maestro Gustavo Dudamel, enthusiastically ran in with him.

Furthering the theme of youth, Martin sang to a crowd full of bouncy youngsters whose screams threatened to drown him out as he reached down from the stage.

While Beyoncé's appearance was an open secret, the Super Bowl stage featured one surprise—Mark Ronson. The English artist led his hit "Uptown Funk" as Bruno Mars—who in 2014 had been the Super Bowl halftime headliner—re-emerged to lead an urban-style dance crew. With the game marking the 50th Super Bowl, Mars and Beyoncé converged together on stage to a medley of tracks from past halftime performers. One snippet showed Michael Jackson, whose black-and-gold outfit was the clear

inspiration for Beyoncé's attire for the night—although the late King of Pop had worn trousers. Earlier in the Super Bowl, Lady Gaga—best known for her outrageous outfits and hyper-sexual stage persona—delivered a classic and at times jazzy rendition of the national anthem. Sporting a sparkling red pantsuit and heavy red eye makeup, along with blue polish on her long nails, Lady Gaga drew loud applause for her performance of "The Star-Spangled Banner" and appeared to be holding back tears. Lady Gaga has increasingly moved away from her over-the-top performances and distinguished herself by singing pop classics in a duet with 89-year-old Tony Bennett. — AFP

Stars, migrant crisis in focus at Berlin film fest

Movies starring Colin Firth, Kirsten Dunst and Emma Thompson will vie for gold at the 66th Berlin film festival starting Thursday, with Meryl Streep as jury president and a spotlight on Europe's refugee crisis. The 11-day event, Europe's first major cinema showcase of the year, will start with a gala screening of "Hail, Caesar!" with US directors Joel and Ethan Coen and stars George Clooney, Channing Tatum and Tilda Swinton expected on the red carpet in the wintry German capital.

The competition will kick off the following day, with 18 films from around the world gunning for the Golden Bear top prize, which Streep's seven-member panel will award on February 20. Last year, top honors went to Iranian dissident director Jafar Panahi, whose innovative "Taxi" had to be filmed in secret in a Tehran cab. Among the most-anticipated pictures this year is "Genius," the feature debut by British theatre director Michael Grandage starring Oscar winner Firth as literary editor Max Perkins, who published some of the 20th century's greatest American writers.

Jude Law plays writer Thomas Wolfe, Nicole Kidman his lover and muse Aline Bernstein, with Dominic West portraying Ernest Hemingway and Guy Pearce as F. Scott Fitzgerald. Also generating buzz ahead of the festival is a new adaptation of the international bestseller "Alone in Berlin", Hans Fallada's 1947 novel which is based on a true story. The Nazi-era thriller sees Thompson and Irish actor Brendan Gleeson play a working-class German couple who

mount a daring resistance campaign after losing their only son in the war.

'Right to happiness'

Another first feature, "Hedi" by Tunisian filmmaker Mohamed Ben Attia, tells a love story set in the aftermath of the Arab Spring. It will be the first film made entirely in the Arab world to appear in competition in Berlin in two decades. "The overarching theme this year is the right to happiness—the right to a home, to love, to self-determination, to life and to survival," festival director Dieter Kosslick told reporters. US director Jeff Nichols, who built a reputation with independent hits such as "Mud" and "Take Shelter", will present the sci-fi thriller "Midnight Special" with his frequent star Michael Shannon, Dunst and Adam Driver of "Star Wars: The Force Awakens". It tells the story of a man racing to protect his gifted young son from a religious cult leader and government agents. French veteran Andre Techine will present a new drama, "Being 17", while Oscar-winning Bosnian director Danis Tanovic will premiere "Death in Sarajevo" based on a play by French philosopher Bernard-Henri Levy.

Also in the main line-up are two documentaries, Alex Gibney's "Zero Days" about the threat posed by cybersecurity breaches, and "Fire at Sea" by Italian director Gianfranco Rosi, winner of the Venice film festival's 2013 Golden Lion. Rosi spent months on the Mediterranean island of Lampedusa to tell the story of a community on the front line of Europe's largest influx of migrants since World War II. — AFP



In this file photo, Rihanna performs at the We Can Survive Concert at the Hollywood Bowl in Los Angeles. — AP

Rihanna album at US number one after unusual release

Rihanna's long-awaited album "Anti" hit number one Sunday on the US chart after an unusual roll-out that included two commercial tie-ups. "Anti", the first album since 2012 by the Barbados-born superstar, which was released January 27 after apparent delays, topped the Billboard chart for the week through Thursday. The album came out initially as an exclusive on Tidal, the streaming service led by rap mogul Jay Z, in a surprise timing on a Wednesday evening US time that defied the music industry's guideline of global releases on Friday.

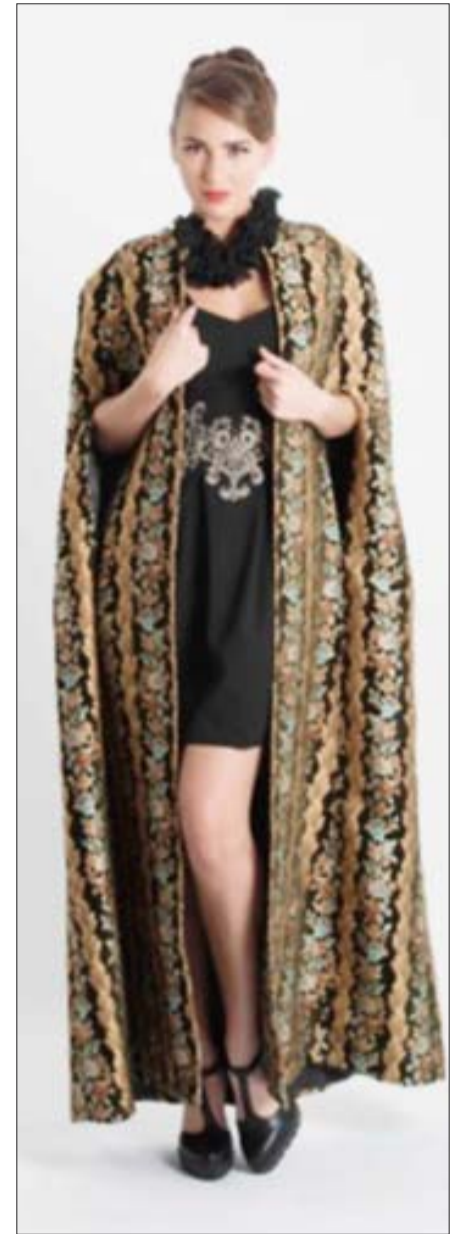
South Korean electronics giant Samsung also let one million of its smartphone users download "Anti" for free. The arrangement likely cut into Rihanna's sales figures as tracking service Nielsen SoundScan does not count giveaways on the chart, although it does factor in streaming.

Rihanna signed a promotion deal reportedly worth \$25 million with Samsung, which set up an interactive website for the album. "Anti" became available on iTunes and other digital retailers on January 29 and as a CD a week later. Streaming services, which offer unlimited on-demand music, have been rapidly growing and transforming the music industry's marketing strategies. But streaming was not the main factor in Rihanna's chart success, with direct purchases on iTunes and other retailers counting for three-quarters of the 166,000 album sales over the past week.

"Anti" had opened on the chart a week earlier at number 27 as it had come out with little more than a day to go in the reporting period and only on Tidal. Tidal has heavily promoted exclusives in a bid to challenge Spotify's dominance of streaming and offered free trials to Samsung users who downloaded "Anti" for free. Rihanna has been one of the 21st century's top-selling artists and had been prolific in her output from her 2005 debut until 2012. "Anti" mostly moves away from the R&B and dance tracks for which she became famous, with the 27-year-old instead preferring ballads about romantic tumult. — AFP



People queue up in front of a booth selling tickets for the Berlinale Film Festival, in a shopping mall in Berlin yesterday. — AFP



Hollywood stars dazzled by Al-Ajeel designs

The continuous success of the Kuwaiti fashion designer Muntaha Al-Ajeel is a major addition to the world of fashion and beauty, with her fashion designs dazzling Hollywood stars such as the American actress Kali Hawk who wore one of her designs in the film Fifty Shades of Black which has been

released recently. Muntaha Al-Ajeel is the most dynamic name in fashion design in the Arabian Gulf. From the very beginning she set her sights on the international stage creating designs that distinguished her with their uniqueness, beauty and elegance.

She was awarded the Middle East

Businesswomen fashion award, the Elegance Icon title, the Honors Award, the International Pioneering award organized by the American Leadership Development Association, the Federation of GCC Chambers and the International Emirati Group. The award is meant for expert business leaders, and it was the first

award given to a woman leader in fashion.

In recognition of her international fashion shows, she was invited by the UN to organize a special fashion show for some of the world's First Ladies. Al-Ajeel is a member of the Fashion Group International in New York and a member of the Arab British Chamber of Commerce.



Kuwaiti fashion designer Muntaha Al-Ajeel

Designer Siki Im marches out vampires, but luxe vampires



Are we afraid of monsters, or afraid we ARE the monsters? It's a question for the ages and one designer Siki Im decided to present in clothes of black, oxblood and aubergine Thursday night as the second New York Fashion Week: Men's drew to a close. Some of his models were painted in drips of black and yellow as they walked a stark runway in looks that included a killer pair of black leather pants and woolen blazers he should be proud of.

These architectural clothes, reflecting his training as an actual architect, are for the truly urban and cultured male, not easily thrown on to run suburban errands or attend a neighbor's cocktail party. But back to his undead.

"We went a little bit crazy this time," said Siki, who worked under Karl Lagerfeld and as head designer at Helmut Lang before he launched his namesake line in 2009. "The collection is about my fascination with vampires, watching movies like 'The Hunger' and 'From Dusk Till Dawn,'" he explained. "But I went even further, looking at our fears. We all have certain darkness and the question is embracing that and hopefully through that process finding liberation."

There's a certain luxe lurking among Siki's vampires. He used fabrics from Italy that lent texture and depth, including cashmere coats and pants. Subtle prints played out in the wool of a few blazers



but also car coats combined with leather.

Some canvas jackets and tops were furry for the winter season. Siki was born in Germany and made his way to New York City by way of Oxford University. He presented two lines at once, his namesake Siki Im and his extension line, Den Im. He intends the two to be mixed and matched.

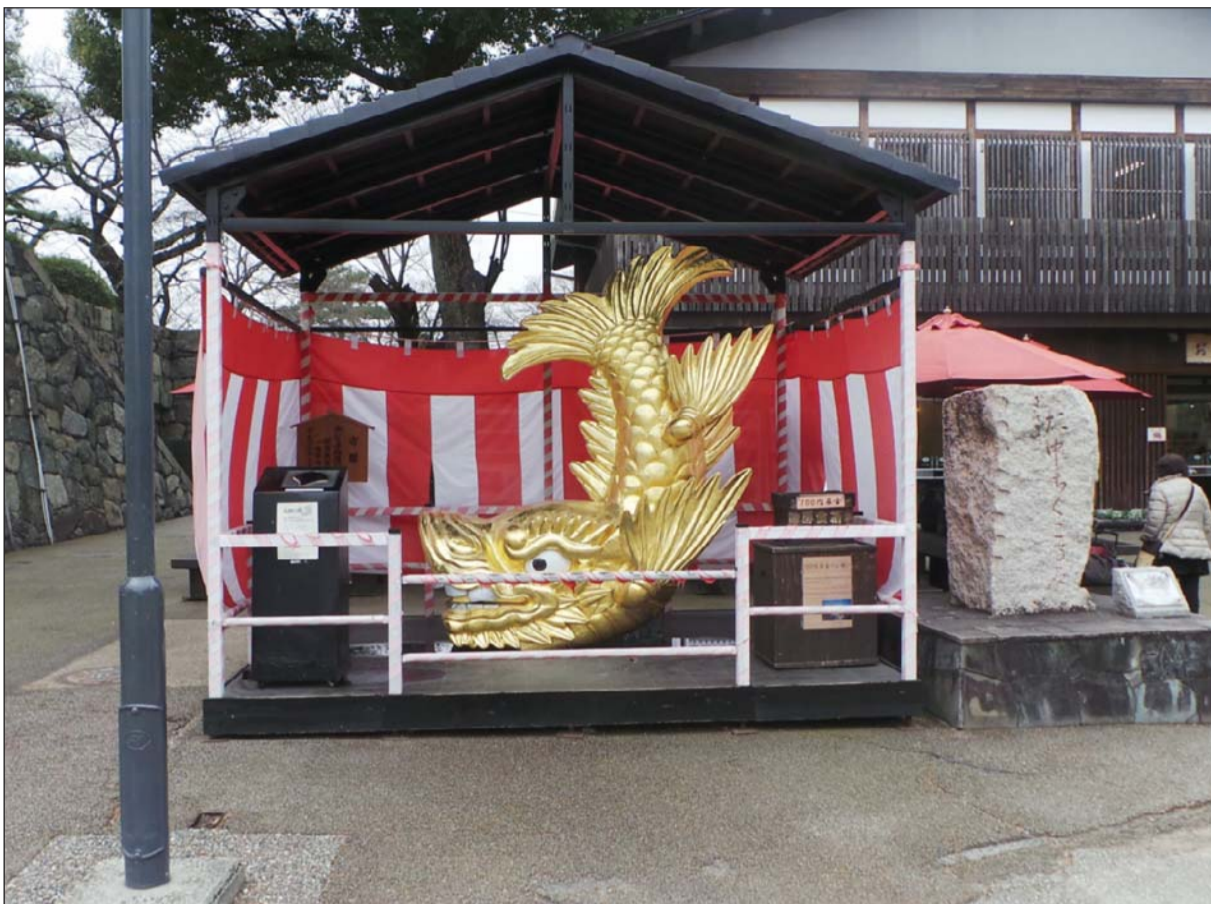
He wanted this show to be raw, strong - and more personal as he has sought out his own inner resilience by becoming less afraid of our demons. Death, after all, may not be the end. "I've learned to be more honest and transparent with myself," Siki said. "I'm embracing my own darkness. There's always hope." — AP



Siki Im Mens Fall 2016 collection is modeled during Men Fashion Week in New York. — AP photos

Japan: A great nation

PART - 3



The golden dolphin or "The Orca" decorating top of the Nagoya Castle.



Part of the Nagoya Castle.

Nagoya: Rich in Samurai history

By Mohammed Bassam Al-Husseini



A picture in the museum shows the bombardment of the castle in WWII prior its renovation.

After Ise Shima, we headed to Nagoya, the fourth largest city in Japan. Nagoya is famous for a well-known castle. Tourism and cultural hobbyists will enjoy one of the most prestigious museums in the city, the Tokugawa museum, which was opened in 1935 and contains the treasures of one of the most famous families in the history of Japan, after it reached the 19th grandson through inheritance. The Owari Tokugawa family was known during the Edo period (1603- 867) as one of the family branches from which the shogun or the country's military ruler was chosen.

Samurai swords, helmets, collections, vases, paintings, furniture, traditional Noh costumes that go back to that period, and other collections that are rich in detail bring joy to tourists, exactly like the museum garden which was established by the family. The city was considered, when it was built centuries ago, as the most beautiful in the region, and is a source of happiness with its lakes, falls, wooden bridges, flowers and gigantic trees.

Not far from Tokugawa museum is the famous Nagoya castle, with huge golden dolphin statues crowning its summit. This castle was destroyed during WWII, but the city council rebuilt it, restoring most details, especially those related to the samurai, using the most modern methods and techniques. We saw pictures of its bombardment and fire when we toured it. The West End hotel is located near it, and its rooms overlook it, and is considered one of Nagoya's most important hotels.



A mural shows the Samurai history.



Murals show tigers inside the Tokugawa museum.



Photo shows Tokugawa museum, garden and palace.

Encouraging exports and investments

There is a special authority for Japan's foreign trade called Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO), which encourages Japanese companies to head abroad, as Japan relies on its companies' and citizens' investments to temper the balance of payments and motivate Japanese exports abroad. It also provides logistics facilities for new investors in Japan. Director of the Middle East and Africa research department at the organization Takashito Tsunimi said the organization has five offices in the Middle East in Dubai, Riyadh, Istanbul, Tehran and Tel Aviv.

Tsunimi spoke about Japanese investments in Kuwait and pointed to allocating 35 percent for the off-set program being a big hurdle that reduces Kuwait's



Director of the Middle East and Africa Research Department at the Organization Takashitosunimi.

competitiveness, compared with other countries in the region that do not impose such a high percentage. About the reduction of oil prices, he said despite Japan's benefits from reduced oil cost, it fears negative repercussions also, because the Middle East and oil countries in particular make a very important investment field for Japanese companies.

They have allocated a large portion of their income for infrastructure projects in partnership with Japanese companies, adding that a large number of these companies, nearly 400, have opened offices in Dubai and run business from there despite the challenges of the oil prices drop and the growing threat of IS. Tsunimi said Japanese companies are distinguished by commit-

ment towards countries they invest in, and they withdraw quickly as challenges appear, and this is what distinguishes them.

He expressed worry towards the deep differences between Saudi Arabia and Iran. "This worries us as Saudi Arabia is a market that has 30 million consumers, and this highly interests us, and this is an important source of oil."

Also Iran, which has 80 million people, and after sanctions on it were lifted, interests us. A conference was held in Tokyo about investment opportunities there with the attendance of 310 participants," Tsunimi said, adding, "It is not in the interest of Japanese companies for the situation to worsen."

Japan: A great nation PART - 3

President of Japan Muslims' Society: We aim to spread the forgiving Islamic sharia, in agreement with Japanese societal traditions

He studied at Al-Azhar, and since embracing Islam 50 years ago, works on propagation in his country, and as a result of long efforts, he achieved his dream with the establishment of the Islamic cultural center in Tokyo. Hajj Amin "Kimyaki" Tukumaso heads the Japan Muslims' Society, which is a charitable society that does not indulge in politics in compliance with the law, and has hundreds of Muslims as members, both individuals and families.

a lack of resources that limits its efforts. Building the center, for example, required nearly \$2.5 million. \$1 million was collected from members, and the rest from donations from Saudi Arabia, UAE and Turkey. This helped it to start construction. Most members are workers in companies, and each of them pays \$80 annually, with \$130 for families.

The society is active in communicating with educational and cultural establishments in Japan and in the field of religious dialogue. The society runs a cemetery for Muslims where burial is done according to Muslim sharia. It organizes camps for its members and celebration of Muslim Eids. It also gives advice to those who wish to perform hajj, confirms the shahada for new Muslims and completes marriage procedures.



Hajj Ameen Tuku Maso

events, and what Daesh is doing today," Tukumaso said. "The Japanese people are highly informed and follow all the news and this is why they got a negative image about Islam." This is the reason that made him invest in a cultural center and not in building a mosque. "We attract Japanese youth, because we tell them to come and get educated, and they interact with us. We have designated one of the new building's floors as a prayer area with the help of the Turkish government," he said.

ago, and today we are 10,000 and intend to increase the number through our commitment to what our religion requires," he said. Tukumaso said the Japan Muslims' Society was established in 1952 as the first Muslim society in the country, and gained official recognition in 1968. Its official premises is in Yoyogi Shibuya neighborhood of Tokyo.

There are many stories and studies about introducing Islam to Japan, but the most notable information in this field is in the book "Islam in Japan" which is authored by Dr Saleh Mahdi Al-Samarrai and Dr Saleem Al-Rahman Khan, who said communications took place between the 17th and 19th centuries between Muslims and the Japanese, but the first official communication between Japan and the Ottoman state was in 1871, when high ranking Japanese officials visited Istanbul to strengthen relations between the two empires.

Sarah: The Japanese preacher who roams the country to spread Islam



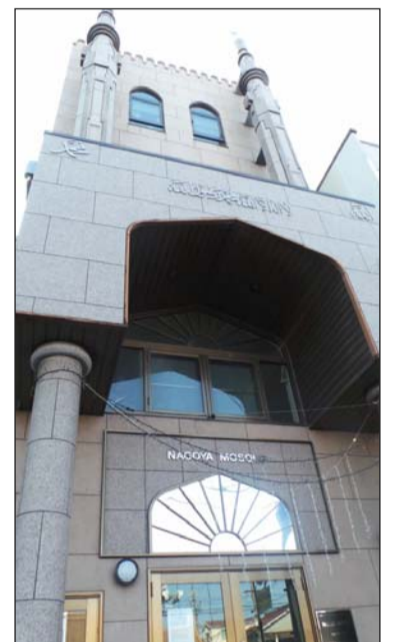
Photo shows Mohammed Bassam Al-Husseini sitting with Abdelwahab Quraishi, Sara Quraishi and Masjid's Imam Ahmad Al-Alami at the Nagoya Mosques library.

Nagoya hosts a mosque that was completed in 1998, and was established by a group of students from Sudan, Pakistan and several countries who were studying in Japan, and is run by the Nagoya Islamic Society headed

flat they rented to meet and pray as he feared he may face problems with the government.

Another issue that worries Abdelwahab and Sarah is halal food, which some businessmen attempted to turn into a major and complex issue, while they are trying to convey the message to the Japanese and especially restaurant owners that creating a halal environment of food and services for their customers is something easy and possible.

Sarah is proud that her four Muslim children speak Japanese, Urdu and English. She is active on Facebook and is in connection with a group of major preachers who are Japanese academics, who are able to help her, including Dr Kamal Ukoda. The mosque's library provides copies of the Holy Quran and Islamic publications in several languages including Thai, Chinese, German, Bengali and others.



Nagoya Mosque



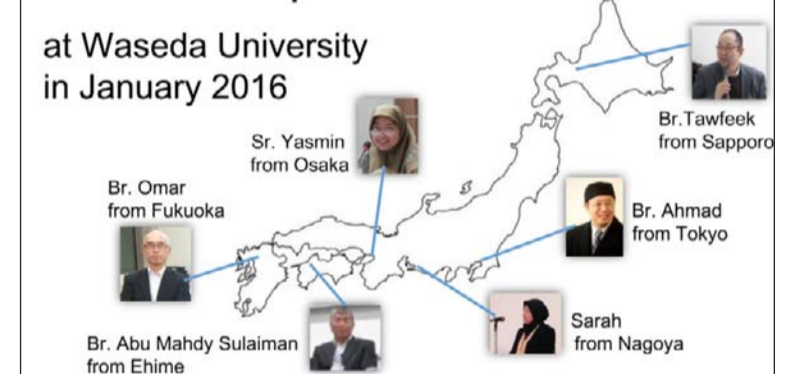
The Japanese preacher Sara Quraishi

by Pakistani Abdelwahab Quraishi with the help of his Japanese wife Sarah, who is considered the most traveled female preacher in the country, who moves between cities and islands to spread Islam at the request and encouragement of her husband who believes that the best way to reach the Japanese is through citizens like them.

Quraishi, Sarah and the masjid's Egyptian imam Ahmad Al-Alami happily speak about its history and visitors, including the Haram Imam Sheikh Khalid bin Hameed, and they say that the main reason for constructing it is the harassment students faced from the owner of a

Share the experiences across areas

at Waseda University in January 2016



The most prominent propagandists in Japan, including Sara.

Development of medical technologies: Important care for dialysis patients



Doctor Yaman Kazokumoto Hatchi head of the planning unit at Tukatsu clinic.

Japan has announced, as part of its plans to encourage tourism, concentration on medical tourism under advanced capabilities and continued work by Japanese companies to develop medical technologies. Part of our tour was a visit to Tukatsu clinic

specialized in dialysis. We met the hospital Director Dr Shingoyaman and head of the planning unit Kazokumoto Hatchi, as they spoke about the studies that confirm with statistics their being ahead of all other hospitals.



Advanced equipment available in all the hospital branches.



Aerial view for the center and institution where athletes are being prepared for Tokyo Olympics 2020.

Sports Science Institute and the National Training Center, the largest Japanese investments to create champions

In order to prepare champions, and hoist Japan's flag high in international arenas, the Japanese government decided to construct two major facilities to support athletes and facilitate outstanding sport.

The first is the Japan Institute for Sports Science, and the second is the National Training Center. The Sports Science Center, which started its activities in 2001, contributes in the field of scientific and medical research in three areas:

2 - Carry out continued research to develop their abilities.

3 - Provide comprehensive clinics to treat and rehabilitate them.

1 - Supporting physical and psychological medicine, follow athletes' fitness and carry out periodic tests on them.

As for the Training Center, it is a complex that includes most advanced facilities to carry out training in all disciplines.



Revelers of Uniao da Ilha samba school perform during the first night of the carnival parade at Sambadrome in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. — AFP

Lunar New Year turbulence as 'fire monkey' swings into action

As the Lunar New Year of the Monkey swings into action today, fortune tellers foresee 12 months of political and financial turbulence at the hands of the mischievous, unpredictable creature. Hong Kong's respected feng shui masters expect an incendiary mix as the monkey combines with the fire element, but also say the year ahead will be a boom time for clever innovation and women will be in the ascendant. The monkey is seen as belonging to the hard metal element, while fire represents the sun, says Hong Kong-based celebrity feng shui master

according to its tenets. It is based on ancient philosophy and the belief that all events are dictated by the varying balances in the five elements that make up the universe: Metal, wood, water, fire and earth. Feng shui masters in Hong Kong also combine astrology into their art. Hong Kong-based soothsayer Thierry Chow warned of shocking events at the hands of the "fire monkey".

"Fire is dominant in the five elements. When fire is atop monkeys they will be swinging around, they will be difficult to predict. A lot of things will be unexpected," said



People stopping to look at a display of blossom trees in the Wan Chai district of Hong Kong.

Alion Yeo. "When the two things combine, it creates an extremely high temperature. We have to be prepared for a lot of disputes, sickness," he told AFP.

"One can even associate fire and metal with missiles, bullets or rockets," he said. Feng shui — literally meaning "wind-water" — is influential in many parts of Asia, where people adjust their lives and renovate offices and homes to maximize their luck and wealth

Chow. The last fire monkey year happened in 1956, when Britain and France invaded Egypt during the Suez Canal crisis, a pivotal event that historians believe marked the demise of British imperial power. But while the monkey may bring instability, it could also herald major innovation, said Chow, as technology falls into the "fire" category. "There could be major breakthroughs in solar-powered energy, fire-related technologies, or the internet,"



People walking past a stall selling Lunar New Year decorations in a market in the Wan Chai district. — AFP photos

she told AFP. The lunar calendar is based on the cycles of the moon and Chinese folklore ascribes 12 animals in rotation. The monkey is in the ninth position.

Financial rollercoaster

In its annual tongue-in-cheek "feng shui index", CLSA, one of Asia's leading brokerages, predicted a "volatile ride" for financial markets. "There are going to be a lot of ups and downs. The monkey is a creature who is tricky and cunning," Cherry Ma of the firm's feng shui team said. "There will be fluctuations but it also means opportunities for fast-movers," she said. The outgoing Year of the Sheep saw turbulence in global markets and a rout in China stocks with fears of an eco-

nommic slowdown on the mainland. Yeo predicts February and August will be the roughest times for investors, as the months clash with the presiding cosmic deity of the year, known as the "Tai Sui". "There will be a transfer of wealth (in February and August)... money will be lost," Yeo said.

Trump to meet match

The Year of the Monkey may look foreboding, but feng shui masters say women may benefit, as they fall within the fire category. This is particularly true for Taiwan's president-elect Tsai Ing-wen, born in a fire monkey year in 1956, according to Chow. Tsai won a landslide victory in January, unseating the ruling Kuomintang to become the island's first

female president. She will take the reins in May. "Women are compatible with the fire element. They will be empowered. They can go to the front of the stage or get promotions," says Chow. The year promises a "big change" and "house moving" for Tsai, she adds.

It could also spell trouble for United States presidential hopeful Donald Trump—heavily criticized for his sexist views—as he campaigns for the Republican nomination. Hillary Clinton is campaigning for the Democrat nomination. "The divination for the US is that the sun will be eaten by the moon... the sun represents men and the moon represents the women," said Yeo. "The sun eaten by the moon means the woman will dominate and win." — AFP



Lunar New Year decorations in a market in the Wan Chai district.



A woman (left) holding incense to give as an offering at the Man Mo temple in the Sheung Wan district of Hong Kong.



A toy monkey for sale in the markets of the Wan Chai district in Hong Kong.