THE FIRST DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 2016

JAMADA ALAWWAL 21, 1437 AH

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LAWMAKERS WANT CITIZENS EXCLUDED FROM PRICE HIKES

Min 16° Max 25° High Tide 03:37 & 15:33

Low Tide

09:38 & 22:22

GOVT PRESENTS 6-POINT PLAN, EYES 25% CUT IN EXPENSES

DASMAN ATTACKER UNREPENTANT, HAD PLANNED ASSAULT

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: Following up on the recent incident in which citizen Abdul Aziz Al-Shamlan deliberately ran over a group of policemen, killing one of them and injuring others, security sources said Shamlan was a member of the Islamic State terrorist group. They said his passport had been withdrawn from him and he was banned from travelling last year following an investigation at the state security department, as he was preparing to leave Kuwait to join IS in Syria.

The sources added that the suspect admitted to running over the policemen on purpose with the intention of killing them all. He added that he had planned for the operation a week earlier and that two days before the incident, he explored several checkpoints stationed along Gulf Road and selected the one near Dasman Palace because it was far from the crowds along the Gulf Road and he could easily make an escape.

The sources explained that Shamlan left his house after Asr prayers and drove by the spot several times to make sure the largest number of policemen had gathered there.

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KUWAIT: National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem (right) and Minister of Finance Anas Al-Saleh are seen during a meeting yesterday. — KUNA

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: A meeting between the government and the National Assembly's financial and economic affairs committee yesterday failed to reach a conclusive result over a plan to hike the prices of fuel and power, but MPs asked the government to exclude Kuwaitis from the hikes for a limited duration. The issue will not therefore be discussed during the Assembly's session tomorrow as more meetings and discussions are planned to finalize an agreement

Head of the committee MP Faisal Al-Shaye said the government told the meeting it expects to save as much as KD 1.2 billion by rationalizing subsidies and raising prices of petrol and electricity. He said the government provided the committee with details about squandering of public funds and plans to save as much as 25 percent in some provisions of the state budget.

Shaye said three major development projects are planned in which citizens will own 50 percent, adding that a number of legislation need to be amended and the Assembly is waiting for the government to submit those amendments. He said a meeting will be held on Thursday to discuss a series of proposals by MPs to exclude Kuwaitis from the price hikes, adding the government informed the panel that squandering in electricity consumption is estimated at 30 percent and consumption categories have been proposed to cut wastage.

Shaye said MPs have not been supplied yet with detailed figures about the proposed cuts in subsidies and it is expected to arrive at the best model on Thursday.

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Fighting

COLUMBIA, South Carolina: Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton greets supporters as she arrives to speak to supporters at her election night watch party for the South Carolina Democratic primary on Saturday. — AP

REPUBLICANS BRAWL, CLINTON SAILS TOWARD SUPER TUESDAY

COLUMBIA: Donald Trump and his rivals brawled on for the Republican presidential nomination yesterday as Hillary Clinton sailed toward "Super Tuesday," her White House hopes lofted by a blowout win in South Carolina. With just two days to go before the biggest showdown yet in the US presidential race, Clinton gained crucial momentum in the race for the Democratic nomination after crushing Bernie Sanders 74.5 to 28 percent.

"We got decimated," Sanders conceded in an interview on ABC's This Week show, acknowledging that the outpouring of African American support for Clinton exposed a costly weakness in his campaign. On the Republican side, Trump's trailing rivals desperately tried to raise doubts among voters about the frontrunner's ability to beat Clinton in November. Senator Ted Cruz suggested in an interview with ABC's "This Week" show that Mafia dealings could be hiding in Trump's tax returns, which the billion-

aire real estate developer has so far resisted releasing.

"There have been multiple media reports of Donald's dealings with the mob, the Mafia," Cruz said. "Maybe his tax returns will show that those business dealings are a lot more extensive than has been reported. We don't know," he added. "But the important point is ... in the general election, Hillary Clinton is going to shine a light on all of this. And Republican primary voters deserve to know."

Trump has said he will not release his tax returns because they are being audited by the Internal Revenue Service. "You can't tell anything from tax returns because you take deductions, massive deductions and lots of other things," he said on CNN's State of the Union Show. Cruz also chided Trump for failing to categorically reject endorsements from white supremacist David Duke. "Really sad.@realDonaldTrump you're better than this," Cruz tweeted.

weeted.

Continued on Page 13

70 KILLED IN BAGHDAD BOMBINGS

INDIAN KILLS 14 RELATIVES, HANGS SELF

MUMBAI: A 35-year-old man killed 14 members of his family including six children with a butcher's knife before committing suicide in India, with police baffled yesterday about a motive for the attack. The grisly murders occurred after Hasnin Anwar Warekar and his extended family gathered late on Saturday at a home north of India's financial capital of Mumbai for a family function, police officers said.

"The attacker, Hasnin Anwar Warekar, hung himself after slitting the throats of all other family members including his parents," Gajanan Laxman Kabdule, a police spokesman in Thane, some 32 km from Mumbai, said. The sole survivor of the attack - Warekar's sister - was taken to hospital after neighbors heard her screaming for help after midnight and alerted police.

Neighbors were forced to open a window to rescue the woman after the assailant allegedly locked all escape routes from the house before carrying out the attacks, according to local media reports. "We still haven't been able to speak with the attacker's 21-year-old sister, the lone survivor of the attack, who is in deep trauma at a city hospital," Kabdule told AFP, adding she was in "a state of shock".

Warekar, who reportedly worked for a private firm in Mumbai, was able to carry out the attacks after lacing the food at the gathering with a sedative, according to several local media reports. But the Indian Express newspaper said he stabbed his victims after they went to bed, having all decided to spend the night at the house in Thane. "Prima facie evidence suggests that the accused bolted all the doors of the house and murdered his family while they were asleep with a knife that we found near his body," Ashutosh Dumbre, joint commissioner of Thane police, was quoted saying.

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BAGHDAD: A twin suicide bombing claimed by Islamic State killed 70 people in Baghdad yesterday in the deadliest attack inside the capital this year, as militants launched an assault on its western outskirts. Police sources said the suicide bombers were riding motorcycles and blew themselves up in a crowded mobile phone market in Sadr City, wounding more than 100 people in addition to the dead. A Reuters witness saw pools of blood on the ground with slippers, shoes and mobile phones at the site of the blasts, which was sealed off to prevent further attacks.

In a statement circulated online, Islamic State said it was responsible for the blasts: "Our swords will not cease to cut off the heads of the rejectionist polytheists, wherever they are," it said. Iraqi forces backed by airstrikes from a US-led coalition have driv-

en Islamic State back in the western Anbar province recently and are preparing for an offensive to retake the northern city of Mosul. But the militants are still able to strike outside territory they control, most recently on Thursday when two Islamic State suicide bombers killed 15 people at a mosque in the capital.

Prime Minister Haider Al-Abadi said the attacks were in response to Islamic State's recent defeats: "This gang targeted civilians after it lost the initiative and its dregs fled the battlefield before our proud fighters," he said on his official Facebook page. At dawn yesterday, suicide bombers and gunmen attacked Iraqi security forces in Abu Ghraib, seizing positions in a grain silo and a cemetery, and killing at least 17 members of the security forces, officials said.

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BAGHDAD: Iraqis inspect the damage at the site of a bombing claimed by the Islamic State (IS) group near a market in the Sadr City area of the capital yesterday. — AP





KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah separately received Chairman of the Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union (AIPU) and National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem, at Seif Palace yesterday. Ghanem presented the newly-elected MP Ali Abdullah Al-Khamis on the occasion of winning the by-elections in the third electoral constituency. The meetings also discussed the outcome of the first meeting of Arab Parliaments' Speakers, which was recently held in Cairo, Egypt. MP Faisal Fahad Al-Shaya accompanied Ghanem to the meetings. — Amiri Diwan and KUNA photos



WASHINGTON: Kuwaiti Ambassador Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah is pictured with families of American servicemen and servicewomen who lost their lives in Kuwait liberation war in 1991. — KUNA

ENVOY HOLDS LUNCHEON TO HONOR FAMILIES OF LIBERATION WAR VICTIMS

WASHINGTON: The Kuwaiti embassy in Washington held a luncheon to families of American servicemen and servicewomen who lost their lives in Kuwait liberation war in 1991. Speaking to the audience, Kuwaiti Ambassador Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah said that the function, which is held every vear in coincidence with the annual anniversary of the war, is meant to remind the new Kuwaiti generations of the sacrifices made by those American service members to defend international legitimacy and justice. He said that the Kuwaiti people are grateful to the American people and would never forget their sacrifices to defend their country. Kuwait would never let down families of those heroes, he vowed.

In statements to KUNA and Kuwait TV, Kuwait's Military Attache in Washington Rear Admiral Marzoug Al-Bader reiterated that the effective role played by the US military in liberating Kuwait would be remembered forever by the Kuwaiti people. All Kuwaitis knew well what the US had done to liberate Kuwait, Bader said. He added that the Kuwaiti-US relation was and would remain strong and distinguished. Bill Perry, a retired captain in the US Navy and father of a soldier who was killed in the war, said meanwhile that he was eager to partake in the annual event to honor families of war victims for 20 years in a row. He said that the event was an opportunity to show the strong bonds linking both the American and Kuwaiti peoples. —KUNA



Kuwaiti Ambassador Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah speaks to the audience.

GULF BANK CELEBRATES KUWAIT'S NATIONAL AND LIBERATION DAYS

SPECIAL SONG CREATED TO MARK THE EVENTS

KUWAIT: Gulf Bank proudly celebrated the occasions of Kuwait's National and Liberation Days, as well as the 10th Anniversary of the Ascension of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

To kick off the festivities, Gulf Bank lit up its headquarters in Mubarak Al Kabeer Street with the colors of Kuwait's flag. To add to the entertainment and the festive spirit, the bank distributed flowers and flags in the Mubarakiya area. Staff also commemorated the event by honoring Kuwait's flag with unique messages.

The Bank also created and released a special commemorative song, 'Ana Kuwaiti'. The song was the collaborative efforts of a team of young Kuwaitis, including singer Fahad Al-Salem, who works at Gulf Bank along with Mohamed Shreida - writer; Rakan - composer; Barak Al-Mutawa - distribution and mixing; and Adel Al-Farhan -Rhythm. As part of the 'Ana Kuwaiti' medley, the song also includes references to other memorable songs and Kuwaiti artists. The song can be downloaded for free from http://www.e-gulfbank.com/national.

KUWAIT DEVOTED TO ENHANCING AFRO-ARAB COOPERATION: ENVOY

CAIRO: Kuwait is committed to boosting Arab- Arab-African summit preparation meeting, African cooperation, Kuwait's ambassador to Ethiopia and permanent representative to the African Union Rashed Al-Hajri said during a meeting held yesterday in Cairo to prepare for the next Arab-African summit.

Representing the Arab side to the summit preparatory meeting, Ambassador Hajri praised the outcome of the last such summit, the third, held in Kuwait in 2013, for having fielded a distinctive initiative by His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah aimed at buttressing growth, development, and investment in Africa. The initiative, the ambassador explained, consisted of allocating one billion dollars for development in Africa, another billion dollars for investment and one million dollars annually for research studies to boost economic development in Africa in the name of the Kuwaiti philanthropist Abdulrahman Al-Sumait.

Representing Africa's side to today's fourth

Chadian envoy Amad Sekini acknowledged that the third Arab-African summit in Kuwait produced good results and that the African side was striving hard to put these results to use.

Even more so, the fourth summit will follow up the third summit's resolutions on fighting terrorism, funding agricultural development and food security, dealing with immigration and setting up a fund for timely response to natural disasters, said Arab League representative to today's preparatory meeting Zaid Al-Sabban.

The prep meeting will also select a motto for the summit and determine its core issue from two choices: funding economic growth and development or immigration, he said. Attending yesterday's meeting were representatives for the Arab side from Kuwait, Egypt, Mauritania and for the Africa side from Chad, Zimbabwe, Equatorial Guinea, and Ethiopia in addition to those from the Arab League and the African Union. — KUNA

EGYPT EYES CLOSER JUDICIAL TIES WITH KUWAIT: MINISTER

CAIRO: Egyptian Minister of Justice Ahmad Al-Zend said yesterday that his country is willing to promote and develop judicial and legal cooperative relations and coordination with the State of Kuwait. In pre-departure statements while flying to Kuwait for a visit that lasts for several days, the minister said Egypt is keen to bolster its judicial ties with Kuwait in light of the current level

of firm and close relations between both Arab nations. He said that during his stay in Kuwait he will sign a bilateral judicial and legal agreement with Kuwaiti Minister of Justice, Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Yaqoub Al-Sane. The agreement will replace 1977 and 1995 deals that are pertinent to bilateral judicial cooperation, the Egyptian minister pointed out. —KUNA

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 2016

DEPUTY SPEAKER URGES ARAB UNITY TO COMBAT TERRORISM

CAIRO: Kuwait's National Assembly Deputy Speaker Mubarak Al-Khurainej called on Arab countries to unite so as to combat terrorism. He made the statement yesterday while concluding the meeting of Arab Parliament's Committee of Foreign and Political Affairs and National Security. During the meeting, all items on the agenda, including documents of Arab national security and challenges in the Arab world, were reviewed, he said.

Khureinej, also an Arab Parliament member, added that results of the meeting of Arab Parliaments' speakers recently held in Cairo were discussed by conferees. Arab Parliament will hold a session to discuss developments in the region, and topics pertaining to Arab security and combating terrorism, he noted. Arab unity can promote Arab countries' situations to address issues and challenges facing the region, he stressed.— KUNA



Deputy Speaker Mubarak Al-Khurainej



KUWAIT: Ambassador of Brunei to Kuwait Pengiran Mustapha Aliuddin hosted a reception at Regency Hotel recently on the occasion of his country's 32nd National Day. Senior officials, diplomats and media personalities attended the event.

Photos by Joseph Shagra







In Brief

TRAINING ABROAD BANNED

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: The Civil Service Commission (CSC) yesterday issued a decision to suspend dispatching employees on training courses and programs abroad from all government establishments. The decision over the cost-cutting measure was published yesterday in Kuwait's official gazette 'Al-Kuwait Al-Youm' and stipulates a ban on sending any public sector employee for training abroad.



MODERATE WEATHER FORECASTED

KUWAIT: Winds will turn to this morning moderate northwesterly winds (12-35 km/h) with continuation of the high-pressure area leading to stability in the weather and a decrease in temperature to range between 11-13 degrees. Effects of the Sudan low-pressure seasonal system, which brought rain on Saturday were limited, acting director of the Kuwait Meteorological Department Samie Al-Othman said. Mild weather prevailed yesterday with moderate southeasterly winds between 12-35 km/h, while maximum temperature recorded yesterday ranged between 23-25 degrees, he added. —KUNA

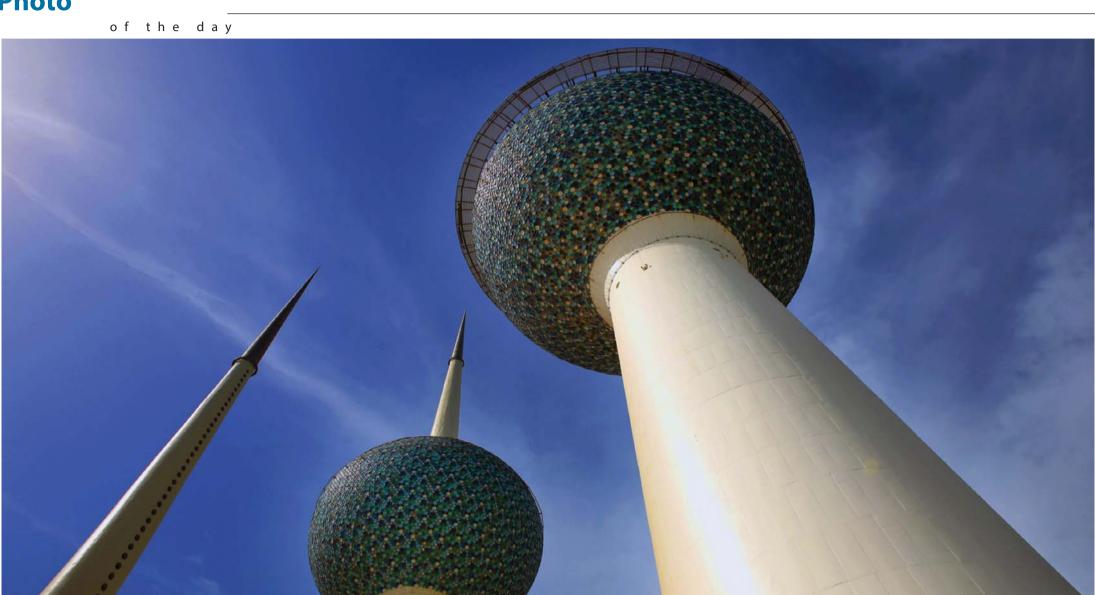


INNOVATION INCREASES KNOWLEDGE

KUWAIT: Director of the Capital Educational Area Badriya Al-Khaldi stressed the need to support talented students, develop and promote the concept of innovation to increase their educational level. The schools' departments are working hard to discover and promote talents in students and lead them toward excellence, Khaldi said in a statement during the honoring of winners of a Holy Quran memorizing and recitation competition at Al-Maqdesi kindergarten yesterday. —KUNA



Photo



KUWAIT: A low-angle shot of Kuwait Towers. The Touristic Enterprises Company (TEC) announced last week the reopening of Kuwait's most famous landmark after the conclusion of a five-year-long maintenance operation. —Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

KFH PARTICIPATES IN AL-QURAIN HOUSE OPENING TO IMMORTALIZE KUWAIT'S MARTYRS

KUWAIT: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) participated in the Ministry of Information's celebrations represented by hoisting the Kuwaiti flag in Al-Qurain House as part of the country's national celebrations. The event was held in the presence of Minister of Information and State Minister for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Al-Humoud Al-Sabah.

KFH's participation comes as part of its keenness to take part in the national occasions that represent a source of pride for Kuwait and its people.

KFH Public Relations team continued its efforts to ensure best media coverage of the event due to its importance in immortalizing the memory of Kuwaiti martyrs who fell in Al-Qurain House when defending their

country, in a story of heroism and bravery. Al-Qurain Martyrs museum was established in 1991 to honor 19 Kuwaiti youth who took shelter in the house of Al-Qurain while fighting back Iraqi forces occupying Kuwait at the time. The battle broke out in 1991 led to the death of 12 Kuwaiti youth who gave their souls to defend their homeland and nation.



KUWAIT: Minister of Information Sheikh Salman Al-Sabah is pictured with KFH's Public Relations team.

BLOOD BANK IMPLEMENTS WHO'S RECOMMENDATIONS TO COMBAT ZIKA

KUWAIT: Kuwait Central Blood Bank (KCBB) announced that a certain policy is being followed up to deal with Zika virus, in accordance with recommendations of the World Health Organization (WHO) and reports issued by US blood banks.

The policy depends on some criteria and awareness campaigns provided to donors and receivers at hospitals, Dr Reem Al-Radhwan, head of blood transfusion department said yesterday. She stressed that there is an approval of new measures to control the virus, urging donors who travelled to Mexico, the Caribbean islands, South America and Central America to donate after the passing of 28 days since they returned home. Radhwan noted that symptoms of Zika are fever, rash, joint pain, conjunctivitis and headache. She said that all symptoms are not acute, indicating that the virus is rapidly spreading in the Western Hemisphere except for the US and Canada. The KCBB, which was founded in 1965, is the first one in the Middle East. It aims to save blood of donors to be used if necessary. — KUNA

KUWAIT'S DECIDES NOT TO HOST 23RD GULF CUP 'FINAL'

KUWAIT: Kuwait's decision of not being able to host the 23rd Gulf Cup is "final and irreversible," Deputy Director of Sports Affairs at the Public Authority for Sport (PAYS) Dr Humoud Fulaiteeh announced yesterday. The Cabinet had recently made the final decision not to

hold the Gulf soccer games.

Fulaiteeh said in a press statement that the apology came after a decision made by the International Olympic Committee to suspend sports in Kuwait. He added that Kuwait was fully ready to host this regional sporting event; all facilities were properly equipped and a budget was made to cover the expense of this grand event, nonetheless, the suspension decision prevented it from happening. He expressed his aspiration that all efforts to be made to help sports thrive, once again, in the county. On October 19, the Cabinet approved Kuwait's decision to turn down hosting the 23rd Gulf Cup under the instructions of the Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah, who made that call due to FIFA's decision to ban Kuwait from participating in international soccer activities. — KUNA





Legalese

THE LAW AND FRANCHISES IN KUWAIT

By Attorney Fajer Ahmed

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uwaiti restaurants have created a name for themselves in the international food and beverage industry, leading us to believe that Kuwait has not only become a hub for GCC tourism, but has also created food tourism! You might have also heard the recent news that Kuwait aims to be the food capital of the world by 2030!

There have been a surprising number of success stories from local small and medium sized restaurants that started out in Kuwait and have become international franchises. Although this all sounds very appetizing, how is the law involved? Does it make it easier for restaurants to grow and become franchises? Is it encouraging? Well, in order to answer those questions, we will have to understand franchise agreements.

It is common for me to get inspired to write my legal published columns from the stories that I am currently working on, and I could not be happier to be working with a number of SMEs that are expanding to be franchises. I believe that Kuwait has become a hub of not just tasty delicacies, but also for creative talents in general. Therefore, I believe we as a community have many more success stories to be shared, if only more people are brave enough to take the steps needed to move their enterprises out of Kuwait and make them international franchises.

Right to franchise

Question: How do I grant a party the right to franchise my business?

Fajer: A franchise according to the simple dictionary definition is an authorization granted by a company to another company allowing them to carry out specified commercial activities, for example acting as an agent for a company's products.

Question: What are things to look out for when signing the franchise agreement?

Fajer: Before I answer your question, I would like to make two very important points clear:

a. Always, always, always hire a lawyer. I understand that a lot of small franchises would like to save money, especially that they are just starting out, but if you are about to grow and develop, then you are better off in the long term investing in a good lawyer.

b. Taking the step to franchise your business can be a big decision - you are going from a local business to an international brand. Therefore, I advise that you finalize other legal issues like the copyright of the SME's logo and trademark, the SME's internal policies, etc.

Things you should look out for in the agreement:

1. Royalty fees: It is a fee that consists of a percentage of the gross sale revenue of the business. For example, if a Kuwaiti restaurant franchises to Saudi Arabia, then the Kuwaiti owners will take a royalty fee, let's say 10 percent, from the sales of the franchise in Saudi.

2. The term: The years that the contract is valid for is very important. This will depend on your mission and vision, so any term is valid.

3.Exclusivity: Do you want to give the agent exclusivity to your franchise in a certain area or not? There are pros and cons for this step. A large company that becomes your agent would have a bigger budget to spend on advertising, but might give less royalties, or that might mean that you cannot expand to other agents.

4. Staff: Issues to consider include would you be responsible for providing the staff? Or training the staff? Or are you going to take in the staff from any franchises that close down?

5. What country do you want the contract or franchise agreement to be under? Lawyers call it 'jurisdiction of law.' My advice is, as a general rule, always have your contract in the law you and your lawyer are familiar with. If your lawyer is practicing in Kuwait, than your contract should be under Kuwaiti law.

No law

Question: Is it true that unlike other countries, Kuwait has no law for franchises?

Fajer: I would like to make clear the fact that there are no separate laws in Kuwait for franchises, and some companies therefore sign agency contracts, which I would not suggest as a starting step for SMEs that would like to expand, since the Kuwaiti law sides with the agent when it comes to agencies and that is why Kuwait has many monopolies in the market. With that said, this does not mean that franchises are not organized under Kuwaiti law; they are organized as contracts generally but not specifically. Also, there have been many new commercial laws in the past few years and a new law that allows international franchises to have more than one agent in Kuwait.

I hope the above was useful and I must say I am extremely proud to see Kuwaiti companies, although mostly restaurants that started as SMEs, grow and become successful brands.

For any legal questions or queries, email ask@fajerthelawyer.com.

LAWMAKER CHARGED WITH ESPIONAGE, SLANDER

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: The public prosecution yesterday received a complaint accusing a current lawmaker of espionage and communicating with Hezbollah, the Iranian Revolutionary Guards and protecting their interests. The complainant demands prosecuting the lawmaker and referring him to court over charges of violating foreign state security laws.

The complainant also accuses the lawmaker of making various visits, contacts and statements that violate Kuwait's foreign policy, especially military cooperation with Saudi Arabia and operations in Yemen. The complainant also accuses the lawmaker of repeatedly slandering Saudi Arabia and Bahrain and highlighted suspicions that he might be involved in espionage activities.

POLICEMAN FORGES DOCUMENTS TO GIVE NEPHEW CITIZENSHIP

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: A police officer was arrested and referred to the public prosecution on charges of forging official documents, said security sources. Case papers indicate that a first lieutenant brought his pregnant sister back to Kuwait from Saudi Arabia after her husband divorced her. The sources added that the officer admitted his sister to hospital under his wife's name and thus registered the child under his name so that the baby could get Kuwaiti citizenship.

Employees penalized

Kuwait Municipality yesterday

referred 30 employees working in municipal sectors in Riqqa and Nuwaiseeb to the legal affairs department for not showing up to work during the recent national holidays. The municipality's assistant director for financial and administrative affairs Waleed Al-Jassem said that inspection visits to various sections had revealed the violations and employees' absence. He added that such inspections will be held all week long.

Distance learning

The private universities' council announced intentions to adopt and approve distance learning, which is already spreading in the field of education in the Middle East. The council also pointed out that a decree was made to activate the British study systems and attract more British universities to Kuwait once the proposal is financially discussed and lands are provided for the project.

Expired meds

A recent report made by the State Audit Bureau stressed finding large quantities of expired medicines in health ministry warehouses in Subhan in 2012, 2013 and 2014, with a total cost of KD 8 million. The bureau also reported that nothing had been done on the ministry's side to limit those quantities and stop wasting public funds.



KFSD LAUNCHES ACCIDENT RESPONSE COURSE

KUWAIT: The Kuwait Fire Service Directorate (KFSD) yesterday launched an international training course for response to accidents, with 14 brotherly and friendly countries participating. The three-day course acts as a springboard for the State of Kuwait becoming an international training center for firefighting and maritime rescue, the KFSD's Director-General Yusuf Al-Ansari said in a press statement.

It is the first time for Kuwait to play host to this international training course, in collaboration with the

International Civil Defense Organization (ICDO), Ansari said. Twenty-six trainees from 14 countries, including Arab, western and Asian ones, are partaking in the event, with ICDO observers participating, he said, adding that it is part of the KFSD's strategic goals.

The KFSD chief stressed the significance of promoting international cooperation and exchanging experience with world countries in order to develop firefighting services scientifically and technically. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Interior Ministry's Undersecretary Lieutenant General Suleiman Al-Fahad chaired yesterday a meeting for the General Committee for Police Affairs, which was also attended by the ministry's assistant undersecretaries.

AL-RAHMA INT'L DELIVERS AID TO SYRIAN REFUGEES

AMMAN: Kuwait-based Al-Rahma International dispatched two convoys of relief supplies to Syrian refugees in Jordan between February 24th and 28th. Badr Bou-Rahma, who headed one of the two convoys, said yesterday that dispatch of the humanitarian supplies coincided with Kuwait national days. He added that \$70,000 worth of donations were given to 550 very poor Syrian families, widows, Quran memo-

rizers, handicapped and cancer patients. The relief supplies were distributed at the refugee camps, located in the north, center and south of the Kingdom of Jordan. Kuwaiti volunteers from the associations, "Basmat Amal" and "Tujjar Al-Khair" took part in the effort. The aid included cash, food parcels, toys, in addition to holding a food exhibition, a ceremony for honoring tailors, distribution of motorcycles, holding soccer

tournaments, organizing leisure trips and activities for children.

He added that Al-Rahma had also built makeshift poultry farms, workshops for training on repairs of electrical, computer and cell phones' devices. The other convoy included food and medical parcels to refugees in the border region, Al-Hadlat Al-Ruwaished, located 450 kms from the Jordanian capital. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Undersecretary of the Kuwait National Guard (KNG) Lieutenant General Hashim Abdulrazzaq Al-Refaie awarded Captain Mohammad Fathi Mohammad and Sergeant Ahmad Khulaif Dughaiman after they came in first place in the first Holy Quran competition for KNG and Ministry of Defense personnel.

In my **view**

I WISH...



By Talal Al-Ghannam

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ood morning dear and honorable brothers and sisters, and I wish you happy, joyful and blessed days to come. In this article, I would like all of you to share with me a dream for things that I consider extraordinary to see happen in Kuwait, but we wish one day our dreams can become a reality. Nothing is impossible in this world as long as there is a will, but the problem is that many people do not see the tool of punishment, becoming careless in the process. Let us start dreaming...

I wish one day to see the minister and his undersecretaries start work before employees at 7:00 am.

I wish to see many government employees have their breakfast at home instead of having it at work as they are delaying the business of hundreds of clients.

I wish all service ministries remain open till the end of the day, rather than closing at 12:00 pm. When you go to the social affairs ministry or traffic department at 11:50 am, you are often met with the 'we are closed' excuse and told to come back the following day!

I wish expats are treated the same way as citizens in the state's different departments.

I wish one day I never hear jokes or mocking against certain nationalities, similar to what is happening in many local plays where some actors put down a certain nationality to make the audience laugh. I swear that if a Kuwaiti was to be talked about negatively in any play or movie in any country, diplomatic relations might be severed and an apology would have to be submitted. Let us respect all nationalities and treat them well.

I wish that people would stop spraying water on each other as well as throwing water balloons during the national celebrations thus wasting and lavishly playing with Allah's bounty, whereas millions are dying all over the world because they do not have access to a drop of clean water to drink. I wish to see sponsors celebrate their workers' birthdays and special occasions and share their joy, help them and draw a smile on their kids' faces by buying them gifts and sending them back home, so that the workers can feel they are being treated as part of the family instead of isolating them.

I wish one day a foreign worker can come to Kuwait being a sponsor himself, instead of some being treated as slaves or imprisoned behind the doors of the sponsor's house.

I wish to see that our Pakistani brothers are able to bring their families here so that they can feel close to each other. Pakistan is one of the great countries which has assisted the Saudi-led coalition and has never hesitated to offer all sorts of assistance when needed. It is now time to be grateful.

I wish to see the streets without so many Asian cleaning workers when many people realize that when you love your country, you should not make it dirty.

I wish one day to see some of the apartment buildings are managed by Allah-fearing janitors (haris), who would accept any tip the tenant may offer instead of taking advantage of the emergency situation the tenant might be in.

The dreams are now over, hoping to wake up one day and all these dreams have become a reality.

Until the next article insha Allah



Repor

Two shepherds injured in landmine explosion

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: Two Ethiopian nationals were rushed to Jahra Hospital after a landmine explosion which was reported at Salmy road on the 83 kilometer mark. Jahra police rushed to the area after the incident was reported. The victims could not be transported by Medvac due to bad weather. They were reportedly shepherding when the explosion took place. They were taken to hospital by ambulance, and admitted inside the intensive care unit.

Ban lifted

Chairman of food safety at Kuwait Municipality Fahad Al-Musabbahi said that the Ministry of Commerce and Industry issued a decision to lift the ban on importing poultry meat of all types and eggs from Holland, because they are free of bird flu. He added a similar decision was issued in regards to importing poultry meat from Italy, provided that a certificate of origin, in addition to the documents required by the concerned authorities are issued.



KUWAIT: A victim's body lies on the ground following an accident reported on Jahra Road on Saturday night.

Fatal crash

A collision took place on Jahra Road between a truck and a sedan Saturday night. A team from Sulaibkhat fire center led by Captain Ali Al-Saleeli headed to the scene after the accident was reported. Two Asian nationals were pronounced dead on the scene. Their bodies were taken to the coroner. A case was filed for investigations.

Bus fire

A vehicle caught fire on Fourth Ring Road yesterday, so Shuhada center dispatched a team led by Captain Ali Al-Khalid. The fire was reported on a bus and was put out without injuries being reported.

GATEHOUSE GROUP BUYS 10 US HOTELS

KUWAIT: Gatehouse Financial Group announced yesterday it had completed the purchase of ten hotels with limited services in the United States at a cost of \$137 million. The properties are located throughout strategic submarkets of the Midwestern states of Wisconsin, Michigan, and Minnesota, said a statement by the Group, noting that this purchase comes after the Group had bought a Marriott Residence Inn Hotel in downtown Manhattan, New York in 2014.

Fahad Boodai, the Kuwaiti Executive

Chairman of Gatehouse Financial Group said that the company continued to build on its excellent track record of real estate investments in the US and UK in partnership with best-inclass operators and investors in those countries. He thought the choice of selecting ten hotels in the Midwest was fortuitous as the region was poised to expand its potential for real estate investments. Gatehouse Group includes Gatehouse Bank and Gatehouse Capital and is headquartered in London. —KUNA

KUWAIT HOSTS GCC PAYMENT SYSTEMS TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING

KUWAIT: Kuwait hosts today the 48th meeting of Gulf Cooperation Council's (GCC) payment systems technical committee as part of cooperation and integration among GCC central banks and monetary agencies. The three-day event will tackle a number of vital issues including the follow-up of linking the payment systems project in the GCC countries, a press release from Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) said yesterday.

This project represents an extreme importance in achieving the goals and strategies of central banks in the region in implementation of the settlement of financial transfers, both individual and commercial, among GCC states in a fast and secure way, which would positively impact on their peoples, it added. The project will also contribute to the

decrease in the cost of purchasing and selling operations through bank cards.

The committee's meeting will also discuss issues related to the GCC network and means to improve the services in order to facilitate the payment and purchasing operations for all ATM card holders in all GCC countries' markets.

It will also follow up on the latest developments in the information security and means to develop the security aspects related to exchange of information among GCC countries, taking into consideration the growing importance of such matter in the banking and financial field. CBK applauded the active role of central banks in GCC monetary institutions in order to develop and improve the GCC's economies to achieve prosperity and progress in GCC nations. —KUNA

AUTO MECHANICS AND TRAFFIC SYSTEMS COMPETITION KICKS OFF

KUWAIT: The 24th Auto Mechanics and Traffic Systems Competition kicks off today, in collaboration with the Ministries of Education and Interior. Khaled Al-Hassan, head of organizing committee, said yesterday the contest organized by the Kuwait Science Club is the oldest one, and will be held under the auspices of Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

The first contest was launched in 1987 with a participation of 80 male and

female students, he said, indicating that about 3,900 students took part in last year's event.

The contest's committees are ready for achieving the goal through educating students on traffic rules and other matters to help them get driving licenses when they want, he noted. Participants will be familiar with traffic signs, their indications, parts of car's engine, information pertaining to technical inspection of vehicles and others, he made clear. The event will run until April 7. —KUNA

KUWAIT'S CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE EARNED INT'L RESPECT: OFFICIAL

ROME: Chief of Kuwait's National Security Bureau Sheikh Thamer Ali Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah stressed the importance of Kuwait's wise policy in Arab geopolitical stability, as well as its positive and constructive role in the region that gained it a wide international respect.

Sheikh Thamer made his remarks Saturday on the sidelines of his participation in the NATO Defense College Foundation's international conference, themed 'Arab Geopolitics in Turmoil,' in the Italian capital with the participation of top figures, experts, and researchers in strategic, political, and security issues.

The conference highlighted Kuwait's balanced role in the region, he said, adding that the international respect and appreciation to Kuwait is a result of the country's wise policy, under the leadership of His Highness the Amir, which is based on providing constant help and assistance to those in need in the region.

Humanitarian stand

Sheikh Thamer also pointed out Kuwait's humanitarian stand towards the crises in Syria and Iraq through providing relief assistance and mobilizing international humanitarian aid to alleviate the suffering of the displaced in these countries, in addition to hosting three successful donor conferences for the Syrian people.

He also expressed his appreciation to the positive feedback he had received from the participants on his discussion during the conference, which addressed the causes and rea-

sons for geopolitical tensions in the region, such as the continued Israeli occupation to Palestinian territories, the major silence over Israel's violations of the international legitima-



Chief of Kuwait's National Security Bureau Sheikh Thamer Ali Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah

cy, and Israeli continued violations of the UNSC Resolution 242 since the past five decades.

Israel's continuation to avoid international responsibilities, sabotage peace efforts, ignore the Arab Peace Initiative, escalate its settle-

ment activities, violate religious sanctities, and commit abusive crimes against the Palestinians feed radicalism in the region, said the Kuwaiti official.

"We need to go back to the Oslo Accord and activate the international legitimacy by implementing UNSC resolution 242," Sheikh Thamer said, adding that the time has come for the international community to bear its full responsibilities in order to reach a fair solution for the Palestinian cause, which will pave the way for establishing peace and stability in the region.

Refugees' issue

On the conference discussions regarding the refugees' issue, the Kuwaiti official indicated that Arab countries have been hosting hundreds of thousands of Palestinian refugees decades ago, whether in Lebanon, Syria, or Jordan and it is all due to the Israeli occupation of Palestine, calling on international sides to deal jointly with this issue in order to secure caring for these refugees; similar to the Kuwait's donor conferences for the Syrian people.

He also stressed the importance of holding such intellectual conferences by NATO Defense College Foundation, as part of the cooperation with countries of the region, noting that these conferences also pose a significant opportunity for exchanging different points of view and scientific discussion of strategic nature that help in crystallizing joint perceptions towards the desired solution in order to establish international stability and cooperation. —KUNA

KUWAIT TO LAUNCH GCC EARLY EPIDEMIC WARNING WEBSITE

KUWAIT: The Gulf early warning center against animal epidemics recommended the activation of its website in Kuwait, during its recent meeting, according to the Public Authority of Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources (PAAAFR). The center is established in accordance with the decision of the GCC's agricultural cooperation committee to turn Kuwait into a headquarter for the early epidemic warning center, the authority said in a press release yesterday.

The meeting of the center's communication officers, included a presentation on measures to be taken in case of an animal epidemic outbreak in the GCC states. The meeting, headed by Kuwait, also included thorough information on the contents and system of the website to be launched. The statement added that the center is tasked with determining the epidemics in the warning list and include them to the website as a reference for the member states. —KUNA

'KUWAIT MAGAZINE' MARKS WORLD POETRY DAY

KUWAIT: The monthly edition of the literary periodical known as "Kuwait Magazine"-published locally in Kuwait, has just come out for the month of March, dealing in a great part with celebrating the World Poetry Day. The World Poetry Day is on 21 March, and was declared by UNESCO (the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) in 1999. The purpose of the day is to promote the reading, writing, publishing and teaching of poetry throughout the world.

This month's issue of the magazine acclaims the merits of poetry through a number of interviews with local poets. There are articles in it on the fragility of human relations in our time with one of them bemoaning the absence of true friendship and another harking back to the simpler life in old pre-oil-era Kuwait. Other articles deal with the ubiquity of social media, theater in Kuwait, art and Arabic movies worth seeing.

Book fair

In other news, Kuwait's pavilion at the 21st Muscat International Book Fair is attracting large numbers of visitors, according to the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters' (NCCAL) official Khalifa Al-Rabah. The council is presenting publications in different fields in the fair, Rabah said yesterday, adding that NCCAL is especially focusing on publishing cultural books. There are currently over 650 publishers from 27 Arab and foreign countries participating in the event, the official noted.

Meanwhile, official at a Kuwaiti publishing company 'Al-Masarat' Abdullah Al-Shamari said that the Muscat fair is considered as one of the top 10 book fairs in the Arab World, according to the Arab Publishers Association. He added that the fair, which kicked off on February 24, includes 40 events for culture, arts and literature. —KUNA



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Kuwait, 29th February, 2016

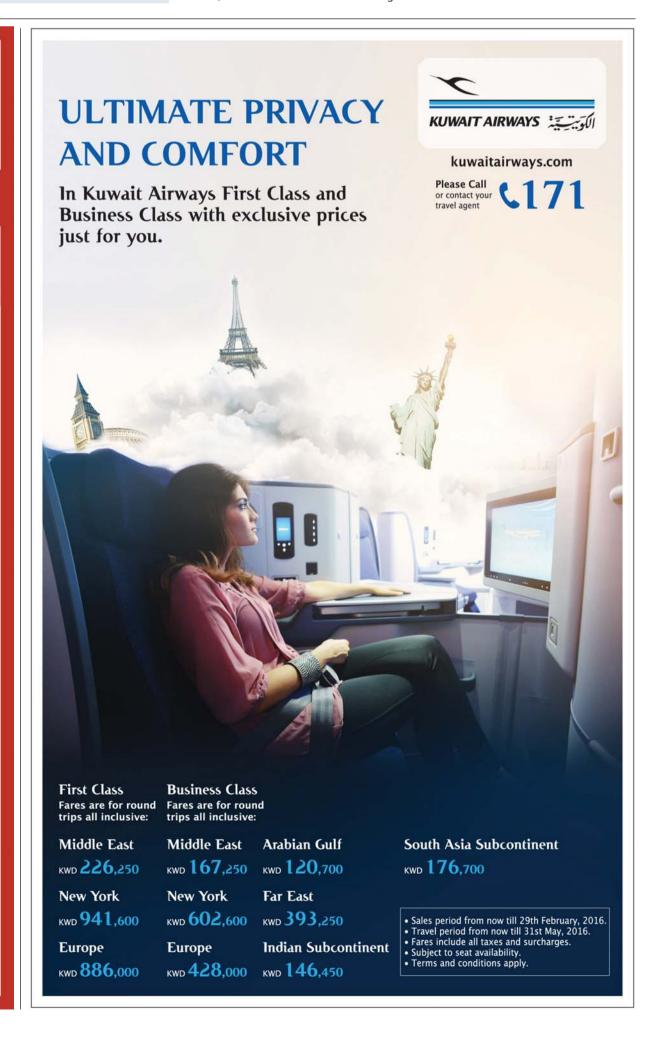
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Al-Qabas

RUMAITHIYA CITIZEN AND PUBLIC TRANSPORT

By Nafeeah Al-Zuwayed

citizen has five cars for himself and family in Rumaithiya and since many years follows a certain routine in his life. He prays fair (dawn) prayers, then waits for sunrise, eats his breakfast at home, then carries his daily paper and heads to the bus stop to get on the bus and sit on the back seat and start reading his paper, until he reaches Mubarakiya market to buy his things.

He then takes some rest in a cafe, because he still loves the simple and beautiful life, and the shapes of shops adjacent to each other following the old style, then he returns to his Rumaithiya home aboard the public transport bus once again at noon following a happy journey in all security and peace of mind. We know that the fuel of life is money, so out of being keen on his money and his property, he prefers public transport early in the morning to avoid traffic jams, which takes a long time from him and gives him tensions at all times.

Secondly, to avoid any accident with his private car, bearing in mind that not all those who got a driving license know the art of driving. Thirdly, to avoid any traffic violation due to lack of parking spaces, so he will be compelled to park in a no-parking place. Fourthly, he is spared the gasoline prices besides enjoying reading the newspaper without having to watch the road in total comfort and safety.

Everybody knows that there are 1.8 million vehicles on Kuwait roads while our streets' capacity is 955,000 cars, which means that the place you want to get to in 15 minutes, you will reach it in one hour due to the jams and long queues at traffic lights. This if there is not an accident between a luxury car that is valued at thousands and a rundown restaurant delivery car, which forces you to be more late. There is a saying "with speed comes regret, and with patience comes safety," but its validity seems to be over in the era of the fast rhythm, as we see the "mad" speed on expressways despite the jams, which has increased accidents and deaths.

The media and officials speak about encouraging citizens and expats to use public transport that is airconditioned, well-equipped and comfortable, yet everyone wants to keep a private car. "Happiness is not in owning everything, but in the feeling of satisfaction with the least of things." The Rumaithiya citizen feels happy with public transport, and let us take his example to reduce street congestions and acci-

— Translated by Kuwait Times



القبيس

heard many demands from citizens not to self-

punish and not to look at the past, look forward

and continue with financial and administrative

reforms that contribute to diversifying sources of

income and end total dependence on oil. I also

heard that lifting subsidies, even partially, is not the

magical solution, but it contributes to rationalizing

consumption at the end, which leads to the rational-

and will not exclude anyone. But as a citizen, I want

to hear about the era of major mistakes, and why

governments and assemblies at that time did not

make legislations for and not invest the huge finan-

cial surplus that we saw since 2003 until last year,

how it will operate the Boeing 777 aircrafts which it

will start receiving in June. Is there a feasibility study

I want to hear for example, from Kuwait Airways

We heard about knives that will be over the heads

izing policy the state is following.

and where did this money go?

AI-Qabas

THE ERA OF MAJOR MISTAKES

for routes such as Australia, Canada, Japan, China or Brazil, bearing in mind that these planes can fly for 17 hours non-stop? And if these planes are going to be used for short routes, then why did not we buy less costly planes and saved KD 2 billion in public

I want to hear why did the idea of the Gulf railway start in Kuwait, and why did it stop in Kuwait? And are 29 farms, or rather their owners, the problem? I want to hear why the discussion over the Eurofighter deal and the new airport project disappeared?

Yes, we do not want to self-punish, and want realistic solutions to reform the economic situation, but is it required to bury our heads in the sand at the same time so we can be good, happy and love you? Is it required that we depend on a team that got us in trouble before? Just a question.

Was the message delivered? I hope so.

— Translated by Kuwait Times



By Qais Al-Usta

WILL THREE HOSPITALS SUFFICE FOR 2 MILLION PLUS EXPATS?

KUWAIT: With the countdown towards closing public polyclinics and hospitals in the faces of expats and allocating them only for citizens, a lot of controversy is already going on in Kuwait about whether building three hospitals will be enough to provide medical services to over two million expats living in Kuwait! Current Ministry of Health (MoH) statistics show that Kuwait has five public hospitals, nine specialized ones, 94 polyclinics and 73 diabetes clinics with a total bed capacity of 6,714 beds, excluding the beds available in KOC and defense ministry hospitals, in addition to 1,041 beds in private hospitals.

According to the project studies, the current health insurance for expats will be cancelled and substituted with another insurance with the Health Insurance Hospitals' Company that would annually cost KD 130-190 per person. The project targets building three hospitals with a total cost of KD 1 billion. According to the study, the company will also build 15 primary care clinics and three secondary care hospitals in three areas; a 240-bed hospital and three primary care centers to cover Jahra and parts of the Capital, a 712-bed hospital and nine primary care centers in Farwaniya to serve Farwaniya, Hawally and the remaining areas of the Capital, and a third 340-bed hospital and three primary care centers in Ahamdi and Mubarak Al-Kabeer.

The project also excludes expat wives of Kuwaitis, Kuwaiti women's children, domestic labor and expats working for the government. Well, the guestion remains as follows: Will 712 beds be enough to serve over 1.6 million expats living in Farwaniya and Hawally? — Al-Rai



IS RENT INCREASE DETERMINED BY LAW'S

KUWAIT: Alaa went to the haris (janitor) of his building and paid KD 230 in rent, only to be told that the rent will go up starting next month, to be KD 330. Alaa was shocked and was not able to reach the owner to convince him to reduce the increase to KD 50. Options seemed to be limited for the man whose salary is no more than KD 650, which means he must pay half his salary in rent. Alaa, like hundreds of renters, is in limbo, as he is not able to rent a new flat, nor able to afford the five-year increase according to the law.

The law stipulates that rents can be raised every five years after signing the contract, but does not stipulate the increase percentage, so it does not follow certain rules. Real estate experts and lawyers said rent increases have become up to the "mood". because the law does not decide the increase percentage and left it to the owners to improvise!

Due to this reality, there are much differences due to the unclear law as far as tenants are concerned, so they resort to court, especially that they cannot afford the increases, while their salaries remain fixed, while rents have started to eat between 50 and 60 percent of their salaries.

Lawyer Hussam Al-Tunaib said the current increases are controlled by the market, adding that there are no clear standards that govern the increases. He said the beneficiary of the current law is the businessman and not the renter, and it is in his interest to have this law continue because it allows him to increase the rent as he sees fit. — Al-Rai

الانياء

Al-Anbaa

DARWIN WRITES KUWAIT'S HISTORY

By Thaar Al-Rasheedi

e have many secrets in our modern political history that are not yet written about and are still withheld from the public. Like all political secrets, these might find their way to publicity, publication and documentation within a few years and be accessible to the public.

Such secrets are the obstacle any political analyst faces on reviewing and assessing general political situations because he would be blocked by some loose ends and missing points when retelling historical facts. Without such points, any political review would be incomplete and theories about the general situation would then be incomplete as well and lack proof. Therefore, most scientific documentation is based on personal deduction.

Missing parts and points in our political history are many, such as why would a certain political bloc shift from being part of the opposition to become

Why would a certain political bloc shift from being part of the opposition to become pro-government?

pro-government? What happened exactly? What makes certain political icons shift from one side to another without clear explanations? There are so many missing points and unanswered questions that will remain so until it is time to unfold and unleash

Scientists have been unable to prove Darwin's theory of evolution because so many points are still missing. It would be also difficult to prove ant political theory in Kuwait because of such missing points, which leave us nothing but to judge by appearances. On the other hand, and according to the principle that says 'One cannot say all what he knows', it is important to keep some political secrets withheld from the public. It would be even politically wise and for the country's greater good to keep those secrets from the public.

However, the question is how large is the circle of people who know some, part of or even all those secrets that cannot be published? Well, that circle only includes 120 people and you can do the rest of the calculations. After all, it is a great blessing to be politically ignorant!

— Translated by Kuwait Times

Crime

Report

Six arrested for

KUWAIT: Interior Ministry Assistant Undersecretary for Criminal Security Major General Abdelhameed Al-Awadhi sent six expats to the public prosecution charged with forgery of official documents and entering the country illegally. Investigations revealed the six were previously deported from the country, five of them for running vice dens, while the sixth for forgery. The suspects confessed to Capital detectives that they got the passports in their country from some people who returned permanently and sold them the passports with valid residency in exchange of KD 600 for each passport.

Theft cases

A Gulf national born in 1977 is being interrogated to find out whether he is connected to theft cases in Jahra. A police patrol noticed the man in his car at dawn Friday morning, and stopped him because the car was stolen. The man attempted to escape, but was arrested following a hot pursuit on foot. The car he was driving was stolen from Salwa four months ago. — Al-Anbaa

VOTERS IN RECENT BY-ELECTIONS END BOYCOTT, TEMPT BOYCOTTING BLOCS

KUWAIT: The considerable numbers of voters who took part in the recent byelections in the third electoral constituency seem to have blown off the last of 'election boycotting locks' as several boycotters are currently racing to hold meetings and discuss views with hopes to find a way out and reduce their political and electoral losses in the upcoming elections. In this regard, observers noticed pressure on boycotting blocs' leaders in addressing the public once they learned that 32 percent of the voters had taken part in the recent polls.

Zain's former CEO Saad Al-Barrak announced intentions to run for the 2017 elections and stressed that the previous decision on boycotting the elections had been a mistake. He also said that his nephew, former MP Musallam Al-Barrak intends to run the elections according to the one-vote system, if he gets the chance.

Lawyer Jasser Al-Jed'ee, one of Barrak's lawyers who is in favor of the Constitutional Public Movement (Hashd), has called for an urgent meeting of the opposition and those who have been boycotting parliamentary elections in view of what he described

as 'sad and confusing facts and figures'. Jed'ee called for holding the meeting in an open yard to discuss running in the upcoming elections according to the one-vote system but with a motto of 'calling for the return of the four-vote system'. He also conditioned releasing opposition leaders in prison including Barrak. This call was welcomed by many of the boycotting leaders including former lawmakers as it had been made four years ago but was strongly rejected by the 'hawks', while the 'doves' of the opposition accepted it.

Observers also noticed that the Islamic Constitutional Movement (Hadas), that had led boycotting efforts, was now promoting new slogans of 'We will not let it go' and 'In response to public pressure and wishes'. In addition, observers noticed that young people had flocked to Hashd member Marzouq Al-Hebaini's diwaniya to urge him run in the 2017 elections.

On the other hand, veteran parliamentarian Ahmed Al-Saadoun held a rally in which he exposed some of the boycotting blocs that took part in the by-elections and urged them to apologize to the Kuwaiti people. — Al-Rai

TWO 'BROTHERS' RECEIVE CITIZENSHIP FOR CASH

KUWAIT: A Syrian man who goes by the name of 'Saado' became a Kuwaiti in exchange of KD 22,000, while M.A.F., a bedoon (stateless) man, became a Kuwaiti for KD 19,000. The strange thing is that they worked for the army and got the nationality's advantages such as residence, marriage loan, etc. But what is more strange is that they were registered in state records as brothers, based on being the sons of one person who added them to his file in exchange of money, but none of them knew about the other until they were busted.

Sources said Saado was naturalized in 1986 while M.A.F. was naturalized in 1996. Saado's father agreed with a Kuwaiti, M.H., to add his son to his nationality file for KD 22,000, and this is what was done following providing false information, so a Kuwaiti passport and a civil ID under the name H.M.A. was issued to Saado and with a 1971 birthdate.

Meanwhile, in the second case, investigations revealed that in 1996, the same Kuwaiti person agreed with M.M.F, a bedoon, and a relative of M.A.F, to add the latter to the nationality file in exchange of KD 19,000, and he did so after giving false information and he got a passport and a civil ID under the name K.M.A. stating he was born in 1989. The sources said investigations showed that Saado and M.A.F. still work for the army and gave false information to get the nationality. The issue was sent to the public prosecution for forgery in official documents charges. — Al-Rai

News

in brief

Electricity Ministry to do without some expats

KUWAIT: Rationalization and austerity plans would also affect the Ministry of Electricity and Water's (MEW) future projects as well as the number of expatriates working for the ministry in those project, of whom some would be done without, Assistant Undersecretary for Power Plants' Operation and Maintenance, engineer Fuad Al-Oun said. He explained that the state's austerity plans has become a must, but noted that projects already in progress and expats working in them would not be affected by those plans. — Al-Rai

Jarrah rewards land troops

KUWAIT: Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah attended military drills held under the names of the 'Impenetrable Dike' and 'Decisive Response' at the Adaire' shooting training field, where all troops succeeded in hitting their targets with great accuracy. Informed sources said that in appreciation and reward for their performance, Jarrah asked for lists of names of those who took part in the drill to be granted exceptional promotions. — Al-Rai

Public sector salaries increased

KUWAIT: Amidst ongoing talks regarding austerity measures and government spending rationalization in different state departments in the wake of the budget deficit f due to the drop in oil prices, Al-Anbaa published an analysis on the increase in salaries in the public sector during the past 10 fiscal years; starting from 2005/2006 to 2014/2015. The statistics showed that salaries increased by three times, rising from KD 1.93 billion to KD 5.3 billion at an accumulated annual growth rate of 12 percent. The total salaries paid to ministries and state departments during the past 10 years reached nearly KD 36.6 billion, which is 16 percent of Kuwait's total increase for the same period (KD 227.5 billion). Salaries made 24 percent of the total spending in the general budget for the 10 years, which reached KD 149 billion. - Al-Anbaa

Kuwait Times International

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 2016



Egypt probes football star for funding

'terror group'

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Page 8

US' PASSION FOR GUNS INTACT AS SHOOTING TOLL RISES

BALA, Syria: Syrian rebel fighters from the Failaq al-Rahman brigade take a break as they hide inside a building on the frontline against regime forces in this rebel-controlled village in the eastern Ghouta region, on the outskirts of the capital Damascus, yesterday. —AFP

BLAME-TRADING TESTS FRAGILE SYRIA TRUCE

DAMASCUS: Key players in Syria's war still being "kept secret". The ceasefire traded accusations yesterday over violations of the first major ceasefire in the Islamic State jihadist group and Alfive-year conflict, but the truce remained largely intact on its second day. Aid groups hope to use the Jull in fighting that has claimed 270,000 lives and displaced more than half the population to deliver desperately needed supplies. A successful truce would also create a more favorable backdrop for peace talks that collapsed in acrimony in early February as a Russia-backed regime offensive in northern Syria caused tens of thousands to flee.

The main opposition grouping Sunday described the ceasefire as "positive" but lodged a formal complaint with the United Nations and foreign governments about breaches on the first day. "We have violations here and there, but in general it is a lot better than before and people are comfortable," said Salem Al-Meslet, spokesman for the Saudi-backed High Negotiations

An HNC letter to UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon accused the Syrian government and its allies of committing "24 violations with artillery shelling and five ground operations... in 26 areas held by the moderate opposition". The letter, signed by HNC head Riad Hijab, also attacked Russia for conducting "26 air strikes on areas falling within the ceasefire". Hijab said the breaches had killed 29 people and wounded dozens. The HNC has said it did not receive any maps outlining which areas were included in the ceasefire or documents explaining the monitoring mechanism. Syria's Al-Watan daily, which is close to the government, said on Sunday that those maps were

does not apply to territory held by the Qaeda affiliate Al-Nusra Front.

'Strange Silence

Saudi Arabia, a staunch opponent of Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad, also accused Russia of flouting the ceasefire and targeting "moderate opposition" groups. "Things will become clearer in the coming days on whether the regime and Russia are serious or not about the ceasefire," Saudi Foreign Minister Adel Jubeir said. Russia, which has waged a five-month bombing campaign to support Assad, blamed "moderate" rebels, Turkey and jihadists for nine ceasefire violations. But "on the whole, the ceasefire regime in Syria is being implemented," Lieutenant General Sergei Kuralenko, head of Moscow's coordination centre in Syria, was quoted as saying by Russian news agencies.

In Damascus, dentistry student Mehdi Al-Ani spent yesterday at his university's cafe with friends. "Yesterday, we only heard two or three shells - but I pretended like I didn't hear anything. The ceasefire will continue, God willing," he said. In second city Aleppo, children strolled to school without hugging walls for fear of rocket attacks, an AFP correspondent said. "There's something strange in this silence. We used to go to sleep and wake up with the sound of raids and artillery," said Abu Omar, 45, who runs a bakery in rebel-held east

Britain-based monitor the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights reported air strikes - believed to be either Syrian or Russian - on seven villages in Hama and Aleppo provinces. It was unclear if the raids hit areas covered by the ceasefire, which excludes territory held by IS, also known as ISIL, and Al-Nusra. According to Observatory head Rami Abdel Rahman, only one of the villages, Kafr Hamra in Aleppo province, is con trolled by Al-Nusra and the others are held by non-jihadist rebels.

'Positive Assessment'

As recriminations flew, Washington urged everyone to be patient. "Setbacks are inevitable," a senior US administration official said. "Even under the best of circumstances, we don't expect the violence to end immediately. In fact, we are certain that there will continue to be fighting, in part because of organisations like ISIL and Al-Nusra." A task force set up to monitor the deal described Saturday's first day as largely successful. "The United Nations, the United States and Russia have made a positive assessment of the first hours of the cessation of hostilities," a Western diplomat said after the International Syria Support Group met in Geneva. The UN reported "some incidents" in apparent violation of the truce, but "they have been defused", he said. UN envoy Staffan de Mistura aims to relaunch peace talks on March 7 if the ceasefire lasts and more aid is delivered. Israel, arch-foe of Assad's other key backer Tehran, welcomed the ceasefire but warned it would not accept Iranian "aggression" or the supply of advanced weapons to Hezbollah, the Lebanese Shiite militia supporting the regime. "It's important it remains clear any agreement in Syria must include an end to Iranian aggression aimed at Israel from Syria's territory," Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu

REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA



REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA **PRESIDENT**

Tirana, on February 25th 2016

Your Highness,

The celebration of the 55th anniversary of Independence Day and the 25th anniversary of the Liberation Day of the State of Kuwait provides me with the special opportunity and pleasure to extend to Your Highness and to the friendly people of Kuwait, also on behalf of the Albanian people, the warmest and friendliest wishes.

I would like to seize this opportunity on this joyous day of the State of Kuwait to express anew the deep gratitude for the unsparing support and assistance provided by Your Highness and the State of Kuwait to Albania and Albanians throughout the years. I am convinced that the excellent and friendly relations enjoyed by the two countries will be further developed and strengthened in the future.

Please accept, Your Highness, the expression of my highest consideration alongside the best wishes for your personal health and happiness and also those for the development and well-being of the friendly Kuwaiti people.

> (signature) Bujar Nishani

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Looking for a BE - Civil with minimum 8 to 10 years' experience in Real Estate, Planning and Construction Management.

Should have experience in site productivity analysis, budgeting, cost control, preparation of project schedules and monitoring progress.

Candidate should be well versed in the field of building & construction management and capable of handling real estate projects from inception to completion.

Candidates with GCC driving license will be given

preference.

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CHINA MUZZLES 'CANNON'

BEIJING: Chinese authorities yesterday shut down the social media accounts of a tycoon nicknamed "The Cannon" after he criticized the ruling Communist Party's tightening grip on the media. The move by the Cyberspace Administration of China (CAC) against Ren Zhiqiang came just over a week after President Xi Jinping visited state media and ordered them to follow the party line more closely. The Internet regulator ordered the microblogging platforms of Sina and Tencent to shut down Ren's accounts "for spreading illegal information", state news agency Xinhua reported. "Cyberspace is not a lawless field and it should not be used to spread illegal information by anyone," said CAC spokesperson Jiang Jun. Ren's accounts were closed after netizens reported that he had regularly posted illegal information, "resulting in a vile influence", according to Jiang. The spokesperson, vowing intensified efforts to monitor online content, told celebrity microbloggers to "shoulder their due social responsibilities, and promote 'positive energy' actively". Last Monday state media blasted Ren, an outspoken property tycoon, for criticizing the party's tightening media grip and Xi's tour of official outlets.

Ren, nicknamed "the Cannon" for his provocative opinions and blunt defenses of economic inequality, was the target of twin columns in the state-affiliated news portal Qianlong for questioning on social media whether public money should be spent on party propaganda. "When did the people's government change into the party's government?" the commentary quoted Ren's since-deleted post as saying. —AFP

REFORMIST GAINS IN IRAN CLEAR WAY FOR BUSINESS BOOM

in Iranian elections open the way for changes to economic policy that will boost foreign investment and trade with the West, businessmen and analysts said yesterday. Friday's vote ended more than a decade of conservative domination of the legislature and the Assembly of Experts, a body that oversees the Islamic republic's supreme leader. The outgoing parliament, filled with hardliners suspicious of detente with the West, had acted as a brake on President Hassan Rouhani's plans to strengthen the private sector, tackle corruption and welcome foreign investors.

Rouhani, the architect of last year's nuclear deal with world powers, is now expected to find it easier to push legislative reforms making the economy more attractive to foreign firms. "In economic affairs the next parliament will be much better than the current parliament," said Saeed Leylaz, an economist who served as advisor

DUBAI: Gains by reformist candidates to reformist former president Mohammad Khatami. Iran faces deep problems including corruption, a shortage of investment and a lack of productivity, but "all these problems can be solved through liberalising the economy," he said.

Iranian investment banker Ramin Rabii said he expected the new parliament to address issues crucial to the business sector such as updating the country's commercial code, modernising labour laws and improving stock market regulation. "If you have a parliament that is friendlier to the executive branch, things tend to move forward more easily," said Rabii, chief executive of investment group Turquoise Partners. "When businessrelated regulations need to be passed, or joint venture agreements are signed with foreign partners and are scrutinised by parliament - it all goes more smoothly."

One early result of the elections could be to allow the government to eign firms, a cornerstone of its plans to raise energy production after international sanctions on Tehran were lifted last month. Iran had been scheduled to unveil the new contracts to international oil firms at a conference in London on Feb 22-24. The conference was cancelled earlier this month; oil executives blamed political feuding before the elections.

It is not clear if the election result could affect Iran's willingness to agree in talks with OPEC and non-OPEC oil producers on a proposed output freeze to prop up crude prices. But by giving the Rouhani administration a popular endorsement, the result appears likely to leave the administration with more domestic political freedom to sign a deal if it chooses. Early election results on Sunday showed moderates and reformists dominating both elections in Tehran, and making significant gains elsewhere in the country.

offer new oil and gas contracts to for- Full results are expected to be vatism. The election may have estabreleased in coming days.

Reforms

The elections do not leave the Rouhani administration with a completely free hand on economic policy. Many powers will remain in the hands of conservatives; the Guardian Council, an unelected clerical body, has the power to vet all laws, and Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has the last word on all important matters of state. Rouhani is in any case expected to move cautiously in politically sensitive areas such as freeing up the labour market, where highly restrictive rules, the legacy of Iran's revolutionary past,

make it hard to lay off workers. Nevertheless, analysts said the administration would face comparatively few restrictions on economic reforms, as hardliners concentrated their diminished political capital on defending social and cultural conserlished that Rouhani's strongest mandate for change is in the economic sphere. Many pro-Rouhani voters interviewed by Reuters cited economic reform as one of their main reasons for supporting the president.

Beyond any specific reforms, Rouhani appears to have won an endorsement of the idea of opening Iran's economy to the outside world. Before the elections, he faced sharp criticism from members of parliament for deals such as Iran's January agreement to buy 118 Airbus jets worth \$27 billion at list prices, and a venture between Iran Khodro and France's Peugeot to build cars. That criticism is expected to diminish. "We are going to see a more favorable attitude toward trade and commercial partnerships with the West, including with American companies," said Mehrdad Emadi, senior economist at the Betamatrix consultancy in London. —Reuters

ERDOGAN SAYS 'NO RESPECT' FOR RULING TO FREE JOURNOS

OPPN ACCUSES PRESIDENT OF TRAMPLING ON CONSTITUTION

ISTANBUL: President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said yesterday he had "no respect" for a decision by Turkey's top court to release two journalists held on charges of revealing state secrets, triggering accusations he was trampling on the constitution. The Constitutional Court - one of the few Turkish public institutions not fully under Erdogan's control - had allowed the release of the

expression. It's a spying case," he said. Dundar and Gul walked out of jail in Istanbul before dawn on Friday after the court ruled their rights had been violated. They had been detained since November over a report alleging that Erdogan's government tried to deliver arms to Islamist rebels in Syria.

But the pair will still stand trial on the charges on March 25, with People's Party (CHP), accused Erdogan of staging a "coup". "Today the president... has tried to give instructions to the judiciary. The constitution has been trampled on today. It's a situation of irresponsible abuse."

'No Limitless Freedom' Erdogan said that after almost 15 years of rule by his Justice and

ing state secrets "for espionage purposes" and seeking to "violently" overthrow the government as well as aiding an "armed terrorist organi-

Erdogan added: "For me, there cannot be limitless media freedom. There is no absolute freedom for the media in any country in the world." The newspaper report had sparked a furore in Turkey, fuelling speculation about the government's role in the Syrian conflict and its alleged dealings with Islamist rebels in Syria.

Irking Erdogan

The Constitutional Court, Turkey's top instance, is one of the very few public institutions in Turkey not controlled by Erdogan who enjoys the support of a loyal army, parliament and government. Media reports said nine of the 12 judges who voted in favor of the journalists had been appointed during the rule of Erdogan's predecessor Abdullah Gul, a former close ally now reportedly at odds with the president. Two were appointed during the rule of Gul's predecessor Ahmet Necdet Sezer and one was elected by parliament. Of the three who said there had been no violation, one was appointed by Erdogan and two elected by parliament.

The court has in the past issued several rulings that went against Erdogan, notably in May 2014 when it judged that a ban on YouTube was unconstitutional. The case has amplified concerns about press freedom under Erdogan, who personally warned Dundar he would "pay a price" over the story. It had also raised tensions with the European Union which warned Ankara that respecting media freedom was an essential component of its longstanding membership bid. The office of EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini welcomed the court's decision as "a needed step in the right direction in Turkey for guaranteeing freedom of expres-

ACCRA: This file photo taken on Dec 20, 2012 shows former football player Mohamed Aboutrika attending a press conference after the GLO-CAF African Football Awards. —AFP

EGYPT PROBES FOOTBALL STAR FOR FUNDING 'TERROR GROUP'

CAIRO: Egypt's prosecution will investigate former football star Mohamed Aboutrika for allegedly funding a "terrorist group", officials said yesterday, after authorities last year seized his share certificates in a travel company. In May 2015, Aboutrika's share certificates in Tours were seized over accusations it had funded the Islamist Muslim Brotherhood movement, outlawed as a "ter-

rorist" organization since December 2013. A committee charged with confiscating Brotherhood assets has referred him, and hundreds more, to the prosecution on charges of "funding a terrorist group," it said in a statement. "We will begin investigating the files of those referred by the committee," an official at the prosecution service said. Aboutrika has filed an appeal against the committee's decision to confiscate his share certificates with an administrative court,

which is due to review it on April 5. In an interview with state-run Al-Ahram newspaper in May last year, Aboutrika denied that his company - or any of his partners - had ever funded the Brotherhood. President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi's regime has cracked down on members and supporters of the Brotherhood since July 2013, when then army chief Sisi ousted president Mohamed Morsi, the country's first freely elected leader.

Morsi was ousted after mass protests against his sole year of divisive rule, and an ensuing police crackdown against his Muslim Brotherhood movement has left hundreds dead and thousands jailed. Aboutrika, one of the most successful African footballers of his generation, had publicly endorsed Morsi's 2012 presidential bid. A star of the Cairo-based club Al-Ahly as well as the Egyptian national team, the midfielder retired in 2013, and the 37-year-old has since avoided expressing his political views publicly. —AFP



ISTANBUL: Women make a corridor and hold placards reading "24-hour humanitarian corridor for Sur" during a protest yesterday to demand an end to the curfew and specifically a 24-hour break to rescue those still trapped in Sur and against government-imposed curfews on areas of eastern Turkey. The Turkish authorities have kept the curfew in place in the central Sur district of Diyarbakir since Dec 2 in a bid to root out Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) militants. —AFP

Cumhuriyet newspaper's editor-inchief Can Dundar and Ankara bureau chief Erdem Gul after three months in jail.

"I don't concur with the decision and I have no respect for it," Erdogan told reporters before leaving on a weeklong trip to Africa. "This issue is not remotely linked freedom of

prosecutors demanding multiple life terms. Cumhuriyet said Erdogan's comments were "like a threat" and the Turkish opposition lashed out furiously at his apparent lack of regard for judicial independence as enshrined in the constitution. Ozgur Ozel, one of the leaders of the opposition Republican

Development Party (AKP), media freedoms had reached an "ideal point". "I believe in defending freedom of expression until the end," he said. "But I do not believe in using freedom of expression... as a mask to attack to the country." Dundar and Gul have been formally charged with obtaining and reveal-



PANAMA CITY: In this April 9, 2015 file photo, Mexico's former President Felipe Calderon speaks at a joint press conference one day before the Summit of the Americas. —AP

SECOND FORMER MEXICO PRESIDENT SLAMS TRUMP

MEXICO CITY: Former Mexican President Felipe Calderon on Saturday joined his predecessor in office in unloading on Donald Trump, calling the Republican front-runner's campaign racist and saying his discourse on immigration is fueling anti-American sentiment around the world. Calderon, a conservative who was president of Mexico from 2006 to 2012, even said he thought Trump was trying to exploit the same social feelings

and resentments as did Adolf Hitler. "I think his logic of exalting white supremacy isn't even acting against immigration - Donald Trump is the descendant of migrants - it is acting and speaking against immigrants who have a different skin color than him, which is frankly racist and is a bit like the exploitation of raw nerves that Hitler did in his day," Calderon told reporters after a meeting of the National Action Party, or PAN, in Mexico City.

Calderon's comments parallel those made earlier by former President Vicente Fox, who preceded Calderon in office and also belonged to the PAN party. In interviews with Univision and Mexican media, Fox called Trump "crazy," a "false prophet" and an embarrassment to his party. When asked about Mexico to pay for his proposed border wall, Fox used an explicative to make his point the country would never do so.

Trump's assertion that he was going to get

Trump said Fox ought to be "ashamed of himself" for his vulgarity and demanded an apology. Trump has angered many Mexicans for his campaign rhetoric denigrating some immigrants as "rapists" who bring crime and drugs to the United States. Threats of mass deportations of Mexicans and other migrants illegally in the country, along with his promise to build a wall separating the nations, have added to the bad feelings.

Calderon said Trump's discourse is "sowing hate" against the United States around the world and this is not is Washington's interest. During a visit to Mexico's capital, Vice President Joe Biden apologized for the inflammatory rhetoric about Mexico in the US presidential campaign. "Some of the rhetoric coming from some of the presidential candidates on the other team are I think dangerous, damaging and incredibly ill-advised," Biden said on Thursday. "But here's what I'm here to tell you: They do not, they do not, they do not represent the view of the vast majority of the American people." —AP

PALESTINIANS REJECT DIRECT IRAN AID TO MARTYRS' KIN

RAMALLAH: The Palestinian Authority yesterday said direct financial assistance by Iran to the families of Palestinians killed in a fivemonth wave of violence would be unacceptable. Tehran announced last week assistance would be offered to families of Palestinians cial channels to the (PA's) Martyrs and killed in the wave of violence that erupted in Prisoners Foundation rather than relying on October, but the PA says such aid must follow official channels. Palestinian presidency said. Iran's ambassador to Lebanon,

spokesman Nabil Abu Rudeina, cited by local media, said bypassing the authority in handing out such funds would constitute illegal interference in internal Palestinian affairs.

Iran should "send this money through offiinformal and circuitous routes," Abu Rudeina

SHABAB KILL 17 IN TWIN BLASTS IN SOMALI TOWN MOGADISHU: Somalia's Al Shabaab Islamist bomb blew up at the junction while a second

group bombed a busy junction and a nearby restaurant yesterday in the town of Baidoa, killing at least 17 people, a police officer and the group said. Al-Shabaab often carries out such suicide attacks in the capital and elsewhere in its bid to topple Somalia's Westernbacked government. The group wants to impose its strict version of Islamic rule in the Horn of Africa nation.

"The restaurant and the junction were very busy and the death toll may rise," Police Major Bilow Nurr told Reuters from Baidoa, which lies about 245 km northwest of Mogadishu. Police Colonel Abdi Osman said the death toll was 17, mostly civilians, with 25 others injured. A police officer said a suicide car

blast - possibly a bomb that had been planted or a suicide bomber - struck the restaurant. "We targeted government officials and forces," Al-Shabaab's military operation spokesman Sheikh Abdiasis Abu Musab told Reuters, adding there was a police station nearby.

Ismail Olad told Reuters the two locations were full of civilians and security forces. "I heard a huge crash at the busy junction and as I ran, I heard another blast at a restaurant ahead of me. The whole place was covered by smoke," he said. The blasts follows a car bomb attack in Mogadishu near a park and hotel on Friday that killed 14 people, police said. He said three militants from the Al-Shabaab group were also killed. —Reuters

Mohammad Fathali, said Wednesday that Tehran would offer \$7,000 to the families of each Palestinian killed in what he called the "Jerusalem intifada". Iran will also give \$30,000 to Palestinian families whose homes have been destroyed by Israel because a member is accused of carrying out an anti-Israeli attack, he told a news conference in Beirut. The money pledged is in addition to the monthly aid paid since 1987 by an Iranian institution to families of Palestinians killed, he said.

The wave of violence in Israel and the Palestinian territories since October has killed 177 Palestinians as well as 28 Israelis, an American, a Sudanese and an Eritrean, according to an AFP toll. Most of the Palestinians who died in the violence were killed by Israeli forces while carrying out knife, gun and car-ramming attacks, according to Israeli authorities. Others were shot dead by Israeli forces during clashes and demonstrations. Iran has been accused of providing support to Hamas, which runs the Gaza Strip and is a rival to Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas's Fatah party. Fatah dominates the Palestinian Authority.

Palestinian economists have questioned whether Iran would be capable of distributing the aid to the families directly via banks since it could be considered "terrorism financing". The day after Iran's announcement, Israel denounced the decision, with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu saying it showed Tehran was "continuing to aid terrorism". —Reuters

THREE STABBED, 13 ARRESTED AT KKK RALLY IN CALIFORNIA

LOS ANGELES: Three people were stabbed, one of them critically, and 13 others were arrested in California on Saturday when a Ku Klux Klan rally erupted into clashes with counterprotesters, witnesses and police said. Around midday, half a dozen members of the white hate group, whose ranks still number several thousand in the United States, arrived at the protest site in Anaheim, officials said. At that point the Klan members were "swarmed" by protesters, who attacked them with at least one wooden plank, witness Brian Levin

Local police spokesman Sergeant Daron Wyatt said it appeared that "six KKK people arrived and were immediately attacked by counter-protesters, which led to a counter-protester being stabbed". The initial clash spawned several separate fights,

Park on Saturday. — AP

Wyatt added, noting that the three bers' wounds as ranging from minor stabbing victims were all counter-protesters, while another two KKK members were stomped by the crowd. One of the victims, he said, was stabbed with the decorative end of a flagpole, according to The Orange County Register.

Of those arrested, six were KKK members and seven were from the rival demonstration, Wyatt said. All were men, except for one woman in each group. The counter-protesters "smashed the side window of the Klan SUV and the front windshield," said Levin, who heads the Center for the Study of Hate and Extremism at California State University in San Bernardino. "At that point, the crowd got extremely violent." Some of the protesters started kicking a man wearing a shirt that read "Grand Dragon," said Levin, describing the KKK memto significant. "He was kicked when he was down" on the ground, he said.

MLK 'Wouldn't Approve'

Levin said he had attended the rally as an observer, but ended up standing in between the Klansmen and the crowd of angry protesters to try to stem the violence. "I helped two Klansmen get out of the way," said Levin as he headed to the police station to give his witness statement. "I told the crowd: Dr (Martin Luther) King wouldn't approve of this, please don't harm these men." After pushing a Klansman away from the crowd, Levin said he asked him: "How does it feel that your life was just saved by a Jewish man?" The man replied "thank you," according to Levin.

The city of Anaheim has a long history of KKK activity. In 1924, four of the five members voted to its City Council belonged to the Klan. Local media reported that KKK fliers had been distributed at various points over the past year or so on dozens of area lawns. "I've lived in Anaheim my whole life and I have never heard of anything like this," local resident Joe Castaneda told The Orange County Register after watching the fight break out.

The Klan, which was formed in 1865, had up to four million members in the 1920s, but its membership has dwindled to between 5,000 and 8,000 individuals today, according to the Southern Poverty Law Center. Although it has historically targeted blacks, the Klan has also launched attacks against Jews, immigrants, gays and lesbians. Until recently, it attacked Catholics as well.—AFP



MILLINGTON, Tennessee: Kids display shirts in support of Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump during a Trump rally at Millington Regional Jetport on Saturday. — AFP

RUBIO, CRUZ RELEASE TAXES, PILING PRESSURE ON TRUMP

MOGUL WON'T RELEASE RETURNS CURRENTLY

WASHINGTON: Republican presidential candidates Marco Rubio and Ted Cruz released tax returns for several years on Saturday in an effort to pressure billionaire frontrunner Donald Trump to follow suit. Rubio, whose financial decisions earlier in his life have come under scrutiny, paid \$78,917 in taxes on \$335,561 in gross income in 2014, along with his wife, Jeanette. Cruz paid \$389,124 in taxes on \$1.2 million income in 2014 along with his wife, Heidi, who is employed by Goldman Sachs and currently on leave from the bank.

Rubio and Cruz, both first-term US senators, trail Trump in national polls and are fighting to stop the political novice from locking up the Republican nomination for the Nov 8 election after big wins in South Carolina and Nevada. The real estate developer has said he will not release his returns until a routine audit has been completed. "If Donald is embarrassed about his tax returns, it's up to the voters to assess the facts. It's time to stop delaying and come clean with the American people," Cruz said in a statement.

Rubio released his last five years of federal returns on Saturday, while Cruz submitted four years. Rubio said Trump, who has promoted his success as a businessman as one of his key qualifications for the presidency, may not be as wealthy as he suggests. "I think part of it is he's not as rich as he says he is," Rubio said while campaigning in Georgia. Rubio and his wife have only one debt: The mortgage on their house, the campaign said, seeking to emphasize that the senator had moved past previous financial woes.

Rubio often refers to the nearly \$150,000 in student loan debt he incurred by the time he graduated from law school, paid off with proceeds made from his 2012 autobiography. He also faced questions for struggling for several months in 2008 to pay the mortgage on his \$384,000 South Florida home, despite a \$300,000 salary from his job at a Miami law firm. Rubio also drew scrutiny for liquidating a retirement account to cover expenses, such as home repairs and school fees. That was reflected in \$68,241 of income as part of his 2014 return.

During his 2010 bid for the US Senate, which followed his stint as a Florida state lawmaker from 2005-2006, Rubio had to defend his use of a Republican Party-issued American Express credit card for more than \$7,200 personal expenses, which he later paid back. Trump has accused Rubio of living beyond his means. Rubio's adjusted gross income in 2010 was \$183,826 in 2010. It spiked to \$929,439 in 2012, when his book "An American Son: A Memoir" was pub-

"There is no doubt the Rubio family has come a long way from the days when their largest monthly expense was a check to (student loan provider) Sallie Mae and checks were sent in the mail to pay bills with the hope the payment did not arrive before the next paycheck was deposited into their account," Rubio's campaign said. Cruz's wealth, with \$1.2 million in combined income with his wife in 2014, placed them well above the \$423,000 threshold of the top 1 percent of earners in Texas, according to a 2015 Economic Policy Institute report. — Reuters

ROOKIE US POLICEWOMAN KILLED ON FIRST DAY ON JOB

WASHINGTON: A Virginia police officer was fatally shot during her first day on the job and two of her fellow officers were wounded when they responded to a domestic disturbance in a Washington, DC, suburb, authorities said yesterday. Ashley Guindon, a rookie officer on the Prince William County Police, was struck by gunfire later died of injuries sustained during the incident on Saturday evening, a day after she joined the force, the department said.

ANAHEIM: Counter-protesters scuffle with a KKK member on the ground as

he stabs an attacking protester during an anti-immigration rally at Pearson

Guindon was a graduate of Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach, Florida, where she earned a degree in aeronautics. She also served in the US Marine Corps Reserve and has family members in law enforcement, according to the county. According to media reports, she was a 2005 graduate of Merrimack High School in New Hampshire. Yesterday, the department posted a photograph of a black ribbon draped over a squad car in honor of Guindon. "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God," the post said.

Local media showed a procession of squad cars and officers standing at attention outside of Inova Fairfax Hospital where Guindon and two other officers where brought after they were shot. On Friday, the department sent a message on Twitter that included a photo of Guindon and a fellow officer after they were sworn in, saying that she would be working her first shifts over the weekend, adding "Be safe!"

Guindon and two other unidentified officers were shot at a home they were called to in Lake Ridge, about 24 km southwest of Washington, DC, the county police depart-



(From left) Officer Steven Kendall, Officer Ashley Guindon and Lt Col Barry Bernard, deputy chief of the Prince William County Police Department are seen in this photo.— AP

ment said on its Twitter and Facebook pages. The department gave no details on the nature of the incident or the condition of the two other injured officers. A suspect was in custody, the department said. — Reuters

AMERICA'S PASSION FOR GUNS INTACT AS SHOOTING TOLL RISES

young children use handguns under supervision. As mass shootings shatter lives, the fascination with firearms among many Americans shows little sign of fading. Over the past week, two gunmen killed at least nine people in unrelated rampages in Michigan and Kansas. Add to that the death in Indiana of a father who was accidentally shot by his sixyear-old son who found a loaded revolver lying around and pulled the trigger. President Barack Obama - who offers his condolences to families of loved ones lost after each mass shooting - has decried the "routine" nature of reporting

WASHINGTON: A rifle as new state symbol. A bill that lets about and responding to such tragedies. But faced with a Republican-controlled Congress unwilling to move forward on the matter, Obama - who made fighting gun violence his chief resolution for 2016 - is left with his wheels spinning.

> In January, he shed tears as he announced limited measures to tackle the rampant violence that kills around 30,000 Americans each year and called on citizens to punish lawmakers who oppose more meaningful reforms. In the speech, Obama formally unveiled a handful of executive measures that will make it harder to buy and sell weapons, but which he admitted would not stop the scourge of mass shootings. And

in a country where there are more guns than people, and with Republicans vying to take back the White House in November, it remains to be seen, what - if anything - will change.

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Official State Rifle Senators in Tennessee

in a near unanimous vote designated a rifle that is said to be capable of destroying commercial aircraft as an official state symbol. The .50-caliber Barrett, manufactured in the southern state, joins a range of other Tennessee state symbols. These include the mockingbird as "official state bird" and the raccoon as "official wild animal". "These 'antimateriel' sniping rifles can strike accurately from a distance of more than a mile", the Violence Policy Center, a non-profit organization that advocates for gun control said. "They can penetrate light armor, down helicopters, destroy commercial aircraft, and blast through rail cars and bulk storage tanks filled with explosive or toxic chemicals, all with potentially catastrophic effect."—AFP



SWISS REJECT PROPOSAL TO EXPEL FOREIGN CRIMINALS

GENEVA: Swiss voters yesterday rejected a proposal to automatically deport foreign criminals for even minor offences, referendum results showed. The poll came at a time when many European countries are hardening their attitudes to migrants after more than a million arrived on the continent's shores last year. Under Swiss law, voters can change a law by popular ballot. To be passed it must be approved by a majority of cantons as well as a majority of

According to the final results Sunday evening, the proposal to "automatically deport foreign criminals" was rejected by 58.9 percent of voters. In a referendum six years ago, more than half of Swiss voters backed strengthening rules to automatically expel foreign nationals convicted of violent or sexual crimes. The populist right-wing Swiss People's Party (SVP) which has accused parliament of dragging its feet on writing the text into law and watering it down when it did so last March proposed tougher rules which were put to the people in Sunday's referendum.

Known for its virulent campaigns against immigration, the European Union and Islam, the SVP had called for "real deportation of criminal foreigners". But the initiative faced stiff opposition, including from the government, parliament and all the other major political parties, which said it circumvented fundamental rules of

Tough Rules

If passed, the proposal would have dramatically increased the number of offences that can get foreign nationals automatically kicked out of Switzerland, including misdemeanours usually punishable with short prison sentences or fines. It would also have removed a judge's right to refrain from deportation in cases where it would cause the foreign national "serious personal hardship". More than 50,000 people including hundreds of celebrities signed a petition against the

According to the Swiss Federal Statistical Office, the number of people who could have been expelled from the country under the proposed draft would have shot up from 500 to 10,200. SVP's campaign initially garnered strong support, but appeared to have lost steam among voters. Opponents had warned that if the text passed, people born to foreign parents in Switzerland risked being deported to countries they have never lived in, just for petty offences. "This initiative would have been contrary to the rule of law, as it would have muzzled the judges. That's why we mobilized in this campaign," said Cristina Gaggini, who leads a Swiss organization representing several businesses.

2010 Changes Sufficient In the 2010 plebiscite, the Swiss agreed to automatically deport foreigners found guilty of murder, rape and other serious sexual offences, violent crimes like robbery, drug trafficking and abusing social aid. That proposal was approved by 52.9 percent of those voting. Parliament last year approved changes to the penal



BERN: Flavia Kleiner (center) member of the NGO committee against the enforcement initiative cheers after the clear rejection of the initiative by Swiss voters, in Bern, Switzerland yesterday. — AP

code, but also determined that judges under scrutiny yesterday would have should have the right to avoid automatic deportation in certain cases. The initiative

widened the list of offences that trigger automatic deportation. — AFP



WALES: Britain's Prime Minister David Cameron (left) speaks to employees during a question and answer session at GE

BRITAIN'S RULING CONSERVATIVES CALL FOR TRUCE IN EU CAMPAIGN

PARTY SPLIT OVER WHETHER UK SHOULD STAY IN EU

LONDON: Senior ministers called yesterday for a truce in a heated debate on Britain's membership of the European Union, saying the ruling Conservative Party must be civil if it wants to stay in power. The party is deeply split over whether Britain should vote to stay in the EU at a referendum on June 23, and several allies of Prime Minister David Cameron, who supports EU membership, are campaigning to leave the 28-member bloc.

Some lawmakers have criticized Cameron for accusing London Mayor Boris Johnson, a leading Conservative, of putting his own ambition above his beliefs by backing the "Out" campaign. They said the thinly veiled attack last week on Johnson, the most prominent party member in the "Out" camp, violated an unwritten rule that both sides respect each others' opinions.

"There are different opinions in the party. Everyone has to go out of their way to make sure that the debate within the Conservative Party is a constructive one, an amicable one and one that doesn't involve attacks on each other," said Christopher Grayling, leader of the House of Commons (the lower house of parliament) who supports leaving the EU.

"And then from a Conservative point of view after the event we've really got to make sure that when the result comes in, we come together, we heal the party, we move beyond the discussions at the moment and we win in 2020," he told Sky News, referring to the year when the next parliamentary election is expected.

Squabbling

Cameron has allowed his party members to campaign according to their conscience, saying he cannot force lawmakers to back his campaign in support of EU membership at a referendum which will help shape the future of the bloc - Britain is the EU's second-largest economy and one of its two main military powers.

Many of Britain's leading businesses have said they want to remain in the European Union and the opposition Labour Party has said it will campaign to stay in, overcoming the euroscepticism of its leader, veteran anti-war campaigner Jeremy Corbyn. Jonathan Ashworth, Labor's shadow minister without portfolio, said: "The squabbling amongst the Conservative Party says more about internal positioning ahead of a leadership contest than it does about what's in

the long-term interests of the country." Cameron has said he will not resign if Britain votes to leave the EU. But the Sunday Times newspaper quoted sources as saying that Conservative lawmakers would mount a leadership challenge against Cameron if he failed to halt so-called 'blue-on-blue' attacks -Conservatives attacking Conservatives. Former Conservative leader lain Duncan-Smith, secretary of state for work and pensions, called on his fellow Conservatives to respect each other. "The general view at the time and I think it should remain now is that don't play the person, play the ball," he told The Andrew Marr Show on the BBC. "We should take a deep breath ... This is about Britain, it's not about us." — Reuters

DEATH TOLL FROM RUSSIA'S MINING DISASTER HITS 36

MISSING PRESUMED DEAD

MOSCOW: The death toll in Russia's worst mining disaster in recent history climbed to 36 yesterday as officials said 26 missing workers could not have survived and another six, most of them rescuers, had been killed in a new explosion. On Thursday, four miners were killed when a methane explosion ripped through the Severnaya mine in Arctic Russia at a depth of 748 meters. "According to the expert technical council, 26 (missing) people who were in the mine had no chances of surviving," Tatyana Bushkova, a spokeswoman for the mine's operator Vorkutaugol said yesterday. "The rescue operation has been halted," she added in an emailed state-

A fresh methane explosion at the mine in the small hours of yesterday killed five rescue workers and a miner, Anton Kovalishin, a spokesman for the emergencies ministry in the Komi region where the mine is located said. The pit is located in the city of Vorkuta in the Komi region, which used to host one of the most feared Soviet-era Gulag labor camps. Vorkutaugol is operated by Severstal, the Russian steelmaker controlled by billionaire Alexey Mordashov.

Authorities launched a massive search operation involving hundreds of rescue workers who had been trying to track down the missing despite almost zero visibility, smoke, gas-polluted air and rubble. Both the company and the authorities had until now refused to declare the missing dead even though rescuers appear to have failed to make contact with them over the past few days.

But the latest explosion forced admit that no-one could have survived. "Unfortunately, we are forced to acknowledge that all the conditions at that section of

the mine would not allow a person to survive," Emergencies Minister Vladimir Puchkov said for his part in comments broadcast by LifeNews television channel. Bushkova said a fire was still burning at the mine and the company was considering whether to flood the pit or pump inert gas into it.

'Risk of new explosions'

Seventy-seven people were in the mine during the rescue operation when the latest explosion hit, the emergencies ministry said. Of these, 71 were rescued and brought to the surface. Eleven of them were injured. "According to experts, there is a high risk of new explosions," the ministry said. Sunday, Monday and Tuesday have been declared days of mourning in the region. Earlier this week President Vladimir Putin tasked the government with setting up a special panel to inquire into the accident. The Investigative Committee has opened a criminal probe into any violation of safety rules and dispatched investigators and forensic experts to the

Mine accidents are fairly common in Russia and other former Soviet countries, where much of the infrastructure has not been modernized since the Communist era. The explosion at the Severnaya mine took place despite the fact that the company has over the past years invested heavily into safety, Vorkutaugol said. In 2010, 91 people-both miners and rescuers-died after a methane explosion at the Raspadskaya mine in the Siberian region of Kemerovo. In 2007, 110 people died at the Ulyanovskaya mine, also in Kemerovo, the country's worst mining accident since the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991. — AFP



VORKUTA: Photo shows mine rescuers at the Severnaya coal mine in Vorkuta, about 1,900 kilometers northeast of Moscow. — AP

CHAD LEADER FACES BIGGEST PROTESTS OF HIS LONG RULE

N'DJAMENA: The nationwide strikes which brought Chad's biggest cities to a halt this week over President Idriss Deby Itno's planned bid for re-election are some of the most significant protests of the hardliner's 26-year rule. The strike, which ran under the slogan "That's Enough", successfully locked down N'Djamena, leaving classrooms emptied and the capital's two big markets deserted in a protest mirrored in cities across the country. In the capital, people are still amazed by the sheer scale of the work stoppage during Wednesday's "dead city" operation, saying they can recall no demonstration as large against their hardline leader.

The stoppage was organized by a coalition of civil society organizations grouped under the name "Ca Suffit"-French for 'that's enough'. The morning to lunchtime shutdown "was total" in Chad's second-biggest city, Moundou, a resident said, who said not even the motorbike taxis were running. "The population has realized they can exercise their democratic rights," coalition spokesman Mahamat Nour Ibedou said, saying the protest was even observed in provincial towns. Many Chadians are fed up with entrenched poverty, especially since their country has begun to make money from oil exports.

In recent weeks, Chad has been gripped by a wave of unrest with students taking to the street in fury over the gang rape of a girl in mid-February, allegedly by the sons of a government minister and three army generals. The girl was allegedly kidnapped and gang-raped by five young men who then posted a video online showing the victim naked and in tears.

'The first time'

The protests began on February 15. Deby's regime banned demonstrations with the army enforcing the ban, firing on youths, with two students killed and a least five wounded in a week of protests, hospital staff and human rights activists said. The authorities also blocked access to Facebook and other social networks to crack down on the dissent, but the unprecedented city shutdown fired up talk in white-collar offices as well as in the working-class districts. "This is the first time in the history of this country that people unanimously respect an appeal from civil society," said Issa Moussa, who works at the ministry of territorial adminis-

In a country where people are reluctant to speak out in public for fear of trouble with the police, Moussa was the only person who did not ask to remain anonymous. "People are unhappy and the success of this 'dead city' operation is also to be explained by the build-up of people's frustration over 25 years," said a civil servant in the justice ministry. "We respected the watchword because of the humiliation imposed on Zouhoura's family," said a trader who joined the strike in N'Djamena's central market, referring to the girl who was allegedly raped. — AFP

ALBANIA NEWSREADERS STRIP DOWN - TO BOOST AUDIENCE

TIRANA: Faced with tough competiin the space of three months I became tion to win over audiences, an Albanian TV channel is taking a literal approach towards giving viewers the "naked" truth-by employing almosttopless newsreaders. Wearing open jackets and nothing underneath, the young women reading the headlines on Zjarr TV are an unprecedented sight in the conservative Balkan country, where they first appeared on television and Internet screens last year. The channel's owner says audiences haven't stopped growing since. "In Albania, where the news is manipulated by political powers, the audience needed a medium that would present the information like it is-naked," Zjarr TV owner Ismet Drishti said.

"We don't sell sex, we reproduce the news as it is. It's both symbolic and good publicity," said Drishti, who plans to launch French and English language bulletins with "bare information" following the same model. For 24-year-old presenter Greta Hoxhaj, working in a state of near undress has proved to be a shortcut to glory. "I worked hard for five years in local television where I remained unnoticed," a cheerful and relaxed Hoxhaj said in the studio, while her face was made up for the cameras. "I regret nothinga star."

Every evening at 7.30 pm, Hoxhaj reads the news in a revealing and preferably pink jacket, but she was quick to point out that she dresses like other women of her age in everyday life. Her stripped down look "is only for

television, for information," said the her to present the news topless. "I presenter, who also studies law and psychology when she's not in the studio. Hoxhaj's newfound fame has landed her a job offer in Sydney as a presenter for a soon-to-launch Australian TV channel-paying 3,000 euros (\$3,280) a week, and requiring



TIRANA: Presenter Greta Hoxhaj, 24 prepares prior her news edition on Zjarr TV (fire tv) in Tirana. — AFP

have not decided yet, I'm still in discussions," said Hoxhaj.

Dismissing critics

Preceding her in the anchor job was Enki Bracaj, a 21-year-old student, whose bare bulletins went viral in the Balkans and made international headlines. Officially she left because she was unhappy with her salary, but according to her colleagues, she managed to land a job as a model at a fashion magazine. Zjarr TV is not the only place where female anchors have gone bare-in Venezuela, for example, a presenter on a news website stripped naked last year to toast her country's success in the Copa America football championships.

But in traditional Albania, home to a mostly Muslim population of about three million, the risque presenting style has caused a stir on Facebook and other social media sites. "It's pathetic to have accepted such a thing just to be on screen," wrote one online critic, while another said the move was "outrageous" and "disgustingly sexist". But Hoxhaj said she was not affected by such reactions, insisting: "I had the courage to do what I do and now I'm a star." — AFP



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INDIAN CINEMAS UNDER PRESSURE OVER HOMOPHOBIA MOVIE

Indian city of Aligarh were under mounting pressure yesterday to stop screening a movie set in the metropolis that tackles homophobia, following protests from right wing religious groups. The movie "Aligarh", which opened nationally last week, is based on a true story about a university professor suspended from his post after a television news crew filmed

him having sex with a rickshaw puller. Shrinivas Ramchandra Siras was

NEW DELHI: Cinemas in the north teaching at Aligarh Muslim University in nishing" the city with homosexuality, tural history, to homosexuality, so we 2010 when his private life made headline news in an undercover sting operation. He briefly fought to be reinstated, but was found dead in his apartment in suspicious circumstances two months later. The film has received favorable reviews and shines a rare spotlight on homosexuality in socially conservative India where gay sex is still illegal. But Aligarh mayor Shakuntala Bharti said the movie should be barred there for "tar-

sparking an outcry on social media from gay rights supporters.

"It is giving a bad name to the city. It is shameful and we don't support it," Bharti told reporters. Aligarh cinemas appeared to have scrapped plans to show the movie after street protests last week by fringe Muslim group the Millat Bedari Muhim Committee. "After this movie, people will obviously link the name of our glorious city, with a rich culobviously have an objection," the committee's secretary, Jasim Mohammad said. "After our objections and the support they have received, the cinemas are not showing the movie," Mohammad

The city's cinemas themselves could not be contacted for comment on Sunday. But the Indian Express newspaper said those initially running it had now cancelled screenings. The movie's director, Hansal Mehta, expressed his disappointment on Twitter, saying "so Aligarh has killed Prof Siras again". Opposition Congress leader Manish Tewari, a former broadcasting minister, said "sad some bigots in #Aligarh not able to deal with movie Aligarh". Police initially suspected Siras committed suicide after traces of poison were detected in his body, but they later made several arrests, although no one was convicted and the case was ultimately dropped. — AFP



HONG KONG: Hong Kong activist Edward Leung (center) 24, one of the leaders of "localist" group Hong Kong Indigenous, shouts slogans as he campaigns next to his endorser, local lawmaker Raymond Wong (left), during the New Territories East by-election in Hong Kong yesterday. —AFP

ANTI-CHINA ACTIVIST FACING RIOT CHARGE STANDS IN POLL

BY-ELECTION HIGHLIGHTS CITY'S POLITICAL FAULTLINES

He explained that the women who

managed to escape from IS found them-

selves back in their deeply conservative

communities in northern Iraq with little

to no access to psychological help to

work through the unspeakable horrors

they had experienced. "These women

really need specialized treatment. If we

HONG KONG: A Hong Kong activist who seeks independence from China and has been charged over recent street battles with police stood for office yesterday in a by-election that highlights the city's political faultlines. Edward Leung, 24, one of the leaders of "localist" group Hong Kong Indigenous, is vying to become a legislator after a prominent pro-democracy politician stepped down. Student Leung is taking on six other contenders for the New Territories East seat, including candidates from pro-Beijing and pro-democracy camps.

He is not tipped to win but his candidacy will be a barometer of how much support the fledgling localist movement-fiercely opposed by Beijing-can garner at the ballot

Since massive rallies in 2014 calling for fully free leadership elections failed to win concessions from Beijing, young protesters like Leung have become increasingly disillusioned with more established pro-democracy parties. Smaller groups have emerged under a "localist" banner, pushing for greater autonomy and even independence from China as fears over interference from Beijing grow.

Their frustrations spilt over into violence earlier this month when running battles with police left more than 100 injured. Leung is facing a rioting charge for his involvement. "Hongkongers are the masters of their own soil," he said yesterday. "I will defend Hong Kong people's interests and Hong Kong people's rights." Hong Kong is semi-autonomous after being handed back to China by Britain in 1997 and its freedoms are protected by a 50-year agreement. But there is growing concern those freedoms

are under threat as China seeks to stamp its Alliance for the Betterment of Hong Kong authority on the territory.

The disappearance of five Hong Kong booksellers known for publishing titles critical of Beijing has exacerbated fears. Four of the men are now under official investigation on the mainland and the fifth has said he is "assisting" authorities. "I voted for him (Leung). We need to speak out about what's happening," said a 56-year-old engineer surnamed Cheung. "It's completely understandable that young people want change,"

Cheung said. Others urged calm. "We should not be radical," said one 40-year-old voter surnamed Yeung. "Any problems should be dealt with peacefully and rationally." Observers say either Alvin Yeung of the established pro-democracy Civic Party or Holden Chow of the pro-Beijing Democratic

(DAB) are most likely to win. Yeung criticized Leung's involvement in the street battles and defended the pro-democracy movement's peaceful track record.

"I understand people are not satisfied, but... we need principles and our bottom line is non-violence," Yeung said. The pro-Beijing camp casts democracy campaigners as a threat to stability and prosperity in the city. Beijing has dismissed localists as "separatists"-a label they do not shy away from. By mid-afternoon, 200,000 people had voted, with polls due to close later in the night and the result expected overnight. If Chow wins, the pro-democracy camp will still hold enough seats in parliament to block important bills, but will risk its ability to block other parliamentary decisions. — AFP

News

in brief

20 Indian fishermen arrested by Pakistan

KARACHI: Pakistan has arrested 20 Indian fisherman for violating the territorial waters of the country, its maritime security agency said yesterday. The Indian fishermen were arrested and brought to the Southern city of Karachi yesterday morning. Their boats were also seized. "We are preparing documents to produce all of them in court tomorrow," police official Fida Hussain said. Both Indian and Pakistani fishermen are frequently detained on the charge, as the two countries' borders are not clearly defined in the Arabian Sea and many fishing boats lack the technology needed to be certain of their precise location. Many are sent to jail before being handed over to the authorities in their homeland. "The court is likely to send them to jail for at least a year over the violation," Hussain said. The fishermen often languish in jail even after serving their term, as poor diplomatic ties between the two archrivals mean fulfilling official requirements can take a long time. Shakir Hussain, a senior prison official at Karachi's Landhi district jail, said more than 400 Indian fishermen were currently detained



Nepal's 'ice doctors' return to Everest after avalanche

KATHMANDU: Nepal's experienced "ice doctors" were preparing Sunday to return to Everest to ready the mountain for the upcoming climbing season, almost one year after a huge earthquake triggered a deadly avalanche. Eight of the mountaineers and their support teams were performing prayers at the bottom of Everest before leaving for base camp to fix routes through a treacherous icefall for climbers, a top official said. "Starting from 7th March, the expert team will continue opening expedition routes and fix ladders and ropes for the upcoming season," Nishan Shrestha, CEO of the Sagarmatha Pollution Control Committee, which manages the peak said. Nepal is hoping the April-May season will see climbers return to the world's highest peak, providing muchneeded revenue to the impoverished country. Nepal has been hard hit by falling tourism following last April's earthke which killed nearly 9,000 people. The quake triggered the April 25 avalanche which left 18 people dead at Everest base camp. It was the second in as many years after 16 Nepali guides lost their lives on the icefall in 2014, sparking a shutdown of the peak.

Afghan police suspected of aiding Taleban killed

LASHKAR GAH: A policeman was killed and a further 30 were detained in a joint operation between Afghan troops and US forces last week against police suspected of supporting Taliban insurgents in embattled Helmand province, Afghan officials said vesterday. Reports of fighting between police and soldiers add to the upheaval in the southern province, long a stronghold of the insurgency, where the military has abandoned several outposts. The NATO-led coalition and the Afghan government are trying to overhaul security forces and reverse insurgent gains there. The incident on Friday was in Sangin district, the scene of some of the heaviest fighting in Afghanistan's long war, Helmand police chief Abdul Rahman Sarjang said. "Army forces detained the police and took them to the military corps in Helmand," Sarjang said. "An investigation is ongoing." The acting Sangin district police chief, Mohammad Nabi, was among the detainees, Sarjang said. Nabi was acting in place of the district's official police chief, Mohammad Dawood, who is recovering from injuries.

YAZIDI GIRLS SEEK HEALING IN GERMANY AFTER IS 'HELL'

GENEVA: One eight-year-old was repeatedly sold and raped, while another girl set herself on fire to make herself less attractive to her jihadist captors. These are only two of the more than 1,400 horror stories German doctor Jan Ilhan Kizilhan has heard first-hand from Yazidi women and girls once enslaved by Islamic State jihadists in Iraq. "They have been through hell," he said in an interview in Geneva. Kizilhan heads a project that has brought 1,100 women and girls to Germany to help heal their deep physical and psychological

The project, run by German state Baden-Wurttemberg, first began flying in the traumatized victims from northern Iraq last April, and brought the last group over earlier this month. It was in 2014 that authorities in Baden-Wurttemberg decided to act. At the time, IS jihadists were making a lightning advance in northern Iraq, massacring Yazidis in their villages, forcing tens of thousands to flee and kidnapping thousands of girls and women to force them into sexual slavery.

'Genocide'

The United Nations has described the IS attack on the Yazidi minority as a possible genocide. "It is really an urgent situation," Kizilhan said, calling on other countries and states to follow Baden-Wurttemberg's example. The southwest German state budgeted 95 million euros (\$104 million) to the project and asked Kizilhan and his team to decide which of the victims could benefit most from the move. The doctor said another 1,200 Yazidi women and girls once held by IS would also benefit from similar programs elsewhere-as would the estimated 3,800 believed to remain in captivity, if they make it out.

don't help them, who will?" he asked, speaking on the sidelines of an international conference of human rights defenders in Geneva. As Yazidis, who fol-

GENEVA: German doctor Jan Ilhan Kizilhan poses for a photograph in Geneva. One eight-year-old was repeatedly sold and raped, while another girl set herself on fire to make herself less attractive to her jihadist captors. These are only two of the more than 1,400 horror stories heard by German doctor Jan Ilhan Kizilhan, who heads a project that has evacuated traumatized Yazidi women from northern Iraq to help heal their deep suffering. — AFP

low a unique faith despised by IS, the women raped and sometimes left pregnant by the jihadists are seen by many in their community as a source of dishonor.

Those who are shunned become impoverished and risk falling into prostitution to support themselves, and a large number commit suicide, Kizilhan said. "Over the last year, I have documented more than 20 cases of suicide, but this is surely just the tip of the iceberg," he said, adding the actual number was likely closer to 150. Kizilhan shuddered as he recalled the case of one girl he had met in a refugee camp last August, who suffered burns to over 80 percent of her body. "She had no nose, no ears left," he said, adding that he was even more shocked when he learned what had happened to her.

IS fighters had held the girl and her sisters for weeks, raping and torturing them, before they escaped. Then one night sleeping in her tent in the refugee camp, the girl dreamt IS fighters were outside. In a panic she poured gasoline over herself and lit a match, hoping it would make her so ugly they would not rape her again. Kizilhan had that girl chartered out immediately for fear she might not survive. She remains in hospital in Germany after more than a dozen operations, and will still need 30 more types of skin and bone surgery. — AFP

CHINESE PASTOR, WIFE JAILED

BEIJING: A Chinese husband and wife who led a Christian congregation that opposed a government campaign to remove crosses atop churches have been given long prison sentences for illegal activities, including corruption and disturbing social order, state media said. A court in eastern Zhejiang province on Friday sentenced pastor Bao Guohua to 14 years in prison and his wife, Xing Wenxiang, to 12 years after concluding that they had illegally organized churchgoers to petition the government and disturb social order, according to the state-run Zhejiang Daily news-

The couple also was accused of "tricking" members of its congregation into donating \$336,000 that was spent on cars and other personal purchases while pretending to lead an ascetic lifestyle, the newspaper said. The court sentenced 10 other church members to prison, the report said, without giving details.

For the past two years, Zhejiang's Christians, particularly in the coastal city of Wenzhou, home to a large Christian population, have been locked in a bitter dispute with local authorities who have removed hundreds of crosses from churches in the province, saying they violate building codes, or demolished churches altogether. Zhejiang's religious leaders, many of whom lead churches sanctioned by the government, say the attitudes of local authorities have turned sharply negative in recent years as the Christian population grew in number and influence.

Several well-known figures who have resisted the government campaign to remove crosses through legal challenges or public denunciations have been targeted with criminal prosecutions. The clash over the Zhejiang Christians' religious rights has been complicated by the fact that they have received help from overseas supporters at a time when the Chinese government is particularly sensitive to what it considers foreign meddling in domestic issues.

In the past year, China's government has relentlessly pursued and jailed human rights lawyers that have received training and funding from foreign sources. Zhang Kai, a Beijing-based Christian lawyer who was detained one day before he was due to meet a US envoy in August, was shown on television late Thursday night confessing to organizing illegal religious gatherings and undermining China's political system with backing from China Aid, a Texasbased group that has funded the churches' efforts to resist the cross removals.

China Aid said in a blog post Friday that the government action against Bao's church and other Christian leaders amounted to "religious persecution." Last month, provincial authorities opened a separate corruption probe into the prominent pastor Gu Yuese, who openly spoke out against the government's clampdown on Christian activity. With 10,000 members, Gu's Chongyi church is the largest Protestant congregation in the Chinesespeaking world. — AP





The Tungurahua volcano spews fumes and lava on Saturday in Huambalo, Ecuador, affecting neighboring areas with ash fall. — AFP

70 KILLED IN BAGHDAD BOMBINGS

Continued from Page 1

Security officials blamed Islamic State, and a news agency that supports the group said it had launched a "wide attack" in Abu Ghraib, 25 km from the centre of Baghdad and next to the international airport. Footage circulated online by the Amaq news agency appeared to show Islamic State fighters crouching behind dirt berms and launching the attack with automatic rifles, machine guns and rocket-propelled grenades. Reuters could not verify the video's authenticity. Security forces had mostly regained control by yesterday evening but officials said there were still clashes.

Baghdad-based security analyst Jasim Al-Bahadli said the assault suggested it was premature to declare that Islamic State was losing the initiative in Iraq. "Government forces must do a better job repelling attacks launched by Daesh. What happened today could be a setback for the security forces," he said, using an Arabic acronym for Islamic State. Army and police sources said the militants had attacked from the nearby Islamic State-controlled areas of Garma and Fallujah, driving Humvees and pickup trucks fixed with machine guns. A curfew was imposed as a regiment of Iraq's elite counter-terrorism forces was mobilized to retake the silo in Abu Ghraib and prevent the militants approaching the nearby airport, security officials said.

Iraqi army helicopters bombarded Islamic State positions in the and Interior Ministry spokesman Brigadier General Saad Maan said at least 20 militants had been killed in the government's counter offensive. Fighters from the Hashid Shaabi, a coalition of mainly Iranian-backed militias, were mobilized to Abu Ghraib to reinforce regular government forces in the area, said Jawad Al-Tulaibawi, a local Hashid commander. Powerful cleric Moqtada Al-Sadr also called on fighters loyal to him to be on alert to protect Baghdad. Militias like Sadr's 'Peace Brigades' were seen as a bulwark against Islamic State's sweeping advance in 2014 which threatened Iraq's capital and its most sacred Shiite shrines. — Reuters

LAWMAKERS WANT CITIZENS EXCLUDED FROM...

Continued from Page 1

Another meeting will be held on Sunday to study detailed figures about spending and revenues in the budget, privatization projects and private public partnership projects and their effects on the budget, he said.

Shaye said that a proposal to compensate citizens for petrol price hikes through coupons based on a monthly consumption of 220 liters per citizen holding a driving license was made by MPs and not the government. The lawmaker said the government wants to reduce administrative expenditures in the budget by 25 percent. He said the committee will work to complete the report on the issue before April 1.

Finance Minister and acting oil minister Anas Al-Saleh said after the meeting that the government's vision for reforms is based on six main principles which include financial reforms, redrawing the state role in national economy, strengthening the role of the private sector, citizens' ownership of projects, reforming the labor market and Civil Service Commission and administrative and legislative reforms. He said to implement this vision, the government has 40 programs, 23 of them short-term.

The minister said the meeting discussed the government's proposal to rationalize subsidies for petrol and MPs proposed that such subsidies should be given to a section of citizens and the government will consider this proposal. The meeting also discussed a study submitted by the ministry of electricity on consumption categories and the discussion will be completed on Thursday, the minister said.

MP Mohammad Tana said the government presented several scenarios on the planned hikes but MPs demanded more information and explanations over the issue. He said the government said it wants to sell lowgrade petrol for 90 fils a liter, high-grade premium petrol for 119 fils a liter and ultra-grade fuel for 127 fils a liter, adding this was one of the several scenarios it presented.

Last week, MP Shaye said the government told MPs it wanted to sell petrol for 85, 105 and 165 fils a liter for the three grades respectively. Tana said a number of scenarios were presented based on the movements in the price of oil. MP Saud Al-Huraiji said the government has so far presented a number of proposals and MPs rejected all of them and asked the government to submit better proposals.

Meanwhile, MPs yesterday issued threats that they would grill Commerce and Industry Minister Yousef Al-Ali and Minister of Social Affairs and Labor Hind Al-Subaih. MP Ahmad Al-Qudhaibi said his grilling against the commerce minister is ready and he is waiting for the minister to sign on the allocation of industrial land in violation of the law to submit the grilling request. He claimed that the minister returned some of the land that was withdrawn because of violations after unilaterally changing some rules in a politically-motivated move to appease some of his supporters.

MP Tana meanwhile threatened he would grill the social affairs minister if she does not stop what he called a process of privatizing cooperative societies, which is totally against the law. MP Huraiji also supported his colleague by saying that if the minister does not stop the process, she will be grilled.

DASMAN ATTACKER UNREPENTANT...

Continued from Page 1

He added that the national celebrations had caused him a great deal of embarrassment with radical and terrorist clerics abroad, who kept needling him about it, which made him decide to spoil the ceremonies. Shamlan also confessed to planning to flee the country after committing the crime. He kept repeating that he had wished all the policemen at the checkpoint had died. "If I can go back in time, I would do it again more precisely," he allegedly said.

Indian kills 14 relatives, hangs self

Continued from Page 1

Kabdule said he could not confirm whether the victims had been sedated, saying investigators were awaiting medical test results. Footage showed men carrying bodies wrapped in sheets from the house to a waiting ambulance, as crowds and police gathered outside the white-walled home. Kabdule said details of the attack "are still sketchy" along with the motive. Warekar's extended family - three sisters, their children and his parents - were among those who apparently had gotten together for dinner, Kabdule said. Warekar's wife and

two young daughters were also in the house and were among those killed.

According to the Press Trust of India news agency, a property dispute was behind the killings, but Dumbre said initial investigations have so far found no trigger for such an "extreme step". "In our inquiry so far, no one has yet been able to give the reason for this," Dumbre told the ABP news channel. "He worked with a private company in Mumbai. There were no known financial troubles or disputes and now we are hoping that the lone survivor can tell us something about the trigger," he said. — Agencies

REPUBLICANS BRAWL, CLINTON SAILS TOWARD...

Continued from Page 1

Asked about the endorsement on CNN, Trump said he knew nothing about it. "You wouldn't want me to condemn a group that I know nothing about. I'd have to look," he said. At a news conference Friday, Trump appeared surprised by the endorsement. "David Duke endorsed me? I disavow," he said, without elaborating.

Polls show Trump, who picked up a key endorsement from New Jersey Governor Chris Christie, leading the Republican pack in most of the 11 Super Tuesday contests, but trailing Cruz in his home state of Texas, a top Super Tuesday prize with 155 delegates. The conventional wisdom is that Trump's rivals - Cruz, Senator Marco Rubio of Florida and Ohio Governor John Kasichmust at least win their own states to remain in the running. Cruz will be the first to face that test, as Florida and Ohio vote later.

"There is no doubt that if Donald steamrolls through Super Tuesday, wins everywhere with big margins, that he may well be unstoppable," Cruz said on CBS's Face the Nation. Kasich predicted that Trump would probably win all the Super Tuesday contests, but the governor said he intended to hang on in hopes Cruz and Rubio are knocked out first. Retired neurosurgeon Ben Carson also has vowed to remain in the race, but support for his candidacy has fizzled.

With the stakes nearing a make-or-break point, Trump, Cruz and Rubio have viciously attacked each other with taunts, accusations and angry tweets that have given the Republican race a distinctly Darwinian flavor. "Frankly, we're going to look back on this time and we're all going to shake our heads and say, did we

really degrade the process of picking the leader of the free world?" said Kasich, who has generally refrained from joining the free-for-all. While the Republicans were hitting all the political talk shows yesterday, Hillary Clinton was quietly savoring her victory in South Carolina. It was the former secretary of state's first decisive win of the campaign, after a nail-biter victory in lowa, a thumping loss to Sanders in New Hampshire and then a five-point win in Nevada. Exit polls in South Carolina showed African-Americans - who represented 61 percent of all Democratic voters in the primary backed Clinton by a stunning 86 percent, more than had supported Obama eight years prior.

Clinton, who now leads in the national delegate count, assiduously courted black voters, partly by praising Obama and promising to build on his legacy. South Carolina marked a "great test" for the coming votes in other southern states and showed that Clinton "can get a broad base of support of all demographics," her communications director Jennifer Palmieri told reporters, as the candidate shook hands and posed for selfies with supporters in Columbus, South Carolina Saturday night. "We are going to compete for every vote in every state. We are not taking anything, and we are not taking anyone, for granted," Clinton said. She also looked beyond her battle with Sanders, tweaking Trump, whose campaign slogan is "Make America Great Again". "Despite what you hear, we don't need to make America great again. America has never stopped being great," she said, reading off a teleprompter. The 11 states that hold Democratic nominating contests Tuesday will send a whopping 18 percent of the delegates to July's nominating convention in Philadelphia. — AFP





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- Salmiya (Salem Al-Mubarak str.) Farwaniya (Behind police Station) Fahaheel (Opp. General Parking) Jahra (Opp. Main Co-op.) Airport (Departure Hall)



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Focus

DOLBY PLAYS TO EYES AS WELL AS EARS WITH NEW TECHNOLOGIES

By Sophie Estienne

t the entrance of Dolby headquarters in San Francisco, a ribbon of television screens plays synchronized videos that change in time to sound effects. The display mirrors Dolby's recent efforts to move beyond sound enhancement to improve what people see when they watch films. Several of the movies up for Oscars on Sunday in Los Angeles were made with Dolby Vision, which has become an industry standard for image quality in movies.

Best picture nominees "The Martian" and "The Revenant," as well as Pixar's animated film "Inside Out" used the technology. "We're predominately known and associated with audio, but we spent the last decade working on imaging," Dolby director of content and creative relations Stuart Bowling told AFP. Since the company launched its Dolby Vision in 2014, an array of television makers and major Hollywood studios have adopted the technology, which produces wider ranges of color and contrast.

Even though the number of pixels that can be captured in films has exploded, "we found something was missing everywhere: contrast," Bowling said. "Adding more contrast makes a significant impact on the image; it looks sharper, more vibrant, more color-saturated and then almost 3D," he added. The difference becomes clear watching two high-definition televisions side-by-side. With Dolby Vision, details jump out in a "Lego" movie scene showing car headlights, or during an explosion in "Man of Steel," while they are crushed or blurred in the standard version of the films.

Industry Standard

Dolby Laboratories was founded half a century ago by its namesake, Ray Dolby who set out to develop technology for fuller, cleaner, crisper sound. One of the company's early creations was noise reduction technology that made its cinema debut in the 1971 film "A Clockwork Orange". Dolby went on to become a de facto standard for audio quality in films, music, theaters and consumer electronics. Now with its new Dolby Vision technology, it is setting the bar for image quality as well.

To make sure images come out well in theaters, Dolby uses a special projector with lasers rather than traditional xenon light bulbs to increase brightness. This results in intense, nearly fluorescent reds, blues and greens in such films as "Inside Out". Dolby Vision imbues movies with "much brighter brights and much darker darks," according to chief marketing officer Bob Borchers. "It allows you to do things impossible before," such as deep black in space scenes from the latest "Star Wars" film, Borchers said.

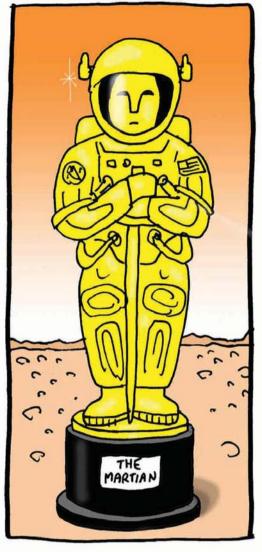
Dolby Cinema works with theaters on everything from acoustics and interior design to Vision projection gear. It also sets up its Atmos speaker systems which assign sounds to precise locations in a room, creating a real-life effect. Theater screens in Europe and the United States have been equipped with Dolby Cinema, and the technology is heading for theaters in China through a partnership with the country's Wanda Cinema Line. Dolby has even begun to offer its services for corporate meetings with a product called Voice, which builds upon technology that it designed for the movies. Voice creates the effect of different people on a call speaking from different places in a room and eliminates background noises.

Dolby revenue was essentially flat at \$967 million during its last fiscal year, which ended in September, but the company expects its conference and cinema businesses to add \$20 million to its revenue this fiscal year. Barrington Research analyst James Goss referred to Vision, Atmos and Voice as "potential stepping stones to returning to meaningful top-line growth". —AFP

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ACADEMY AWARDS 2016







APPLE-FBI CASE HAS WIDE IMPLICATIONS

By Rob Lever

pple and the US government are squaring off in an epic legal battle with wide-ranging implications for how technology firms must work with law enforcement. The iPhone maker is being asked to provide "reasonable assistance" to the investigation of the last year's deadly San Bernardino attacks by disabling security preventing the FBI from accessing the encrypted handset of one of the shooters. The highly charged case has created a sharp divide among those who say that users of devices like smartphones should be able to keep information private through encryption, and others who claim legitimate law enforcement investigations should take precedence when courts approve.

Apple is challenging the California court order, saying the type of cooperation sought would undermine basic principles of data security and open new vulnerabilities for all its users. The government is asking for the creation of software that doesn't exist, an abuse of the law and violation of the company's constitutional rights, Apple says. It adds that creating a weaker "government OS" would undermine the encryption Apple and others have been introducing, and ultimately leak out to hackers and foreign governments.

"Apple wants to maintain the trust relationship with its customers, they feel deeply and firmly this is something that has to exist, and that no government should have access to this data," said John Dickson of the Texas-based Denim Group, which manages security and encryption for its cus-

tomers. "I anticipate there will be a technical response from Apple, so that it will be nearly impossible for them to be compelled to do anything."

Julian Sanchez of the libertarian Cato Institute says in a blog post the case is "a fight over the future of high-tech surveillance, the trust infrastructure undergirding the global software ecosystem, and how far technology companies and software developers can be conscripted as unwilling suppliers of hacking tools for governments."

Life, Death and Encryption

Some say Apple's position is based on a core principle about security of its users' data. "Lack of privacy can be a matter of life and death or imprisonment," said Jon Hanour, chief executive of California startup USMobile, which makes an application for encrypted mobile messaging. "Apostasy results in a death in Saudi Arabia. Homosexual acts send people to prison in Pakistan. And in many countries, adultery is punishable by lashing and stoning."

But critics say Apple is simply providing an easy way for criminals and others to operate in the shadows. Allowing Apple to refuse would "thwart the public interest in a full and complete investigation of a horrific act of terrorism," the Justice Department argued in its court motion. New York County District Attorney Cy Vance, who has complained that encrypted phones have frustrated many investigations, said Apple and other makers of encryption should not be able to help skirt law

"Apple and Google have created the first warrant-proof consumer products in American history, and the result is that crimes are going unsolved and victims are being left beyond the protection of the law," he said in a statement. Apple argues that being forced to comply would set a dangerous precedent allowing broad access to law enforcement. "Once the floodgates open, they cannot be closed, and the device security that Apple has worked so tirelessly to achieve will be unwound," Apple argued.

But James Lewis, a former US official who is now a senior fellow at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, said there is nothing unusual about the case. "The court decided this was a reasonable request," Lewis told AFP. "The privacy people say it will set a precedent and it will be the end of life on this planet, and it's not true." Computer forensics researcher Jonathan Zdziarski said complying would be more complex than it appears. In a blog post, he notes that Apple would need to develop a tool to produce "reproducible, predictable results," which "must be forensically sound and not change anything on the target." Additionally, he said that Apple "must be prepared to defend their tool and methodology in court... What FBI has requested will inevitably force Apple's methods out into the open."

The China Question

Apple backers say weakening encryption will work against American interests by compromising security for users living under repressive regimes. "Authoritarian regimes around the world are sali-

vating at the prospect of the FBI winning this order," Nate Cardozo of the Electronic Frontier Foundation told PBS. "If Apple creates the master key that the FBI has demanded that they created, governments around the world are going to be demanding the same access."

But Apple's critics say the company may already assist the Chinese government with modifications of the iPhone for that market and cloud computing center hosted in China. Stewart Baker, a former Homeland Security official who is now in law practice in Washington, said Apple's lack of transparency in China raises questions. "Maybe you can explain why a secret encryption system that everyone suspects of having a real back door is good enough for Apple's customers in China?" Baker says in a blog post.

Snowden Impact

Some analysts say the conflict stems from revelations about widespread government surveillance by former intelligence contractor Edward Snowden. "The Snowden disclosures revealed that many government agencies conduct extensive surveillance on citizens, which arguably not only undermine our privacy but compromise our entire information security infrastructure," says Rahul Telang, professor of information systems at Carnegie Mellon University. Telang said it is a difficult issue to resolve but that he sees the privacy argument as likely to win. "Now that we know about government snooping, there is a trust issue," he said. "Once we give you backdoor access, where will it stop?" —AFP

Frankfurt seeks to win over FinTech whiz kids

By Benoit Toussaint

s Germany's banking capital, Frankfurt has long established itself as one of Europe's leading financial hubs. But the city, which has a rather staid and strait-laced image, is now vying with hipper and trendier centres around Europe to woo financial start-ups known as FinTechs which want to revolutionize the way the world of money does business.

FinTechs use computer and Internet technology to develop innovative financial services and applications. They include such companies as online trader Money. Net and the automated investment service Betterment in the United States and the business financing company FundingCircle and money transfer service TransferWise in Britain.

"When people talk about start-ups, cities such as Berlin and London immediately spring to mind. But Frankfurt is also starting to have a very dynamic Internet scene of its own," said Tarek Al-Wazir, economy minister for the regional state of Hesse, where Frankfurt is situated. The western German city on the banks of the river Main likes to style itself as "Mainhattan" with its dense cluster of glittering glass and steel skyscrapers.

And its financial pedigree is certainly not in question. It is home to Germany's mightiest financial institutions, such as Deutsche Bank and Commerzbank; stock market operator Deutsche Boerse which is again trying to merge with the London Stock Exchange; and, of course, the European Central Bank. But it has now set its sights on fostering financial start-ups, an area where "we want to advance very rapidly," Wazir told AFP. Last week, Deutsche Boerse unveiled its own FinTech initiative, offering fully equipped premises to new companies and start-ups from April onwards. The initiative would "contribute to the emergence of a lively and diverse ecosystem in Frankfurt containing various start-up centres operated by financial market players with different focuses and profiles, who can give each other various impulses," said minister Wazir. The city's ambition is to "become the largest and most important" site for FinTechs and "we're off to a good start," Wazir said. Financial start-ups are more innovative and more agile than traditional banks and are constantly seeking out important new perspectives on the financial sector.

'Microcosm'

According to a study by consultants LSP Digital, investment in FinTechs has doubled in Germany since 2012. Nevertheless, "a FinTech sector doesn't spring up overnight. Infrastructures are needed, as well as a microcosm of people who can share knowhow, collaborate and inspire each other," said Oliver Vins, founder and chief of Vaamo. The Frankfurt-based start-up was launched in 2013, incubated by the city's university and now employs around 20 people.

In Vins' cramped office in the Gallus quarter of the city, a computer sits alongside a wall covered in multi-coloured post-its and a table soccer game. Vaamo enables customers to design their own personally-tailored savings plans via a few clicks and a short list of questions. As Germany's financial capital and the biggest financial services hub in continental Europe, Frankfurt is proud of its slick, cosmopolitan image and its imposing skyline of skyscrapers. But rents are sky high and the armies of bankers in their uniform of black suits and briefcases can seem a little staid and off-putting to the creative whizzkids of the start-up sector.

Coming Late to the Game

At the same time, "one of Frankfurt's strengths is the presence of a large number of financial companies" which can act as investor, partner and customer for FinTechs, said Peter Barkow,

head of Barkow Consulting. But Udo Steffens, director of the Frankfurt School of Finance and Management, feels the city is joining rather late in the game. "In the past, Frankfurt was cut off from the innovation trend and very little was happening" in the city, he said. "In the financial sector, the creation of value is moving increasingly towards the new Internet players. It is important to anticipate structural trends," Steffens said.

In June 2015, only 11 FinTechs were based in Frankfurt, out of a total of 139 in the whole of Germany, according to data compiled by LSP Digital. Unsurprisingly, Berlin, with its comparatively low rents and alternative culture, was home to 49 FinTechs. Munich hosted 18 and Hamburg 14. But it is a ranking that can change. "It's good that there are initiatives at a political level. With the right infrastructure, things can be made more attractive than in the past," said Vaamo's Vins. —AFP



This file photo taken on Sept 20, 2012 shows the city skyline with bank high-rise buildings in Frankfurt.—AFP

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE CONTENDERS WOLFSBURG SUFFER NALDO BLOW

BERLIN: Champions League contenders Wolfsburg have been dealt a blow after it emerged defender Naldo could miss the rest of the season with a dislocated shoulder. The 33-yearold Brazilian stopper suffered the injury in Wolfsburg's 2-0 defeat at home to Bundesliga leaders Bayern Munich on Saturday and requires an operation, his club said yesterday. Wolfsburg, who sit eighth in the Bundesliga having won just one of their last 10 games, entertain Belgian side Gent in the second leg of their Champions League last-16 tie on March 8 leading 3-2 from the first leg. The loss of Naldo is a blow for a side looking to reach the Champions League quarterfinals for the first time. Always a threat at a setpiece, the centre-back scored twice when Wolfsburg beat Manchester United 3-2 in December to finish as winners of their Champions League group and eliminate the English giants.—AFP

NFL SALARY CAP SET AT \$155.27 MILLION

NEW YORK: The NFL's salary cap for 2016 will be \$155.27 million, an increase of nearly \$12 million. The NFL Players Association confirmed the figure yesterday, and will release the franchise and transition tag numbers on Monday. Free agency begins March 9, but teams must apply those tags by Tuesday. Among the players whose contracts have expired and might wind up getting tagged are Super Bowl MVP linebacker Von Miller of Denver, and other All-Pros such as Carolina cornerback Josh Norman, Tampa Bay running back Doug Martin and Kansas City safety Eric Berry. Since the 10-year labor agreement was reached in 2011, the cap has risen more than \$35 million per team. This year's increase is based on several economic factors, including a new Thursday night TV package that includes both CBS and NBC. Other league revenues also exceeded projections in 2015. Adding to the number last week was an arbitrator's ruling that the NFL had misplaced certain revenues that should have been applied to the cap. That put another \$50 million overall into the cap. Most teams have carried over a significant amount of salary cap room from last season, as allowed under the collective bargaining agreement. Jacksonville carried over the most space, \$32.7 million, according to union figures.—AP

NAPOLI'S STAR INSIGNE ROBBED AT GUNPOINT

ROME: Napoli star Lorenzo Insigne has become the latest in a long line of players from the Serie A club to be robbed at gunpoint, according to reports yesterday. Insigne, who has hit 11 league goals for Maurizio Sarri's title-challengers this season, was returning from a dinner with friends in his car on Saturday night when armed thieves struck. According to Gazzetta dello Sport, the thieves followed Insigne on two scooters before stopping his car, putting a gun to his face and robbing him and his companions of a luxury watch, cash and other valuables. Reports elsewhere claimed one of the thieves, before fleeing the scene of the crime, told Insigne: "Dedicate a goal to me in the next match." Former Napoli players Valon Behrami, Juan Zuniga and current captain Marek Hamsik have all fallen victims to armed robbers in the southern city of Naples, where Napoli are based. —AFP

CALGARY: Mark Giordano #5 of the Calgary Flames skates with the puck during their NHL game against the Ottawa Senators at the Scotiabank Saddledome on February 27, 2016. —AFP

COTTER FIRES WARNING SHOT AS SCOTLAND ENDS DROUGHT

ROME: Scotland coach Vern Cotter fired an early warning shot at France ahead of their visit to "horrible" Murrayfield after a stylish 36-20 win in Rome ended their nine-match Six Nations winless streak. Scotland's last tournament win came against Italy in 2014 but after a commanding performance at the same Stadio Olimpico on Saturday, confidence has come flooding back to Cotter's underperforming side.

France, whose Grand Slam hopes were ended by a 19-10 defeat to Wales in Cardiff on Friday, are likely to make life very tough for the Scots when they visit Murrayfield in a fortnight. After seeing captain Greig Laidlaw kick 21 points with the boot and Scotland score three tries to Italy's two, Cotter suggested Guy Noves's men will have sat up and taken notice-especially since they only escaped with a 23-21 win over Italy in Paris.

"They (France) came close to losing against Italy in that first game when they probably got caught out defensively," said Cotter. "In the following game (a 10-9 win over Ireland) you saw a reaction from them where they became far more physical in defense and had a real crack at Ireland. "I know Guy (Noves) reasonably well and he will have them up emotionally for the game (at Murrayfield). "And when they're up emotionally, they bring their physicality. It's just a matter of us trying to find a way to dampen them, to take away the fire and spark they may have." After narrow defeats to England (15-9) and Wales (27-23), Scotland were under intense pressure to

end their drought in a match billed as the wooden spoon decider.

'Make it horrible'

A pair of tries from John Barclay and John Hardie had Scotland in the driving seat just after the quarter-hour and 17-10 ahead at half-time. Yet it took a determined defensive display from the visitors to prevent an Azzurri fightback during a thrilling 10minute spell after Finn Russell had been sinbinned for hands in the ruck. When Russell returned with 10 minutes remaining, Scotland regained control and sealed victory with Tommy Seymour's late try. In a positive sign for Cotter's men, Scotland dominated at the scrum and lineouts, and their fluid attacking play often had Italy scrambling. "I knew today when we took that field we were going to win. I could see it in the boys' eyes," said Laidlaw, who was voted man-ofthe-match. "The scrum was absolutely fantastic. The character shown when we were defending our line... sometimes that gets forgotten about. There were 14, sometimes 15 of us just digging in, filling in wherever needed, and that's what probably got us across the line." Laidlaw called for help from the home fans for the France match. "We've talked before about making Murrayfield a horrible place for visiting teams to come and play, and we've not forgotten about that," Laidlaw said. "France are a slightly different challenge-big, physical and we'll have a good look at them in the next couple of weeks and try and come up with a couple of things that will win us the game."— AFP

JAGUARES SHINE AS SUPER RUGBY RETURNS WITH A BANG

Argentina's Jaquares had mixed fortunes as the curtain rose on the new Super Rugby season this weekend, while last year's finalists both lost their opening games. The Sunwolves gave a good account of themselves in front of a 25,000 full house in Tokyo before going down to South Africa's Golden Lions 26-13 in a pulsating game. But the Jaguares made an emphatic statement in their tournament debut in South Africa, edging the Central Cheetahs in Bloemfontein 34-33 after trailing by 21 points and playing 10 minutes with 13 players.

The third new side in this season's expanded 18-team competition, the Southern Kings, crashed 43-8 to the Coastal Sharks in an all South African encounter in Port Elizabeth. Defending champions Otago Highlanders and last season's runners-up Wellington Hurricanes both stumbled in their season openers. The Highlanders slumped to a 33-31 loss against the Auckland Blues, now coached by All Blacks legend Tana Umaga, while the Hurricanes were hammered 52-10 by the rampant ACT Brumbies in Canberra.

The New South Wales Waratahs, winners in 2014, scored a bonus point 30-10 over the Queensland Reds in an uninspiring Australian derby in Sydney, while the 2012-13 champions Waikato Chiefs held out five-time winners Canterbury Crusaders 27-21 in Christchurch. In the weekend's other games, fly-half Robert du Preez totted up 23 points as Western Stormers battered Northern Bulls 33-9 in Cape Town and the Melbourne Rebels downed the Western Force 25-19 in Perth. Most interest centered on the Sunwolves' and Jaguares' entries into the five-nation tournament, and they did not disappoint.

Impressive debut

The Sunwolves frustrated the Lions for long periods amid visions of Japan's shock 34-

SYDNEY: Newcomers Japan's Sunwolves and 32 upset win over two-time champion Springboks at last year's World Cup before the Johannesburg-based Lions gained the upper hand. "We can always handle losing if we know the players have given everything, so I'm very proud," said Sunwolves' coach Mark Hammett, a former All Black who only just made it back to Japan after flying home to New Zealand following the death of his mother last week. The Jaguares were most impressive in winning their first match in their South African-dominated group, after recovering from a rocky start and trailing 24-17 at

half-time. Fielding many stars who helped Argentina finish fourth at the 2015 World Cup, scrum-half Martin Landajo scored the decisive fourth Argentine try 15 minutes from time. "We played with a lot of heart when down to 13 men," said winning skipper and hooker Agustin Creevy, referring to the 18th-minute sin binnings of halves Nicolas Sanchez (professional foul) and Landajo (foul play). The Highlanders, who largely flew under the radar to the title last year, were denied in Auckland by the rejuvenated Blues in an entertaining match in which the lead

changed hands four times. The Hurricanes were blown away by the well-drilled Brumbies, with skipper Stephen Moore and Argentina Pumas' scrum-half Tomas Cubelli in great form. The Brumbies humbled the Hurricanes seven tries to one and the two-time winners were always in command, leading 24-3 at half-time and romping away in the second-half to a bonuspoint victory. In a frustrating Australian derby in Sydney, the Waratahs-now coached by former All Black Daryl Gibson-looked superior for large tracts of a poor spectacle, scoring four tries to one, but failed to build on their 20-0 half-time lead and were held 10-10 by the limited Reds in a dour secondhalf.—AFP

onds later.

TOYOTA: This file picture shows Japan's Sunwolves player Andrew Durutalo (center) being tackled during a charity rugby match in Toyota, Aichi prefecture. —AFP

PREDATORS CRUSH BLUES 5-0

NASHVILLE: Filip Forsberg recorded his second hat trick in four days and Pekka Rinne posted a 26-save shutout in the Nashville Predators' 5-0 win over the St Louis Blues on Saturday. Forsberg scored three goals during a 14-minute span to start the second period, leading the Predators to their fourth straight win. Forsberg has a team-high 26 goals, including 12 in February. He posted his first career hat trick in Tuesday's 3-2 win at Toronto. Linemate Craig Smith scored the Predators' first goal and Colin Wilson scored the fifth. Predators center Mike Ribeiro posted three assists, giving the playmaker 36 for the season. Rinne became the fifth active goalie to record 40 career shutouts.

SENATORS 6, FLAMES 4

Mika Zibaneiad scored three times in a span of 2:38 in the third period to lead the Ottawa Senators to a comeback victory over the Calgary Flames. Zack Smith, Nick Paul and Jean-Gabriel Pageau also scored for Ottawa, which has won five of its last six and remained six points back of the Pittsburgh Penguins for the second wildcard spot in the Eastern Conference. Johnny Gaudreau had two goals and an assist, and Joe Colborne and Sean Monahan also scored for the Flames, who are winless in their last four. Trailing 4-2, Zibanejad got Ottawa's rally started at 6:10, beating Joni Ortio on a wrist shot. He tied it at 7:59, and capped his first career hat trick 49 sec-

RED WINGS 5, AVALANCHE 3

Brad Richards scored the winning goal with a minute remaining and the Detroit Red Wings beat the Colorado Avalanche at Coors Field in the NHL's warmest regular-season outdoor game. Richards, playing in his fifth NHL outdoor game, tipped a shot over the shoulder of Semyon Varlamov. Tomas Tatar, Gustav Nyquist and Justin Abdelkader also scored for the Red Wings. Darren Helm added an empty-netter to seal the win. Nathan MacKinnon, Tyson Barrie and Alex Tanguay had goals for the Avalanche in the first NHL outdoor game in Colorado. The temperature was an unseasonably balmy 65 degrees at puck drop. The previous warmest game-time temperature in an NHL regular-season outdoor game was 62 degrees on Jan. 25, 2014, when Los Angeles hosted Anaheim at Dodger Stadium.

BLUE JACKETS 4, PANTHERS 3, SO

Brandon Dubinsky scored the only shootout goal in the third round, and Scott Hartnell had a goal and assist as the Columbus Blue Jackets beat the Atlantic Division-leading Florida Panthers. Seth Jones and Brandon Saad also scored for Columbus, which has won nine of its last 14. Alexander Wennberg added two assists. Joonas Korpisalo made 28 saves in regulation and overtime to pick up an 11th win in his last 16 starts. Aleksander Barkov, Vincent Trocheck and Logan Shaw scored for Florida.

RANGERS 3, STARS 2

Kevin Klein scored with 2:53 left to lift the New York Rangers over the Dallas Stars. Ryan McDonagh gave the Rangers a 2-1 lead with a goal 8:26 into the third, and then helped prevent a tying goal by sliding over a loose puck at the goal line. Valeri Nichushkin scored for Dallas with 4:01 left, but then Klein got the winner from the slot into the upper right corner of the net. Chris Kreider also scored, and Henrik Lundqvist made 36 saves for the Rangers. Colton Sceviour also scored for the Stars, who have lost four of their past five home games and has a one-point lead in the Central Division over Chicago.

PENGUINS 4, JETS 1

Carl Hagelin scored twice and the Pittsburgh Penguins welcomed star forward Evgeni Malkin back from injury with a victory against the Winnipeg Jets. Hagelin scored his sixth and seventh of the season for Pittsburgh, and Scott Wilson added a third-period goal. Kris Letang also scored for the Penguins, who had Malkin back in the lineup after the 2012 NHL MVP missed 10 games with a lower-body injury. Marc-Andre Fleury stopped 27 shots for his 25th win. The Penguins won their 15th straight home game against Winnipeg, the NHL's second-longest streak against any opponent. The Jets haven't won in Pittsburgh since Dec. 27, 2006, when they were known as the Atlanta Thrashers. Blake Wheeler scored his 18th of the season for the Jets, who have lost six of their last eight games.

FLYERS 4, COYOTES 2

Claude Giroux scored one of Philadelphia's three first-period goals for his 500th career point and Mark Streit had three assists to lead the

Western Conference

Flyers past the Arizona Coyotes. Scott Laughton, Sam Gagner and Pierre-Edouard Bellemare also scored for the Flyers, who have won both games so far of a six-game homestand that likely will determine their playoff fate. Oliver Ekman-Larsson and Brad Richardson scored for the Coyotes, who tied a season high with their fifth straight loss. Arizona also has dropped seven in a row on the road and 11 of the last 14 overall.

CANADIENS 4, MAPLE LEAFS 1

Max Pacioretty scored twice and the Montreal Canadiens beat the Toronto Maple Leafs for their 10th straight victory in the rivalry. Alex Galchenyuk and Devante Smith-Pelly also scored for Montreal, and Mike Condon had 31 saves. Matt Hunwick scored Toronto's only goal, and Jonathan Bernier stopped 32 shots. The Maple Leafs are last in the Eastern Conference. Toronto hasn't beaten Montreal since Jan. 18, 2014, and this is the Canadiens first 10-game streak against the Leafs since 1958.

KINGS 2, SABRES 0

Backup goalie Jhonas Enroth made 23 saves, Tanner Pearson scored twice and the Los Angeles Kings overcame two disallowed goals to beat the Buffalo Sabres. The Kings got their fourth straight victory and increased their Pacific Division lead to four points over Anaheim. Los Angeles faces the Ducks on Sunday. Enroth's seventh NHL shutout came after a five-game stretch in which Jonathan Quick allowed just seven goals and won his last three games by identical 2-1 scores. Robin Lehrer made 35 saves for the Sabres, and Buffalo was shut out for the sixth time - including a 1-0 loss at Anaheim on Wednesday.—AP

35 22 4 169 149 74

NHL Results/Standings

Philadelphia 4, Arizona 2; Pittsburgh 4, Winnipeg 1; Columbus 4, Florida 3 (SO); Nashville 5, St. Louis 0; NY Rangers 3, Dallas 2; Montreal 4, Toronto 1; Detroit 5, Colorado 3; Ottawa 6, Calgary 4; Los Angeles 2, Buffalo 0.

Tampa Bay

	Centra	al Div	ision	1			Boston	34	22	6	194	171	74
	W	L	OTL	GF	GA	PTS	Detroit	31	20	11	158	161	73
Dallas	38	19	6	204	181	82							
Chicago	38	20	5	177	151	81	Ottawa	30	27	6	185	196	66
St. Louis	35	20	9	157	157	79	Montreal	30	27	5	171	169	65
Nashville	31	21	11	167	158	73	Buffalo	25	31	7	147	170	57
Colorado	32	28	4	172	181	68	Toronto	21	29	10	146	180	52
Minnesota	27	25	10	161	158	64	Toronto					100	32
Winnipeg	26	31	4	159	183	56							
							Me	tropo	litan	Divis	ion		
	Pacifi	c Div	ision				Washington	45	11	4	200	139	94
Los Angeles	37	20	4	163	139	78	NY Rangers	36	20	6	178	158	78
Anaheim	33	19	8	149	142	74	NY Islanders	33	19	7	170	146	73
San Jose	32	22	6	178	164	70		31	21	8	159	157	70
Vancouver	24	24	12	147	171	60	Pittsburgh			_			
Arizona	27	29	6	168	192	60	Philadelphia	28	22	11	152	165	67
Calgary	26	31	4	166	190	56	New Jersey	30	26	7	139	153	67
Edmonton	22	34	7	153	192	51	Carolina	28	25	10	153	168	66
	Eastern	Conf	eren	ce			Columbus	26	29	8	166	194	60
Atlantic Division				Note: Overtime los	ses (O1	TL) are	e wo	rth on	e poin	t in the			
Florida	35	18	8	170	143	78	standings and are n	ot incl	uded	in th	e loss	colum	ո (L).



HUCK SETS SIGHTS ON GLOWACKI AFTER AFOLABI WIN

BERLIN: Marco Huck has set his sights USA, last August. That was Huck's first IBF. "The training paid off. I have been on regaining his WBO title after his technical knock-out win over Britain's Ola Afolabi gave him the IBO cruiserweight belt. Huck became a world champion for the second time on Saturday night when Afolabi, 35, retired after failing to come out for the 11th round in Halle, west Germany.

Afolabi's left eye was swollen shut by the seventh round as the London-born fighter now based in Los Angeles lost the title he only won last November. Now Huck, 31, wants a rematch against Poland's Krzysztof Glowacki, who took his WBO cruiserweight belt off him with an 11th-round knock-out in New Jersey, defeat in six years and after 13 defenses. "I really wanted to fight him straight away, but now more than ever," said the 31-year-old Huck, a Serbian-born German, as he chases Glowacki for a

"We offered him a bag of money, but he didn't want it." Huck was happy with his third victory in four bouts against Afolabi and was pleased with his preparations, despite splitting with two coaches since last August. Having won the world belt of the IBO, the smallest of the world boxing organizations, Huck is now targeting a belt from one of the four big bodies: the WBO, WBC, WBA and

very diligent and now you have the result," he said. "I'm back again and it's an indescribable feeling. "When I have trained well, no one can beat me in the

McIlroy tops Rooney

In another development, Carl Frampton defeated Scott Quigg on a split points decision to become the WBA and IBF super-bantamweight champion Saturday and guaranteed fellow Northern Irishman Rory McIlroy a night out at Wayne Rooney's expense. Frampton triumphed after 12 rounds in front of a 20,000 sell-out Manchester

crowd courtesy of 116-112 counts in his favour by two judges, with the other giving it to local fighter Quigg 115-113. The hotly-anticipated bout also led to a good-natured Twitter duel between golf star McIlroy and Manchester United striker Rooney. "Both top fighters mate but @scottquigg for me. How about the loser pays the bill next time your in Manchester?" challenged Rooney on Twitter on the eve of the fight.

McIlroy retorted: "You're a legend Wayne but it's @RealCFrampton all the way!" And as soon as the victory was confirmed, the four-time major winner and former world number one golfer gleefully claimed his prize. "YESSSS!!!!

Well done @RealCFrampton! Fought a smart fight. Get your wallet out @WayneRooney!!," tweeted the 26-yearold. Frampton paid tribute to Quigg with whom he had fought a fierce war of words in the build-up to the fight-over the choice of dressing rooms. "That's the end of all the disrespect-from my side anyway," he told the BBC. "I'm proud to have beaten a very good fighter tonight. He was a worthy champion." Both McIlroy and Rooney had plenty of time to watch Saturday's fight. On Friday, McIlroy missed the cut at the Honda Classic in Florida while United and England skipper Rooney is currently sidelined with a knee injury. — Agencies

LEWIS SAYS NO TO PROS AT OLYMPICS

LONDON: Former World and Olympic champion Lennox Lewis has slammed a proposal to allow professional boxers to compete at the Olympics, saying that it could be dangerous for young amateur boxers. Lewis won super-heavyweight gold for Canada at the 1988 games in Seoul before turning professional and switching to represent Britain as unified heavyweight world champion.

He told BBC Radio 5 Live's Sportsweek program: "I kind of think it is preposterous, to a certain degree. The amateur system is based for amateurs - this is why we put in the headgear to protect them because they have a lack of experience and they are not that primed as a professional yet. "Now all of a sudden, you get a world champion or somebody in the top 10 as a professional now going against basically an amateur, somebody with a lack of experience - I don't look at that as being fair."

Lewis pointed to current British world champion Anthony Joshua, who won the

gold medal in the same super-heavyweight division at the 2012 Olympics in London to illustrate his concerns. He said: "Anthony Joshua went to the Olympics - all of a sudden, if he had boxed Wladimir Klitschko at the Olympics, it wouldn't have been fair for him because Vladimir had his time at the Olympics and was able to go through that learning and then all of a sudden now, has 70 fights as a professional. "Now it's going to be a situation where he is going to be boxing for a gold medal as a professional boxer with that type of experience going against a kid that's 18 with, let's say, 10 international fights. "It's just such a broad line there that I don't really understand it." Had the system, which has been proposed by the International Boxing Association AIBA, been in place in Lewis' day, he could have found himself in direct competition in South Korea with then world champion Mike Tyson, a challenge for which he freely admits he would not have been ready at that point in his career.—AFP

BISPING BEATS SILVA IN WILD **ENDING AT UFC FIGHT NIGHT**

LONDON: Michael Bisping survived a wild ending to the third round and beat Anderson Silva with a unanimous decision in the main event of UFC Fight Night 84 on Saturday night. Silva and numerous ringside officials thought Silva had won the fight near the end of the third round after Silva knocked down Bisping with a Muay Thai knee just before the bell. Just before the blow, Bisping (18-7) had signaled to referee Herb Dean after losing his mouthpiece, and Dean ruled the fight would continue to the fourth round. To add to the tension, Bisping was struck with a lowblow, while Silva (16-3) was inadvertently poked in the eye.

Bisping was bleeding from several cuts on his face by the end, but the final scorecard had him winning unanimously 48-47. "I wanted this fight my entire life," Bisping said. "I don't know what to say. I'm crying. "I worship this guy. This guy is the greatest martial artist of all-time. That's why I'm so emotional right now." Earlier, Gegard Mousasi landed the majority of significant strikes in his war of attrition with Thales Leites, coming out on top via unanimous decision after three rounds of lackluster

"My standup was better," Mousasi said. "I played it smart because (in) the last fight, I took chances, and I paid for it." Tom Breese's victory over Keita Nakamura showed neither man in a positive light, with the outsized Nakamura mostly holding on to the Englishman, and Breese hardly looking like a fighter with a previous 9-0 record in MMA competition. "It was very frustrating," Breese said. "I told everyone, this guy's a tough guy. ... I've got to get more cage

In the opening contest of the main card, Londoner Brad Pickett took a split decision victory over Francisco Rivera. The American was picking off "One Punch" in the first round, landing accurate blows, but Pickett rebounded in the second and controlled the fight on the ground in the third. "I want to be someone within the sport, and if I felt I couldn't compete - not just compete at the level but win at this level then I would've hung my gloves up tonight," an emotional Pickett said. "I had a lot of inner demons that I was fighting, and I am so happy to come away with the win." On the preliminary card, Davey Grant beat Marlon Vera by unanimous decision despite suffering a nasty forehead cut in the first round, while Makwan Amirkhani made it three wins out of three in the UFC with a unanimous decision win over Mike Wilkinson. —AP



LONDON: British fighter Michael Bisping (right) kicks out during his fight with Anderson Silva of Brazil in their middleweight bout at the UFC Fight Night event in London on February 27, 2016. Bisping beat Silva on a judge's decision over five

SANTA CRUZ STOPS MARTINEZ IN FIGHT TO STAY UNDEFEATED

ANAHEIM: Leo Santa Cruz stopped Kiko Martinez Saturday for his first defense of the WBA featherweight title, which could put him in line for a super-fight in one of boxing's strongest divisions. American Santa Cruz knocked Martinez down twice in the opening round before finishing him off at 2:09 of the fifth when referee Raul Caiz stepped in to halt the slugfest at the Honda Center arena. The Anaheim fight came on the same day that Carl Frampton beat Scott Quigg in a split decision to become the WBA and IBF super-bantamweight champion in Manchester, England.

Now that he has his first title defense in the deeply talented 126-pound division out of the way. Santa Cruz is aiming for a showdown with Northern Ireland's Frampton in

the not too distant future. "I want Frampton," Santa Cruz said in the ring after his victory. "He said he wants to move up in weight so bring it on." It didn't hurt that Santa Cruz looked impressive Saturday, throwing 140 punches in the first round as Martinez was sent to the canvas for just the fourth and fifth time in his career. The first knockdown was a punch to the top and side of the head, and the second was a straight right hand set up by a left jab. In the final round, Santa Cruz trapped Martinez on the ropes and unloaded a barrage of lefts and rights against the helpless Spaniard in front of a crowd of 7,700. The fight was filled with plenty of toe-to-toe action in the centre of the ring as Martinez was able to survive the two knockdowns and come back strong in the second round. —AFP



PHOENIX: Phoenix Suns forward Mirza Teletovic, top, and Memphis Grizzlies forward JaMychal Green (0) scramble for the ball during the fourth quarter of an NBA basketball game on Saturday, Feb 27, 2016. The Suns defeated the Grizzlies 111-106. — AP

CURRY DELIVERS AGAIN AS WARRIORS BEAT THUNDER

OKLAHOMA CITY: Stephen Curry's 3-pointer from beyond 30 feet with 0.6 seconds left in overtime gave the Golden State Warriors a 121-118 win over the Oklahoma City Thunder on Saturday. Curry finished with 46 points as his winning shot was his 12th 3-pointer, tying the NBA single-game record. He also broke his own NBA record for 3s in a season, leaving the new mark at 288. Curry, the league's scoring leader and reigning MVP, missed about six minutes of the third quarter with a left ankle injury. He drove to the basket and rolled the ankle before Thunder guard Russell Westbrook stepped on it. Kevin Durant led the Thunder with 37 points, but he fouled out in the first minute of overtime.

SUNS 111, GRIZZLIES 106

Alex Len had 22 points and 16 rebounds, and Phoenix snapped a 13-game losing streak with victory over Memphis. Mirza Teletovic added 18 points, PJ Tucker scored 17 and Devin Booker 15 for the Suns, who won for just the third time in 31 games and gave interim coach Earl Watson his first victory in his 10th try. Zach Randolph and Mike Conley scored 19 apiece for the Grizzlies, who had won 13 of 17 and were coming off a 112-95 victory over the Lakers in Los Angeles on Friday night.

SPURS 104, ROCKETS 94

Kawhi Leonard scored 27 points and LaMarcus Aldridge added 26 to lead San Antonio to victory over Houston, tying the mark as the seventh-fastest team in NBA history to reach 50 wins. It was the fifth straight win for the Spurs (50-9), who have a doubledigit lead in the Southwest Division and the second-best record in the NBA behind Golden State. The Spurs wrapped up a 7-1 road trip, their longest of the season, and showed no signs of fatigue. They never trailed and held a double-digit lead for most of the night. San Antonio led by as many as 31 in the second half and extended its NBA record of consecutive 50-win seasons to 17. James Harden led the Rockets with 27 points on 10-for-25 shooting.

TRAIL BLAZERS 103, BULLS 95

Damian Lillard scored 31 points and Portland won for the 16th time in 20 games, beating the short-handed Chicago Bulls. Lillard hit the 30-point mark for the sixth time in seven games, and Mason Plumlee added 16 points and nine rebounds. Gerald Henderson scored 13 and the Trail Blazers got back to winning after blowing a 21-point lead in a loss to Houston two nights earlier. The Bulls got a triple-double from Pau Gasol, but came up short with Derrick Rose (sore right hamstring) missing his third straight game. Gasol had 22 points, 16 rebounds and a career-high 14

CELTICS 101, HEAT 89

Marcus Smart had 15 points and six rebounds as Boston held off Miami for its 10th consecutive victory at home. Jae Crowder and Evan Turner each added 14 points. Jared Sullinger had 12 points and 12 rebounds. Boston took a two-point lead into the final period and seized control at 93-84 with 2:45 to play after three free throws by Smart. Goran Dragic led the Heat with 21 points but was scoreless in the fourth quarter. Dwyane Wade finished with 19. Hassan Whiteside had 13 points, 15 rebounds and eight blocks.

PISTONS 102, BUCKS 91

Andre Drummond posted his NBA-leading 50th double-double with 15 points and 17 rebounds, and Detroit built on a strong start from 3-point range to beat Milwaukee. Reggie Jackson had 22 points and eight assists for Detroit, which won its third straight game. The Pistons opened 6 of 7 from behind the arc in the first quarter and 11 of 19 in the half. They capitalized on Milwaukee mistakes, outscoring the Bucks 23-6 in points off turnovers. Khris Middleton led the Bucks with 26 points.

TIMBERWOLVES 112, PELICANS 110

Karl-Anthony Towns had 30 points and 15 rebounds, Andrew Wiggins hit two free throws with 3.6 seconds left and Minnesota rallied to beat depleted New Orleans. Zach LaVine added 25 points on 11-of-17 shooting, including a 3-pointer with 2:43 left that gave the Timberwolves their first lead since the first quarter. The Pelicans tied the score at 110 on two free throws by Eric Gordon with 12.2 seconds remaining. Wiggins, who was 5 for 15 from the floor, then drove to the basket and drew a foul from Gordon. Gordon and Ryan Anderson scored 31 points each for New Orleans, which played without All-Star big man Anthony Davis after he sprained his right big toe in pregame warmups. The Pelicans dropped to 1-6 in games Davis has missed.

NETS 99, JAZZ 96

Thaddeus Young had 21 points and eight rebounds while Brook Lopez added 19 to lead Brooklyn to victory over Utah. Wayne Ellington had 16 points for the Nets, who broke a three-game losing streak to the Jazz extending to last season. Gordon Hayward scored 27 points and Rudy Gobert chipped in 12 points, a season-high 19 rebounds and six blocks to lead Utah. Rodney Hood scored 15 points while Derrick Favors added 13 points and 11 rebounds. It wasn't enough to keep Utah from losing at home to an Eastern Conference opponent for just the second time in nine games.— AP

NBA Results/Standings

Boston 101, Miami 89; Minnesota 112, New Orleans 110; Portland 103, Chicago 95; San Antonio 104, Houston 94; Detroit 102, Milwaukee 91; Golden State 121, Oklahoma City 118 (OT); Phoenix 111, Memphis 106; Brooklyn 98, Utah 96.

		Eastern Con	ierence	=			western con	nerenc	e		
Atlantic Division				Northwest D	Division	า					
		W	L	PCT	GB	Oklahoma City	41	18	.695	-	
	Toronto	39	18	.684	-	Portland	31	28	.525	10	
	Boston	35	25	.583	5.5	Utah	28	30	.483	12.5	
	NY Knicks	25	35	.417	15.5	Denver	23	36	.390	18	
	Brooklyn	17	42	.288	23	Minnesota	19	40	.322	22	
	Philadelphia	8	50	.138	31.5	Millinesota			.522	22	
		Central Div	/ision				Pacific Div				
	Cleveland	41	16	.719	-	Golden State	53	5	.914	-	
	Indiana	31	27	.534	10.5	LA Clippers	38	20	.655	15	
	Chicago	30	28	.517	11.5	Sacramento	24	33	.421	28.5	
	Detroit	30	29	.508	12	Phoenix	15	44	.254	38.5	
	Milwaukee	24	35	.407	18	LA Lakers	11	49	.183	43	
		Southeast D	ivision	1			Southwest [Division	า		
	Miami	32	26	.552	-	San Antonio	50	9	.847	-	
	Atlanta	32	27	.542	0.5	Memphis	34	24	.586	15.5	
	Charlotte	30	27	.526	1.5	Dallas	31	28	.525	19	
	Washington	27	30	.474	4.5	Houston	29	30	.492	21	
	Orlando	25	32	.439	6.5						
						New Orleans	23	35	.397	26.5	

Kuwait Zimes MONDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 2016



KUWAIT: Adnan Al-Ibrahim, Obaid Al-Osaimi, Duaij Al-Otaibi and Misfer Al-Ghurba pictured during the press conference. — Photos by Sherif Ismail

5TH ANNUAL GRAND PRIX TO KICK OFF MARCH 1ST

By Abdellatif Sharaa

KUWAIT: President of Kuwait and Arab Shooting Federations Engineer Duaij Khalaf Al-Otaibi said His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah Fifth Annual Grand Prix will start March 1st and will continue until March 8th, at Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Olympic Shooting Ranges, with a large participation from Kuwait, Arab and International Shooting Federations.

Eng Al-Otaibi who held a news conference on the tournament Saturday evening said that 31 countries will participate - with a total of 350 shooters and officials. The championship will be in the Skeet, Trap and Double Trap for men and women. "Olympic Champions, shooters from GCC, Egypt, Jordan, Algeria, Palestine, Lebanon and other Arab countries, as well as Europe who will participate in this special Grand Prix as it bears the name HH the Amir, does not spare anything in support of sports. If it was not for the support of the political leadership of HH the Amir, HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad, HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Hamad, the achievements made by Kuwait Shooting would not have been," he added.

Preparations for the Kuwait Shooting Sport Board of Directors began early. Subcommittees were formed and roles distributed to all, who worked hard for



Duaij Al-Otaibi

the Grand Prix. Eng Al-Otaibi said that international rules will be followed in this tournament - revealing that they have decided to double the prize money for the shooters who break the world record as an encouragement for all shooters who are participating.

He spoke in detail about the crises Kuwait Sports is facing - thanking the Information Minister, State Minister for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Al-Humoud Al-Sabah for his continued support. The press conference was also attended by KSSF and ASF Secretary General Obaid Al-Osaimi, Assistant Secretary General Eng Misfer Al-Ghurba and Assistant Treasurer Adnan Al-Ibrahim.

SOUTH AFRICA'S OOSTHUIZEN WINS PERTH INTERNATIONAL

PERTH: South Africa's Louis Oosthuizen hung on for a one-shot victory and his first win for more than two years, in the European and Asian Tour co-sanctioned Perth International at Lake Karrinyup yesterday. A one-under 71 was enough to get the world number 21 home on 16-under 272 over Frenchman Alexander Levy after a closing round containing three birdies and two bodevs.

The 2010 British Open champion led by three shots heading into the final round, but briefly lost the lead to Australian Jason Scrivener. However, birdies at the seventh and eighth holes steadied Oosthuizen as Scrivener fell away with consecutive bogeys on the ninth and 10th. Oosthuizen had a three-putt bogey at the final hole as he won his first tournament in Australia and his first since the Volvo Golf Championship in 2014.

"It's great to be back in the winning circle," Oosthuizen said. "I always say it's great to be nervous with three holes to go in a tournament because it means you're up there somewhere-you've a chance of winning it. "That's what we do all the hard work for, to try to get into that position. Levy fired the equal-lowest round of the day, a six-under 66, to fall just short of forcing a playoff with 15-under. Scrivener holed a 60-foot putt at the last to finish outright third at 14 under. Another Frenchman Gregory Bourdy, who only made the weekend cut by one stroke, finished tied for fourth place with American Peter Uihlein at 13 under after closing rounds of 65 and 66.

A third Frenchman Romain Wattel finished with a par 72 for 12 under and outright sixth. Oosthuizen's 13th career triumph and eighth on the European Tour continues a successful history of South Africans at Lake Karrinyup tournaments, with Ernie Els (2002) and Retief Goosen (2003) claiming Johnnie Walker Classic wins at the course. Oosthuizen was the highest-ranked golfer at the Perth International. He was runner-up at the 2012 Augusta Masters, losing at the second play-off hole to American Bubba Watson, and also lost in a play off at last year's British Open. Oosthuizen said he would use his Perth victory to give him momentum heading into this week's WGC Cadillac Championship in Miami.— AFP

KEFLEZIGHI SETS SIGHTS FOR **RIO MARATHON AT AGE 41**

BOSTON: Meb Keflezighi has run past his exchanged tense words with eventual humble beginnings, his marathon opponents and his advanced age as he reaches distances only he can see. When the Rio Olympics are held in August, Keflezighi, who turns 41 in May, will be the oldest United States Olympic marathon runner in history. It could be the latest chapter in a career that is finally nearing the finish line. Keflezighi says the 2013 US Half Marathon Championship was supposed to be his swan song. "The marathon is a prestigious event, but a brutal one," he told Reuters in a recent interview

"As you get older the physical part (is the hardest). My parents always look forward to me being able to retire." Yet Keflezighi keeps pushing forward, adding to a legacy that sets him apart. The Eritrean-born American distance runner is an Olympic silver medalist (2004) and winner of the New York City Marathon (2009) and Boston Marathon (2014). The Boston triumph, Keflezighi says, was the crowning achievement of his career. He was the first American in 31 years to pull off the feat and it came one year after the infamous Boston bombings.

Keflezighi is a mix of gentle spirit and take-no-prisoners competitor. He reflected both sides in finishing second at the US Olympic marathon trial earlier this month in Los Angeles, where he earned his way back for a fourth Olympic appearance. During the race, Keflezighi winner Galen Rupp, accusing Rupp of running on his heels. At the post-race press conference, however, Keflezighi was moved to tears by complimentary words from peers that included Rupp.

"Once I don't have racing shoes on I have nothing to be competitive about," Keflezighi said while promoting Krave, a healthy jerky product he endorses. "I just want to see the positive in people. If someone beats me I congratulate them." Keflezighi's humility perhaps comes from being one of 10 children. He moved to the US when he was just 12 and says he rose before dawn each morning to learn English before his school day started. So when Keflezighi suffered a hip fracture at the 2008 Olympic marathon trial, which he finished in excruciating pain in eighth place, and considered looking for a real job as he waited for the injury to heal, it was merely a speed bump to negotiate.

So too was being without an endorsement deal for most of 2011. Three more marathons would give Keflezighi 26 in total, the approximate number of miles in a marathon and the figure Keflezighi says he has chosen to end his competitive career on. "Twenty-six is the perfect number to stop at," said Keflezighi, who wants to give his three young daughters a chance to see him in more races. He knows "the end is close" but for him it always seems just around the corner, without ever actually arriving.—Reuters



FLORIDA: Sergio Garcia, of Spain, hits out from a bunker on the 18th hole during the third round of the Honda Classic golf tournament on Saturday, Feb 27, 2016, in Palm Beach Gardens, Fla. —AP

SCOTT, GARCIA TIED AT HONDA CLASSIC

PALM BEACH GARDENS: One bad swing by Adam Scott led to two balls in the water on the same hole Saturday in the Honda Classic. Even with a quadruple bogey, he managed to be satisfied with a 4-under 66 and a share of the lead with Sergio Garcia. A bizarre and breezy afternoon ended at PGA National with two players whose fortunes changed mightily in the final hour. Scott looked better than ever, 7 under through 14 holes and only once having to save par. He was three shots ahead going to the tee on the par-3 15th, and it was

starting to look like a runaway. Some 20 minutes later, he was one shot behind Garcia. "Pretty costly," Scott said. "But fortunately, I had a couple shots to spare. Hopefully, it won't cost me too big in the grand scheme of things." Garcia lost the lead with a bogey from the bunker on the 17th, and caught Scott with a short birdie on the 18th for a 67. They were at 9-under 201. Blayne Barber had a 69 and was four shots behind. Scott and Garcia were quick to point out that Sunday might not be the two-man race, and there was plenty of evidence to back them up.

Rickie Fowler had a one-shot lead going into the third round and was the first player at the Honda Classic to go bogey-free through the opening 36 holes. And then on Saturday, he couldn't make a birdie. Fowler made bogey on the easiest hole at PGA National, the par-5 third, and wound up with a 74 to fall five shots behind. Nothing went right for Jimmy Walker, starting with the first tee. Playing alongside Fowler, he was introduced as "Jimmy Fowler." Walker had the lead with his birdie on the third hole. He didn't make another birdie until the 18th hole, and that was to break 80.

Walker wound up 11 shots out of the lead. 'Who can tell me that the guys that are 4 under are not going to go and play like Adam did today?" Garcia said. "We'll see how the day goes. And then if it becomes a two-horse race on the last three or four holes, I'll welcome that. But I will expect some of the guys behind to shoot a good number and make it tough for all of us." Thanks to one swing by Scott, those guys at least have a chance. Justin Thomas opened with three straight birdies and had to settle for a 68, putting him at 4under 206 with Fowler. Graeme McDowell had a 67 and was six shots behind at 207 along with Scott Brown and Vijay Singh (68). Singh made a double bogey on the 15th hole without hitting in the water, hitting in the bunker or hitting in the rough. His problem was the golf ball hit the putter four times from 20 feet. Still, nothing was more shocking than Scott on the 15th. The former Masters champion with one of the prettiest swings in golf was flawless. He didn't miss a green

through 13 holes. He ran off four straight birdies to close out the back nine, starting with a 50-footer on No 6, the toughest hole of the day. He stretched his lead to three shots. Get through the final four holes, and he might have made it easy on himself. And then his 6-iron soared into the wind, and everything changed. Scott went to the front of the circular drop zone and was stunned to see it bounce over the back of the green and tumble into the water. After checking to see if he could play out of the water - he couldn't he went back to the drop zone for a third try and hit it 10 feet from the hole. He missed that for a 7, and Garcia's long two-putt par gave the Spaniard the lead.

Scott's most important holes were the next two. He pulled his tee shot left, cleared the water from the rough and got up-anddown for par. "The par there was very important at the time, because it's really stopping a severe bleed after 15," he said. And then he hit 6-iron to 10 feet on the 17th for birdie, regaining the lead when Garcia made bogey. Scott didn't seem overly bothered by the quadruple bogey, mainly because of the 17 other holes he played so well. "I did a lot of things really well today, so it's exactly the round I needed," he said. "I need to put one more together tomorrow. It's going to be an exciting day for me."— AP

VONN GETS WORLD CUP BOOST DESPITE INJURY

SOLDEU: Lindsey Vonn defied injury to grab some valuable World Cup points in a super-combined at Soldeu, Andorra yesterday. The 31-yearold American sustained a hairline fracture of her left knee 24 hours earlier when she fell heavily in a super-G race. There were initial fears that her season could be over, but, after waking up and feeling better, Vonn took to the slopes and clocked a fastest 57.04secs in a shortened speed lea of the combined.

She was back in action for the slalom later in the afternoon and while she was unable to take the 77th World Cup win of her career, she still did enough to place 13th, giving her 20 points. Her great rival for what would be a fifth overall World Cup title and first since 2012, Lara Gut of Switzerland, came away empty-handed after she straddled a gate halfway down the course. "Drained my knee a few times and it's feeling a little better. Going to go up on the hill and see how it feels. Wish me luck!!" the American speed queen said on her Facebook stage early yester-

The first run was then delayed for two and a half hours due to poor weather conditions. Vonn has a history of knee injuries sustained in competition, and there were fears her season could have been over when she fell heavily in Saturday's super-G race and needed to be stretchered off the piste. But after X-rays showed that the injury was a hairline fracture in her left knee and not ligament damage, Vonn said that she was determined to compete in yesterday's super-combined. Vonn ended the day with an increased lead over Gut, having 1235 points, 28 points more than her Swiss rival. The race was won by Canadian Marie-MichËle Gagnon with Switzerland's Wendy Holdener second and Anne-Sophie Barthet of France third.—AFP



SOLDEU: Lindsey Vonn, of the United States speeds down the course during an alpine ski, women's World Cup, combined race, in Soldeu, Andorra yesterday. — AP

HOENESS PONDERS BAYERN RETURN AFTER PRISON RELEASE

BERLIN: Disgraced ex-Bayern Munich president Uli Hoeness is due to be released from prison today as he contemplates a return to the club he built into a European powerhouse. The 64year-old has served 21 months of his three-and-a-half year sentence after being convicted in March 2014 of having evaded paying at least 28.5 million euros (\$31.5 million) in taxes. Hoeness, the son of a German butcher who became a millionaire businessman, rose to fame as the driving force behind Bayern's rise before his fall from grace.

Even behind bars, Hoeness was never far from Bayern. As soon he as he was granted day release in January 2015, he immediately started working in the club's youth academy. "It's not over!" was Hoeness's battle cry to FC Bayern in May 2014, shortly before starting his sentence. He has said he will announce his future plans on July 1. The date coincides with the start of Carlo Ancelotti's reign as Bayern's coach to replace Pep Guardiola,

wants to be a fan again'. His first public engagement will be at a ceremony to honour Jupp Heynckes, who coached Bayern to the 2013 treble, Moenchengladbach on March 13.

Three days later, Hoeness will be at Munich's Allianz Arena to watch Bayern's Champions League last 16, second leg at home to Juventus. During his playing career, Hoeness was a central midfielder at the heart of the Bayern team which won the European Cup three times between 1974-76. A persistent knee injury forced the 1974 World Cup winner to retire at just 27 and he became the club's youngest-ever manager.

30-year apprenticeship

When Franz Beckenbauer stood down as Bayern president in 2009, Hoeness succeeded him after a 30-year apprenticeship.But behind the scenes, he was obsessively gambling millions on stocks and currencies via his Swiss bank

but until then Hoeness says he 'just accounts. He served his sentence in Landsberg prison, where Adolf Hitler wrote 'Mein Kampf'.

After six months, he started worked in Bayern's youth academy under a parole system which meant he returned to jail every evening. He worked for 14 months, without missing a weekday, including Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve, as the alternative was sitting in his cell.

Behind bars, he dropped 25 kilos (55lbs) through daily exercise sessions and with his beloved red wine off the

But the first six months clearly took a toll. "I have to admit I was shocked at the time, because Uli did not look good," his brother Dieter Hoeness told Sport1.

In the summer of 2014, Hoeness was treated for a heart problem in a Bavarian hospital and took the chance to improve his health. The general feeling around Bayern's senior figures seems to be that Hoeness has done his time as they await his release. "I'm looking forward to it, I

his family and him, this is the best," Bayern's director of sport Matthias



Uli Hoeness

Sammer told Sky. "There will be a lot of personal factors on the day and for everything else, that is up for Uli to decide." The moral question of whether a

saw him during the time (in prison). For convicted criminal should resume as club president has not been discussed publically.

Legal path free

From a legal point of view, there is nothing preventing Hoeness's return to office. "There would be grounds if there were significant property offences, such as fraud, embezzlement or a delay in filing for insolvency," legal expert Christian Steinpichler told magazine Focus. But tax evasion is not included in the list and during his remaining three years of probation, he must only provide the authorities with any change of address. Karl Hopfner became Bayern's president after Hoeness resigned and his term of office runs until club's annual meeting at the end of the year. He has said he will not stand in his way if Hoeness decides to run for president again. "I was democratically elected until the annual meeting at the end of the year. I haven't given it any thought past that date," said Hopfner.— AFP

EL SHAARAWY MASTERCLASS DOWNS EMPOLI, SENDS ROMA UP TO THIRD

MILAN: Stephan El Shaarawy hit a brace as Roma continued their push for a place in next season's Champions League with a 3-1 win over Empoli on Saturday. Roma's sixth consecutive win moved them up to provisional third place in Serie A, five points behind leaders Juventus and four behind second-placed Napoli ahead of their respective games against Inter Milan and Fiorentina. "Our sixth win in a row is a huge boost to morale, now we have to wait to see what happens with Fiorentina and Napoli," El Shaarawy told Sky Sport after the

In Saturday's late match, AC Milan secured a 1-0 home win over Torino thanks to Luca Antonelli's goal on the stroke of half-time which saw them consolidate sixth place with a fourth win in five games. Milan coach Sinisa Mihajlovic is now casting his eye on Roma, six points ahead of them in third. "Over the next three games we will see if we have what it takes to finish in third place. I believe we do, and so do the lads," he told Sky.

Roma have been transformed since Luciano Spalletti took over from sacked Frenchman Rudi Garcia for his second spell at the club, but it was an enterprising El Shaarawy who made all the difference as the Giallorossi kept themselves in the hunt for Europe's premier club competition. The Italian, who failed to find the net for the first six months of a loan spell at Monaco in France's first division, broke the deadlock after just five minutes at the Carlo Castellani stadium when he curled a rightfooted shot into the far top corner from over 25 meters.

An Ervin Zukanovic own-goal, after

Roma 'keeper Wojciech Szczesny punched Mario Rui's cross into Zukanovic's face, leveled the game on 22 minutes but Roma were back in front five minutes later thanks to Miralem Pjanic after the Bosnian got the rebound from his own free-kick off the defensive wall. Empoli came fighting back late in the second half, but El Shaarawy grabbed his fourth goal in five league games 16 minutes from time to wrap up a

The Italy international suggested Spalletti deserved as much praise as either himself or his teammates. "It's my first brace for Roma, but the result is what matters most. The coach asked us to keep possession and try to punish Empoli on the counter and that's what we did," he said. A highly-organized AC Milan finally cracked Torino's busy defense after sustained pressure when Antonelli fired home a loose ball at a corner just ahead of the half time.

Milan 'keeper Gianluigi Donnarumma only turned 17 this week, but he again pulled off a couple of fine saves to show why Mihajlovic continues to trust him. Carlos Bacca headed home after another Milan corner but the referee correctly ruled the Colombian striker offside. Torino ran out of steam in the later stages and Milan played out the game comfortably and are now nine points ahead of Sassuolo in seventh. Serie A action resumed yesterday when the highlight was Inter's visit to Juventus for the 'Derby d'Italia'. Fiorentina, in fourth at a point behind Roma, host Napoli today when both sides will be looking for the win that helps them forget their elimination from the Europa League in midweek.— AFP



ZURICH: FIFA's new president Gianni Infantino gives children from a football school high fives during the inauguration of the FIFA World

FIFA'S BOSS INFANTINO WANTS REFORMS TO TURN PAIN TO JOY

BLATTER WARNS INFANTINO OF FIFA BACKSTABBERS

ZURICH: Gianni Infantino insisted yesterday that FIFA's reform package would close the door on a chapter of pain at world football's governing body and usher in an era of joy. The package will limit Infantino's powers compared to those formerly enjoyed by the disgraced Sepp Blatter, and there will be a 12-year term limit for all top officials and their earnings will be fully disclosed. The all-powerful executive committee will be renamed a FIFA council and football's multi-billion dollar business activities will be run separately from football politics.

"This will be done very fast," the freshly elected president said, on the fringe of a FIFA museum inauguration. "I mean we have to look forward. The reforms have been approved. As of now and for the future there will be no issues any more," he promised. "And as for the past, we have to make sure we cooperate fully with all the authorities to make sure that everything comes out if something has happened." Having admitted there may be more skeletons in FIFA's cupboard he conversely claimed the future was bright when asked if there was more pain for FIFA to come. "There is more joy for FIFA to come," he claimed.

Asked what his top priority was as he embarks on his much scrutinized project, Infantino said he was raring to go and hammered home his conviction. "Seriously first the reforms. The reforms need to be implemented now. They need to be implemented from day one, immediately. "So I will go up to the office to start looking at concretely how to implement these reforms so that we can very soon as well concentrate on football." The 45-year-old Swiss-Italian, who beat main rival Sheikh Salman bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa by 115 votes to 88 in the second round vote on Friday has been hailed by many as the right man at the right time, including English football supremo Greg Dyke.

The English FA chairman described the Swiss as "straight". Speaking on BBC Radio 5 Live's Sportsweek show Dyke said: "This is a chance. Hopefully a new leader plus a reform program can actually make it tougher to see the sort of antics we have seen in recent years." Infantino, he insisted, had been part of a fairly functioning UEFA, which should not be mistaken for its senior global partner FIFA. He said: "If you have got someone like Gianni, you have got more chance of that being done properly - it's certainly done properly in UEFA - so that you know where the money is being spent because we all want more money to go to countries around the world where you need money to develop football, and some countries need it more than others."

FIFA backstabbers

Meanwhile, Sepp Blatter warned Gianni Infantino yesterday that miracles will be expected from him as the newly-elected FIFA president but there will be plenty of backstabbers if he fails to deliver. Blatter, currently serving a sixyear suspension from football, saw his 18-year reign as FIFA chief officially end Friday when 45year-old UEFA secretary-general Infantino was voted in as football's most powerful man. But in

an open letter to the Swiss-Italian lawyer, Blatter warned his successor to be wary of the pitfalls that come with the job.

He also said he was ready to offer his help if required. "I congratulate you, but remember however that this position you wanted will not be easy. Miracles will be expected," Blatter wrote in an open letter published in French newspaper, Journal du dimanche, "I had these expectations for the last 18 years at FIFA which I served for 41 years." Blatter said that the package of reforms which will be implemented at the scandal-hit body will help Infantino as he embarks

on his new era. "The miracles will be helped by the vote overwhelmingly taken for the reforms which I had also started. "If by chance, you want an opinion or advice, do not hesitate. For now, stay calm. You have two months to implement the decisions taken." Blatter said Infantino will be allowed a period of grace but could face stormy waters if reforms are implemented too slowly for the patience of federations and sponsors. "Prepare yourself well but be vigilant. While everyone supports you and tells you nice words, know that once you are the president, friends become rare."—Agencies

EMPOLI: Roma's Stephan El Shaarawy (left) scores during a Serie A soccer match between Roma and Empoli, in Empoli, Italy on Saturday, Feb 27, 2016. — AP

DORTMUND'S US TEEN LIVING HIS GERMAN LEAGUE DREAM

BERLIN: He won't turn 18 until September, but Christian Pulisic is living the German league dream having been propelled from youth team football to a starting place with Borussia Dortmund. The 17-year-old capped a lightning rise through Dortmund's ranks this season by starting on the left wing in their 1-0 win at Bayer Leverkusen last Sunday. After three appearances off the bench, he played the first 45 minutes before making way for Germany winger Marco Reus having made his Bundesliga debut in January.

Reus is expected to start Sunday's home match against second-from-bottom Hoffenheim with Pulisic on the bench at Borussia's Signal Iduna Park, but the teenager is content to soak up the experience of life at one of Germany's top sides. "It's been an amazing experience just to train with these guys every day. Then to go out and play in front of fans and live that moment was amazing," he said of his start against Leverkusen. "It was an amazing feeling to hear I was starting, it's such an honor, especially at such a young age.

"It was great to get the experience. I was pretty cool before the game, obviously right before the start you're nervous. "It was good that I had had a few minutes before (as a substitute) and I was ready for this."

The teenager from Pennsylvania is already on the radar of US national coach Jurgen Klinsmann ahead of this June's Copa America Centenario hosted by the USA. After representing the USA at Under-15 and Under-17 level, he was snapped up by Dortmund in January 2015 and won last season's U-17s German title before joining up with the club's U-19 team. His breakthrough came when he was invited to train with the senior Dortmund squad during the January winter break.

He impressed head coach Thomas Tuchel so much that he made his Bundesliga debut as a 68th-minute substitute in the 2-0 win over Ingolstadt 04 on January 30. "It's a pleasure to have him around, with his cheeky smile and his humility," said Tuchel. "He seems shy, but he fights for everything." At the tender age of 17 years and 133 days, he is the eighth youngest player to feature in Germany's top flight. Klinsmann, who is not afraid of promoting young talent, is excited by Pulisic's rise and wants to keep an eye on the talented teenager. "He has a tremendous amount of talent, there is no doubt about it," said the ex-Germany striker. "But we're just monitoring him right now and see him getting minutes with Dortmund is exciting for us. We'll take it one day at a time." — AFP

MADRID'S SEASON TO FORGET MADRID: Defeat for the third consecutive

DERBY'S DEFEAT COMPOUNDS

year at home in La Liga to Atletico Madrid ended Real Madrid's realistic title hopes before the end of February. Barcelona lead Real by nine points and also have a game in hand on Zinedine Zidane's men, who are now in a battle with Villarreal just to qualify automatically for next season's Champions League in third. Here, AFP Sports look at what has gone wrong this season for the richest club in the world.

No stability

Rafael Benitez lasted barely seven months as coach at the beginning of the season before being ditched for club legend Zidane. Benitez's results weren't to president Florentino Perez's liking - most notably a 4-0 home hammering at the hands of Barcelona in November. Yet, the decision to replace Benitez with Zidane-a huge name but with no previous managerial experience at the top level-is symptomatic of Perez's misguided planning. When Benitez left Madrid were just two points adrift of Barcelona, by Saturday they were nine. "Consistency is the key word, to win the league you have to be consistent," Benitez told BT Sport after his sacking. "Barcelona has a style of football, a model of football. Real Madrid is changing managers every year so you have to start again and that is the reason Real Madrid has won one league title in the last seven."

Ronaldo's rage hides failings

Cristiano Ronaldo's rant that Madrid "would be top" if his teammates matched his standards not only spoke of a split dressing room riddled with clashing egos, but was a window into Ronaldo's anger at a frustrating campaign. Ronaldo's numbers of 34 goals in 33 games again look spectacular, but dig deeper and the three-time World Player of the Year has had barely any positive impact on the big games. The Portuguese hasn't scored in five La Liga games against top-five opposition. Indeed, just under 40 percent of his La Liga goals have come in two thrashings of Espanyol. He missed a crucial penalty as Real were held 1-1 at Malaga last weekend and missed his side's two best chances against Atletico on Saturday.

Injuries

Ronaldo later rectified his comments, claiming to have only been speaking about his physical shape when suggesting he was superior to his teammates. He expressed frustration at not having the likes of Gareth Bale, Karim Benzema and Marcelo, all of whom have spent significant time on the sidelines, alongside him at the weekend. Welsh star Bale has played just 17 of Madrid's 34 games this season. Ronaldo also hinted a poor preseason, more concentrated on money-spinning trips to Australia and China than preparing for the campaign ahead, could be to blame. A golden age for Barcelona and Atletico Madrid Atletico became the first visiting side ever to win three consecutive league games at the Bernabeu. Barcelona remain on course to become the only side ever to win back-to-back trebles of league, Cup and Champions League.

For all Real's troubles, much of the criticism comes from being judged against two of the best teams in the world going through the greatest period of sustained success in their history with an Argentine at the heart of both. Barca's golden run has been spearheaded by five-time World Player of the Year Lionel Messi. At Atletico it is the coach, Diego Simeone, who has turned a perennially under-achieving club into a European power. Before Simeone's arrival, Atletico hadn't won a derby for 13 years. His transformation of Los Rojiblancos has been so complete that even he admitted it is now "normal" for the red and white half of Madrid to come out on top.— AFP

AUBAMEYANG SEALS DORTMUND'S LATE FIGHTBACK WIN

Socer League results/standings League tables after yesterday's matches (played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, goals against, points): **English Premier League table** Deportivo 25 6 14 5 33 31 32 Leicester 27 16 8 3 49 29 56 Malaga 8 8 10 23 23 32 3 49 21 54 Arsenal 6 43 26 51 Real Betis 6 10 10 21 36 28 Man City 7 48 28 47 Espanyol 26 8 4 14 26 50 28 West Ham 27 11 10 Rayo Vallecano 26 6 8 12 36 53 26 Southampton27 11 9 35 26 40 Las Palmas 26 6 6 14 25 40 24 6 10 29 33 39 6 14 30 46 24 Liverpool 26 5 5 16 24 48 20 Levante Watford 27 10 7 10 29 28 37 Granada 25 5 5 15 26 51 20 9 40 37 36 7 46 35 35 Everton French Ligue 1 table 27 23 4 0 67 13 73 West Brom 27 9 8 10 27 34 35 Paris SG Crystal Palace27 5 13 29 35 32 8 12 30 44 29 Bournemouth27 Caen 6 9 12 25 36 27 Nice 28 11 8 9 39 32 41 6 6 15 30 51 24 Newcastle 26 6 6 14 27 49 24 Saint-Etienne28 12 5 11 33 32 41 Sunderland 27 6 5 16 32 51 23 Nantes Aston Villa 27 3 7 17 21 48 16 Angers Lorient Juventus 26 18 4 46 15 58 17 6 3 54 21 57 Bordeaux 28 Roma 27 15 8 4 55 28 53 6 47 26 52 Montpellier 28 Inter Milan 26 6 6 34 23 48 AC Milan 6 39 28 47 Guingamp 28 8 8 12 32 39 32 9 34 34 37 Lazio Gazelec Ajaccio27 6 10 11 28 38 28 Bologna 5 12 29 31 35 Toulouse 28 4 10 14 27 47 22 7 11 32 36 34 11 33 40 34 **Empoli** Torino 8 11 33 34 32

German Bundesliga table

M'gladbach 23 11 3

Leverkusen 22 10 5

VfL Wolfsburg23 8

Ingolstadt 0423 8 6

Hamburg 23 7 7

VfB Stuttgart 23

Augsburg 23

Dortmund 22 16

Bayern Munich23 20 2 1 58 11 62

Hertha Berlin 23 11 6 6 31 24 39

Schalke 04 22 10 4 8 31 29 34

Mainz 05 22 10 3 9 29 28 33

Cologne 23 7 8 8 24 29 29

Darmstadt 9823 6 7 10 25 36 25

Werder Bremen23 5 6 12 27 46 21

Hoffenheim 22 3 9 10 22 33 18

Hanover 96 23 5 2 16 21 38 17

3 54 24 51

BANGLADESH STUN SRI LANKA; SABBIR HITS 80

Twenty20 in Dhaka yesterday. Sabbir hit 80 duck in the second ball of the innings. off 54 balls as Bangladesh posted a Mathews then took a catch off Nuv respectable 147-7 and then restricted Sri Lanka to 124-8 for their maiden win over the islanders in the Twenty20 format. The win, Bangladesh's second in three matches in the tournament, kept the hosts firmly in the race for a place in the final on March 6.

Atalanta

Udinese

Genoa

Frosinone

Villarreal

Sevilla

Sampdoria 27

Spanish La Liga table

8 6 13 24 40 30

7 7 13 27 32 28

6 5 16 26 53 23

4 9 14 24 44 21

Barcelona 25 20 3 2 67 20 63

Atletico Madrid26 18 4 4 36 11 58

Athletic Bilbao26 11 5 10 38 35 38

Real Sociedad26 9 7 10 36 35 34

26 15 7 4 33 18 52

25 11 8 6 36 26 41

26 10 6 10 40 35 36

9 39 44 41

2 12 13 24 45 18

7 13 39 46 28

6 14 27 47 27

They will face Pakistan in their last league match on March 2. Al-Amin Hossain claimed 3-34 while Shakib Al Hasan chipped in with 2-21 as Sri Lanka collapsed from 76-1 to lose their last seven wickets for 41 runs. Dinesh Chandimal was dropped on the second ball of the innings and went on to make a run-a-ball 37, the highest in Sri Lanka's innings. Shehan Jayasuriya was the only other notable run getter for Sri Lanka with 26 from 21 balls.

"We have always struggled a bit in Twenty20. This was a good win for us," said Bangladesh captain Mashrafe Mortaza. "The wicket was pretty good to bat on. With 147, you can still fight it out. After a couple of catches missed, we stood up and did our best." Sri Lanka captain Angelo Mathews rued the loss of wickets. "We just lost our way, and once we hit that 12-runsan-over mark, we just kept losing wickets," said Mathews Leading Sri Lanka in absence

DHAKA: Sabbir Rahman scored a brilliant of the regular captain Lasith Malinga, half-century to set up a 23-run win for Mathews opened the bowling and struck Bangladesh over Sri Lanka in the Asia Cup Mohammad Mithun plumb in front for a

> Kulasekara to remove the other opener Soumya Sarkar, also for a duck, giving Sri Lanka a solid start to the game. Sabbir launched a counter-attack, hitting Kulasekara for three fours and a six off consecutive balls in the fourth over to seize the momentum back for the hosts. He continued in the same vein despite the run out of Mushfigur Rahim for four at the other end and shared 82 runs with Shakib for the fourth wicket stand.

> Shakib was happy to play second fiddle as Sabbir flayed Sri Lanka's bowlers to complete his third Twenty20 international fifty off 38 balls with a six off Shehan Javasuriya over midwicket. "It was a good opportunity to come in early. I just rotated the strike and played to my strength," said man of the match Sabbir. Medium pacer Dushmantha Chameera ended his onslaught when he deceived the right-hander with a slower delivery to force a catch at midwicket to Jayasuriya. Chameera took an edge from Shakib, who made 32 off 34 balls, in the next over and added Nurul Hasan to his tally to finish with 3-30. Pakistan will face the UAE in the next match of the tournament today. — AFP

SCOREBOARD

atch between Bangladesh and Sri Lanka at the Sher-e-

DHAKA: Scoreboard of the Asia Cup Twent Bangla National Stadium in Dhaka yesterda	,
Bangladesh	
Mohammad Mithun Ibw b Mathews	0
Soumya Sarkar c Mathews b Kulasekara	0
Sabbir Rahman c Jayasuriya b Chameera	80
Mushfiqur Rahim run out	4
Shakib Al Hasan c Chandimal b Chameera	32
Mahmudullah not out	23
Nurul Hasan c Mathews b Chameera	2
Mashrafe Mortaza run out	2
Extras (b1 w-2 nb1)	4
Total (seven wickets; 20 overs)	147
Fall of wickets: 1-0 (Mithun), 2-2 (Soumya	a) 3-26
(Rahim), 4-108 (Sabbir), 5-123 (Shakib), 6	5-140 (
Nurul), 7-147 (Mortaza)	
Did not bat: Al-Amin Hossain, Mustafizur Ra	hman

Did not bat: Al-Amin Hossain, Mustafizur Rahman, Taskin Ahmed

Bowling: Mathews 3-0-8-1, Kulasekara 4-0-44-1, Perera 1-0-14-0, Javasuriva 3-0-21-0, Herath 4-0-24-0, Dilshan 1-0-5-0, Chameera 4-0-30-3 (nb1

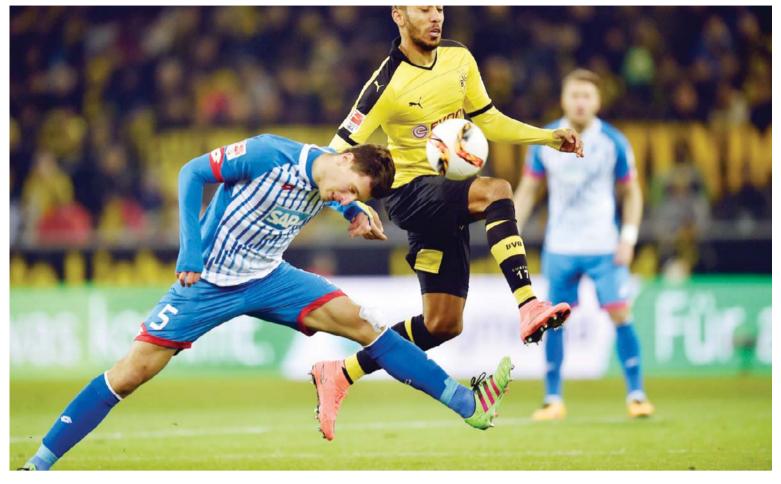
Sri Lanka

D. Chandimal c Taskin b Mahmudullah



(Kulasekara) Did not bat: R. Herath

Bowling: Taskin 3-0-19-0, Al-Amin 4-0-34-3, Shakib 4-0-21-2 (w1), Mustafizur 4-0-19-1(w1), Mortaza 3-0-17-1(w1), Mahmudullah 2-0-14-1. Result: Bangladesh won by 23 runs.



DORTMUND: Dortmund's Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang (right) and Hoffenheim's Fabian Schaer challenge for the ball during the German Bundesliga soccer match between Borussia Dortmund and TSG 1899 Hoffenheim in Dortmund, Germany yesterday. — AP

BERLIN: Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang netted again as Borussia Dortmund scored three goals in the final ten minutes for a dramatic 3-1 comeback win over ten-man Hoffenheim yesterday in the Bundesliga. Hoffenheim captain Sebastian Rudy gave his side the lead in Dortmund before being sent off and the hosts were just ten minutes from their first home defeat of the season.

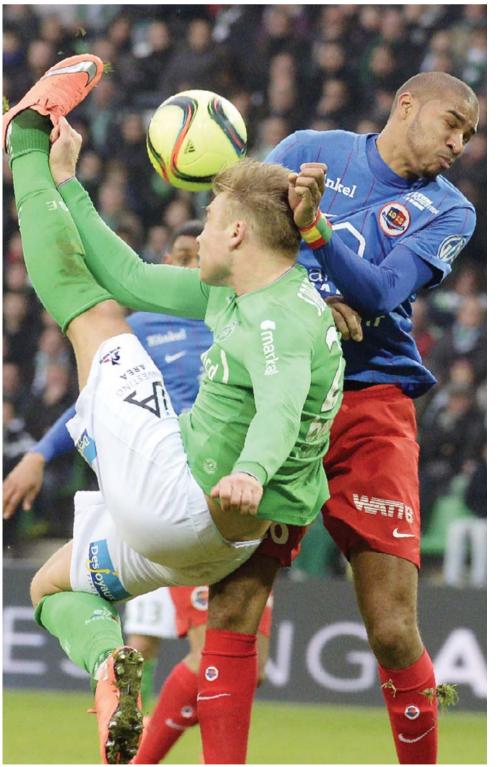
The game turned when Rudy was shown a straight red card-on his 26th birthday-for bringing down Aubameyang, who was through on goal, on 58 minutes. Winger Henrikh Mkhitaryan spared Dortmund's blushes with an 80th-minute equaliser before substitute Adrian Ramos headed Lukasz Piszczek's cross home on 85 minutes. Mkhitaryan then laid on the third when he sprinted clear, drew Hoffenheim keeper Oliver Baumann and passed for Aubameyang to tap home in the second minute of stoppage

It was the 22nd goal of the season for the Gabon striker, who is one behind the league's top scorer, Bayern Munich's Robert Lewandowski. The win allows second-placed Borussia to trim Bayern's lead at the top of the table to eight points before next Saturday's top of the table clash against Pep Guardiola's Bavarians in Dortmund. Hoffenheim remain second from bottom and four points from safety. Borussia Moenchengladbach went fourth after a fightback earned a 2-2 draw at Augsburg. Brazilian striker Raffael had sent Gladbach into a half-time lead before the game exploded into life with three goals in five second-half minutes.

Despite their midweek Europa League exit at the hands of Liverpool, Augsburg, who are 13th, roared back with two goals in quick succession. Iceland striker Alfred Finnbogason thumped a header home on 50 minutes, his first goal since joining from Olympiakos, before Brazil winger Caiuby slotted neatly home just three minutes later. Gladbach's American winger Fabian Johnson gave the perfect response as he smashed home his shot on 55 minutes to make it 2-2. The visitors should have won as Sweden's Oscar Wendt fired wide late on while only a Marwin Hitz save denied Borussia captain Granit Xhaka. Mainz warmed up for Wednesday's league game at Bayern by moving up to fifth with a 3-1 win at home to Bayer Leverkusen.

Mainz's Yunus Malli and Jhon Cordoba netted first half goals, then Malli netted a secondhalf penalty, before Javier Hernandez pulled a goal back. On Saturday, Bayern continued their seemingly unstoppable march to an historic fourth consecutive league title with a 2-0 win at Wolfsburg.Guardiola's outfit now have 62 points out of a possible 69, their tally exactly double that of Wolfsburg, who are eighth. A tight struggle was settled by second-half goals from Kingsley Coman and Lewandowski, who netted his 33rd goal in all competitions.

Elsewhere, bottom side Hanover gained ground in the relegation battle with a shock 2-1 win at Stuttgart after an eight-match losing streak. Japan midfielder Hiroshi Kiyotake capped his first start since November after injury by setting up both goals for defender Christian Schulz. It means just four points separate the bottom three sides, but Hanover remain five points from safety. Hamburg drew 1-1 at home to Ingolstadt while Werder Bremen are deep in the relegation battle despite their 2-2 draw at home to Darmstadt. On Friday, Hertha Berlin strengthened their grip on third place with a 1-0 victory at Cologne as Vedad Ibisevic scored the winner to break their run of six games without a win.—AFP



SAINT-ETIENNE: Saint-Etienne's French defender Paul Baysse (left) vies with Caen's French-Beninese midfielder Jordan Adeoti (right) during the French L1 football match Saint-Etienne (ASSE) vs Caen (SMC) yesterday.— AFP

HIDDINK FUMES OVER CHELSEA'S CUP DATE

SOUTHAMPTON: Guus Hiddink has attacked the decision to schedule Chelsea's FA Cup quarter-final meeting with Everton three days after the club's Champions League showdown against Paris Saint Germain. Blues' interim manager Hiddink fears the demands being placed on his players are too high and believes it is time medical professionals had an influence on the fixture list. Hiddink was speaking after his side's 2-1 victory at Southampton, a

game in which Spanish winger Pedro limped off with a hamstring that could rule him out of the decisive second leg clash with PSG at Stamford Bridge on March 9.

"We have a tight schedule, Norwich on Tuesday and then Stoke and PSG. Then, surprisingly, the Everton game was put on a Saturday instead of a Sunday. Normally we should have played Liverpool on the Sunday," Hiddink said.

"I don't know who has decided that, all of a sudden. It was astonishing that people could change the kick-off time. "We have PSG on the Wednesday night. Hopefully it doesn't go into extra-time. The players, not just Chelsea players, need time when the intensity of the league is like this. "The medical people at the FA and the Premier League should make this known as well. We have to protect the players as well.—AFP

MONACO HELD; CAEN SURPRISE SAINT-ETIENNE

PARIS: Monaco were held to a goalless draw by in-form Nantes yesterday as Caen moved provisionally into third place in Ligue 1 with a surprise 2-1 win at Saint-Etienne. Monaco are eight points clear in second after their draw at the Stade de la Beaujoire but their result leaves open the possibility that runaway leaders Paris Saint-Germain could clinch an inevitable fourth successive title as early as next weekend.

For that to happen, Laurent Blanc's side, who are currently 23 points clear, must win away at Lyon and then hope Monaco slip up at Caen next Friday. PSG, who are unbeaten domestically since March last year, would then go into their home clash with Montpellier next Saturday knowing victory would suffice for them to be confirmed champions with two months of the season remaining. While Monaco look set to finish as runners-up, nobody seems to want the third place that also brings with it a place in the qualifying rounds for next season's Champions League.

Nantes are one of the many sides in contention, though, after extending their long unbeaten run to 13 league games and 16 matches in all competitions. That has lifted Michel Der Zakarian's team provisionally up to seventh place, just two points adrift of the podium. Nantes had the best chances in a lively start to the game, but Kolbeinn Sigthorsson, on two occasions, and Emiliano Sala were unable to find a way past Danijel Subasic in the visitors' goal.

Guido Carrillo came close for Monaco early in the second half while Alejandro Bedoya did have the ball in the net for Nantes in the 71st minute, only to be denied by the offside flag. Saint-Etienne could have gone third but instead Caen did just that by winning at the Stade Geoffroy-Guichard against opponents still reeling from their Europa League exit to Basel during the week. Caen went in front with just 12 minutes left when Andy Delort headed in Herve Bazile's cross for his 10th league goal of the campaign, and Ronny Rodelin doubled their lead soon after. Valentin Eysseric pulled one back for Saint-Etienne from a stoppage-time free-kick but they must now rouse themselves for a French Cup

quarter-final against PSG in midweek. Caen's hold on third may not last long, though, as Lyon will leapfrog the Normandy side on goal difference if they can beat Paris. Elsewhere yesterday, Marseille's match away to Gazelec Ajaccio was postponed due to the inclement weather in Corsica. Nice had started the weekend in third place but their Champions League hopes were hit when they lost 2-0 at home to bitter rivals Bastia on Friday. On Saturday, Rennes scored two late goals as they came from behind to win 2-1 at struggling Toulouse, who later parted company with coach Dominique Arribage after a defeat which left them second from bottom and 10 points from safety. — AFP

Sports of the second se

Bisping beats
Silva at UFC
Fight Night



Sabbir hits 80 as Bangladesh stun Sri Lanka



MONDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 2016

BLATTER WARNS INFANTINO OF FIFA BACKSTABBERS

age 18



LONDON: Manchester City's Belgian defender Vincent Kompany (center) holds up the League Cup surrounded by his team-mates during the presentation after Manchester City won the penalty shoot-out to win the English League Cup final football match between Liverpool and Manchester City at Wembley Stadium yesterday. — AFP

MAN CITY GRAB LEAGUE CUP CROWN

LONDON: Willy Caballero proved an unlikely hero with three penalty saves as Manchester City beat Liverpool 3-1 in a Wembley Stadium shootout yesterday to win the English League Cup. The game finished 1-1 following extra time, Philippe Coutinho equalizing for Liverpool in the 83rd minute after Fernandinho had put City ahead early in the second half, and Caballero took centre-stage in the shootout.

The 34-year-old Argentine, who deputizes for Joe Hart in cup competitions, saved penalties from Lucas Leiva, Coutinho and substitute Adam Lallana and although Fernandinho hit the post with his spot-kick, Yaya Toure stroked home the decisive penalty to give City victory. It was City's second League Cup triumph in three seasons, and fourth in total, and ensures that manager Manuel Pellegrini will sign off with at least one trophy before handing over the reins to Pep Guardiola. His Liverpool

counterpart Jurgen Klopp, meanwhile, met with disappointment in his first attempt to win a trophy following his appointment as the successor to Brendan Rodgers in October. Liverpool, who lost Mamadou Sakho to a first-half head injury, have gone four years without a trophy since winning the last of their eight League Cups in 2012, raising the stakes yet further ahead of their Europa League clash with arch rivals Manchester United.

Klopp's chief selection dilemma was at centre-back and with Martin Skrtel and Dejan Lovren not yet fit after injury and illness respectively, he elected to keep faith with midfielder Lucas alongside Sakho. But Sakho hurt himself in an early clash of heads with team-mate Emre Can and looked wobbly as Sergio Aguero slipped past him to curl in a shot that Simon Mignolet brilliantly touched onto the left-hand past. The French international left the fray moments later, with Kolo Toure entering the

fray, but had to be convinced of the need for his withdrawal by Klopp and flung a water bottle to the ground in disgust as he crossed the touchline before burying his head beneath his jacket on the bench.

Sterling misses

Fernandinho was playing wide on the right for City, as he had in the mid-week Champions League win at Dynamo Kiev, and four minutes into the second half he provided the breakthrough. Aguero waited for him to make an overlapping run and the Brazilian duly obliged before drilling in a shot that seemed to go straight through Mignolet. It was the latest in a succession of blunders by the Belgium international and replays of the goal on the big screens drew groans from the Liverpool end. Two City old boys almost combined to forge an equalizer, James Milner shooting wide from Daniel Sturridge's

through-ball, before Raheem Sterling-roundly booed by fans of his former club-squandered a gilt-edged chance to make it 2-0 by shooting wide from David Silva's pass. He also miscued from an Aguero cut-back and they

were to prove costly misses as, with seven minutes to go, Liverpool leveled. Sturridge played a low cross into the box from the right and although Lallana contrived to hit the post from close range, Coutinho followed in to side-foot home. It was Liverpool's first shot on target. Mignolet partly redeemed himself by sharply saving from Fernando and with Yaya Toure twice thwarted at a late corner, the game went to extra time. The Belgian also excelled himself in the extra period, jutting out his left hand to save from Aguero, before Caballero repelled a header from substitute Divock Origi at the other end. It was the first save he had had to make, but there were three more to come. — AFP

ROSE BOOSTS SPURS' EPL TITLE CHARGE



LONDON: Tottenham remain hot on the heels of Leicester in the Premier League title race after Danny Rose's late winner capped a dramatic fightback in yesterday's vital 2-1 victory against Swansea. Mauricio Pochettino's side were in danger of losing ground on the leaders when Alberto Paloschi gave struggling Swansea a shock lead at White Hart Lane with his first goal since his January move from Chievo. But Nacer Chadli came off the bench to equalise in the 70th minute and Rose sealed the comeback seven minutes later when the defender bagged his first goal

Tottenham have now won their last six league matches and sit in second place, just two points behind Leicester, as their fans start to dream of a first English topflight title since 1961. Making the day even sweeter for Tottenham, their bitter rivals Arsenal were beaten at Manchester United and are now three points behind them ahead of next Saturday's crucial north London derby. Swansea, who are only three points above the relegation zone, had an early chance when Paloschi crossed low to the edge of the six-yard box, where Gylfi Sigurdsson fired powerfully towards goal, only to be denied by a superb tip over from Hugo Lloris.

Tottenham striker Harry Kane, wearing a mask to protect his broke nose, should have opened the scoring moments later, yet Swansea goalkeeper Lukasz Fabianski was equal to his close-range effort from a Christian Eriksen cross. Those early misses came back to haunt Tottenham in the 19th minute as Swansea snatched the lead. A

short corner gave Angel Rangel the chance to shoot from distance and the Swansea defender's. effort took a deflection off the heels of Jack Cork and fell perfectly for Italian forward Paloschi to lash into the roof of the net. Tottenham's response was emphatic as they laid seige to the visitors' goal.

Eriksen tested Fabianski with a dipping free-kick, then Kane had a low drive turned away by the former Arsenal keeper. Son Heung-min should have equalised before the interval but the South Korean forward, clean through with just Fabianski to beat, could only produce a tame shot that was easily saved. Paloschi had an opportunity from Andre Ayew's pass, with only Toby Alderweireld's block denying him a second goal.

Just after, Rose's low cross looked certain to be converted by Eric Dier, but his shot was brilliantly pushed away by Fabianski. Tottenham had played four games in the last two weeks, while Swansea had been inactive, and their prospects were hardly enhanced by the foot injury that England midfielder Dele Alli appeared to suffer in the pre-match warm-up. Alli had played on but was well below his best as Tottenham laboured to breach Fabianski's goal. The Swansea stopper denied Eriksen with a good stop early in the second half and reached up to palm away Kane's long-range effort.

Eriksen was narrowly off target with another free-kick and Dier also failed to hit the mark as Tottenham swarmed forward. The relentless pressure paid off in the 70th minute when Kyle Walker fired goalwards and substitute Chadli was in the right place to divert the ball past Fabianski at last. Eriksen saw a 30-yard rocket kept out by Fabianski, but Tottenham were too dynamic to be denied and the winner arrived in the 77th minute. A corner was only half cleared and fell to left-back Rose, who took a touch before smashing his shot under Fabianski to spark wild celebrations. — AFP



MANCHESTER: A combination of pictures shows Manchester United's Dutch manager Louis van Gaal (left) having words with fourth official Mike Dean on the touchline before falling over on the floor and Van Gaal falling over (center) and Van Gall getting up during the English Premier League football match between Manchester United and Arsenal at Old Trafford in Manchester in north west England yesterday. — AFP

United stun Arsenal



MANCHESTER: Teenage forward Marcus Rashford's dream start to life at Manchester United continued yesterday as he scored two goals in his team's 3-2 victory over Arsenal at Old Trafford. The win represented Louis van Gaal's third victory, in three competitions, over the past six days, but more significantly, damaged Arsene Wenger's hopes of winning Arsenal's first league title in 12 years. The 18-year-old forward, who scored twice in the mid-week Europa League victory over FC Midtjylland, was on the mark again in an astonishing first half in which he beat Petr Cech on two occasions.

To make his impact all the more stunning, the goals came within three minutes of each other as United delivered a serious blow to Wenger's aim of narrowing the five-point advantage that leaders Leicester City held before kick-off. After 29 minutes, Ander Herrera started a move with a telling tackle on Theo Walcott, sparking a counter-attack that ended with Guillermo Varela crossing from the right and Gabriel hacking a poor clearance directly to Rashford. The teenager did the rest with a composed finish from a dozen yards, the first shot of his Premier League career resulting in his first goal.

Arsenal's poor defending was badly exposed in that attack and worse was to follow from the next serious foray into their territory with Varela again influential, making an important header that kept the ball in play. Jesse Lingard received the ball and picked out Rashford, who had again slipped his marker Gabriel, and the youngster planted a perfect header past the diving Cech. Wenger looked stunned on the

Arsenal bench, a mood reflected by his players, although his side were able to pull an important goal back before the interval, predictably through the former United striker Danny Welbeck. Mesut Ozil was the architect with an inch-perfect free-kick from midway inside the United half and Welbeck, who eluded his marker Marcos Rojo too easily, guided a header past David de Gea from 10 yards.

The goals were the highlight of a thrilling first half in which Nacho Monreal should have given the visitors the lead after just seven minutes when he chased Ozil's through-ball into the area and was denied well by De Gea. Rashford won a free-kick inches outside the area after a trip by Gabriel, with Memphis Depay's low set-piece being well held by Cech, while Alexis Sanchez replied for Arsenal with a snapshot that flew narrowly wide. The entertainment continued after the restart as United sought to continue a remarkable run of close to 250 Premier League home games in which they have led at half-time and not lost. — AFP

Kuwait Limes BUSINESS

Zain acquires strategic stake in FOO

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Stronger dollar thanks to positive US data

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NBK awarded 'Best **Private Bank for** 2016 in Kuwait'

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AL-QURAIN AUTOMOTIVE TRADING CO UNVEILS FUTURISTIC XC90

Page 26 AA00000000 钞票正面 5年版第5套人民 票面正面毛泽东头像、 位于票面正面右侧。垂 票面正面左下方和背面 位于票面正面中部。鉅 直頭面观察,安全线量 国徽、"中国人民银 右下方均有面额数字 直票面观察,数字以金 品红色;与票面成一定 行"行名、右上角面额 "100" 的局部图案。 色为主; 平视观察, 数 角度观察,安全线量绿 数字、盲文及背面人民 透光观察,正背面图案 字以绿色为主。随着观 色;透光观察,课件安 大会堂等均采用雕刻凹 组成一个完整的面额数 察角度的改变,数字颜 全线中正反交替排列的 印印刷,用手指触摸有 色在金色与绿色之间交 字 "100"。 镂空文字"¥100"。 明显的凹凸感。 替变化,并可见到一条 亮光带上下滚动。 位于票面正面横号码下 位于票面正面左侧空白 票面正面左下方采用横 方。透光观察,可以看 处。透光观察,可见毛 号码,其冠字和前两位 到透光很强的水印面额 泽东头像。 数字为暗红色,后六位 进行了提升。 数字 "100"。 数字为黑色;右侧竖号 码为蓝色。

BEIJING: A woman speaks on her phone near a display highlighting the new Chinese bank notes at a bank in Beijing. The Chinese economy is littered with companies that can't pay their bills and survive only with financial help from the government. —AP

CHINA MUST MOVE TO MARKET-ORIENTED YUAN RATE: US

More yawns than yuan in China's late-night forex trade

BEIJING: US Treasury Secretary Jack Lew said yesterday that it was critical for China to continue moving toward a more market-oriented exchange rate and clearly communicate its

actions to the market. Lew made the remarks during a meeting with Chinese Vice Premier Wang Yang in Beijing, following a G20 finance ministers' summit in Shanghai. Earlier this month, Lew reiterated to Wang the importance of transitioning to a market-determined exchange rate in an orderly and transparent way. Lew also urged Beijing to clearly communicate its exchange rate policies and actions to financial markets. The world's top economies declared on Saturday after the meeting that they need to look beyond ultra-low interest rates and printing money to shake the global economy out of its torpor, while renewing their focus on structural reform to spark activity.

FOREX TRADING

In the fast-paced, high-risk world of foreign exchange trading, where trillions of dollars change hands every day, there's a quiet corner of the yuan market where traders can get some shut-eye, despite China's efforts to elevate its currency to the top table. The People's Bank of China (PBOC) extended the yuan's trading hours to 11:30 pm in January to overlap with European hours after the International Monetary Fund (IMF) decided it would admit the yuan into its Special Drawing Rights (SDR) basket by next October, a key step on the way to becoming an international reserve currency. But there is a yawning disconnect between the currency's new status and the level of interest in the after-hours

"It can be really boring and lonely sometimes," said one night trader at a bank. He said he kept an eye out for rare incoming orders

but spent most of his time watching online videos to alleviate the boredom of being stuck on his own until bedtime. Other night traders who spoke to Reuters said they processed around five orders in the last three hours, which has led some banks not to bother staffing the shift. "One key problem is there is no corporate demand," said a trader at a major European bank in Shanghai. "Few companies feel the urgency to follow global market movements closely."

Because of China's capital controls and central bank efforts to curb exchange rate volatility, there is little speculation in the domestic market, traders say.

Some state-owned banks are trading in the evening sessions on behalf of the central bank to keep the yuan steady, according to a trader at a Chinese commercial bank in

"Every time when the evening rate

appeared to go out of hand, you could sense the signs that state-owned banks are intervening in the market on behalf of the PBOC," he said. Yuan/dollar quotes in the late session rarely stray more than 50 pips from the rate at 4:30 pm, regardless of what happens to the yuan traded in offshore markets, traders said. And trading between the yuan and other currencies such as the yen and euro, is nearly non-existent in the night session, they added.

WIDER ACCESS, SLIM PICKINGS

The relatively steady exchange rate means many corporates don't bother to hedge their foreign exchange positions during the late session because the rate tends to stay put.

"The market still behaves like it closes at 4.30 pm," said a dealer at another European bank, adding that his bank recently decided its night trader would end his shift at 9.30

There is also a dearth of overseas investors in the Chinese market, despite Beijing's efforts to widen access for foreigners, partly to satisfy the IMF that the yuan was eligible for its SDR basket.

In November, China allowed the first batch of foreign central banks, sovereign wealth funds and international financial institutions to register to enter the market.

"Right now it's only a trial to meet the IMF standards," said a trader at another Chinese commercial bank in Shanghai. "We have to wait for more policies from the government to encourage market participation, such as introducing brokers and individuals to encourage competition."

A trader from a third European bank said: "I believe when the new SDR basket takes effect late this year, the evening trading may pick up, along with more reforms on the

POST-DIESELGATE, VOLKSWAGEN RETOOLS ITSELF FOR FASTER RIDE

BERLIN: The biggest engineering feat on display when Volkswagen unveils its new concept car on tomorrow will be the team developing it: a post-Dieselgate management system crafted to operate faster, cheaper and with a lighter grip on the wheel. Last year's scandal over falsified diesel emissions tests caused a cull of top managers at Europe's biggest automaker and brought a promise to overhaul the corporate culture.

But the most meaningful management change taking place was already under way when the scandal broke: aimed less at preventing misdeeds than at improving profit margins, which had fallen behind competitors under an inefficient hierarchy.

Its concept for the Geneva car show will be the first vehicle the Volkswagen brand develops under a new, decentralised system designed to emulate rival BMW, which has a track record of quickly and efficiently getting new cars to market. VW will present the concept version of an entry-level sport-utility vehicle (SUV) in Geneva on Tuesday, three sources at the company said, and will develop the road version more rapidly under the new streamlined process.

Analysts following the company say it could lift margins at the core brand as the parent grapples with the costs of its scandal. The move is pioneered by brand chief Herbert Diess who previously oversaw R&D while an executive at BMW, where an agile structure has long allowed expert teams to run vehicle development without interference from top management. —Reuters

NEW PROTESTS HIT FRANCE'S FARM SHOW

PARIS: French farmers dumped flour over the stand of a leading meat producer at the country's annual farm show yesterday, a day after they heckled President François Hollande as he arrived at the event. The farmers' anger has boiled over after months of protests over a crisis in the agricultural sector sparked by collapsing beef, pork and milk sales and augmented by a price war with wholesalers. The upset, which has seen farmers leave their fields and animals to block roads with their tractors and dump manure outside government offices, has also cast a pall on the country's biggest celebration of its agricultural wealth. On Saturday, farmers tore down the agriculture ministry's pavilion, resulting in the arrest of five members of the main farmers' union FNSEA.

And despite calls for calm, the protests continued when a group of farmers attacked a stand owned by one of France's biggest agri-businesses. The farmers blasted the stand of the meat brand Charal with fire extinguishers before dumping about 30 kilograms (70 pounds) of flour on it.

Charal is owned by the agribusiness giant Bigard, which has a turnover of 4.3 billion euros (\$4.7 billion) and a payroll of 14,000. Last year during negotiations with farmers the group refused to fix a minimum buying price.

"For every hundred euros it gets (for its meat), Bigard pays only eight to the producer," one of the farmers said, while handing out fake 100 euro notes. "Our job has a cost."

"When you pay between 17 and 20 euros per kilo (\$8.5 and \$9 per pound) for meat, you should know that we are only getting two and a half to three euros," said Pierre Vaugarny, secretary general of the National Bovine Federation, using a hand-

In a statement Charal said it "understands the

farmers' difficulties, which are related to structural and short-term problems that can only be solved in a collective manner." A nine-day event held in vast exhibition grounds in southwestern Paris, the farm show is one of the most popular dates in the capital's calendar, with an expected turnout of 700,000 people this year.



PARIS: A farmer leads a cow during at the "Salon de l'Agriculture" (Agriculture Fair) in Paris yesterday. —AFP

UAE CUTS MARCH GASOLINE PRICES, RAISES DIESEL

DUBAI: The United Arab Emirates will reduce domestic prices for gasoline in March while raising them for diesel, the ministry of energy said yesterday.

The price of a litre of octane 95 gasoline will fall to 1.36 dirhams (37 US cents) from 1.47 dirhams at the start of next month, the ministry said via Twitter. It cited lower demand for gasoline at this time of the year as well as movements in international gasoline prices and higher supply.

The domestic diesel price will rise to 1.40 dirhams from 1.37 dirhams. Last July, the UAE said it was shifting from a system of fixed, subsidized fuel prices to adjusting prices monthly in response to global trends. It did not reveal details of its new formula nor say whether subsidies would be removed entirely, but announced that fuel prices would be "based on the average global prices with the addition of operating costs". —Reuters

NBK AWARDED 'BEST PRIVATE BANK FOR 2016 IN KUWAIT'

EUROMONEY'S ANNUAL SURVEY FOR INDUSTRY EXPERTS WORLDWIDE

KUWAIT: National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) has been awarded the "Best Private Bank for 2016" in Kuwait in Euromoney's Annual Survey surpassing global banks in wealth management and private banking services. NBK topped the list of nominees, outmatching renowned international banks in the field of Private Banking Services.

Euromoney's Annual Survey data is compiled from the industry's experts and analysts worldwide. NBK's Best Private Bank awards include: "Best Private Bank in Kuwait", "Best Private Bank for Ultra High Net Worth Clients in Kuwait" and "Best Private Bank for Super Affluent Clients in Kuwait". Malek Khalife, NBK's General Manager, Private Banking Group, received the awards at a glittering dinner and awards ceremony recently held in London.

"Awarding NBK the prestigious title of "the Best Private Banking Services" in Kuwait for another year, surpassing renowned global banks and financial institutions, reflects the constant confidence the customers vest in NBK and their appreciation of the outstanding quality of its services and products," said Khalife. "This

award is another testimony of NBK's leading position as the highest-rated bank in the Middle East and among the 50 safest banks in the world."

Khalife added "the excellent, strong and durable relationships NBK has always maintained with its high net-worth customers, enabled the bank to assume a unique and leading position in the field of wealth management and private banking on both local and regional markets. NBK also succeeded in maintaining the highest service quality standards while consistently endeavoring to provide the most innovative spectrum of investment and wealth management products and solutions to satisfy the increasingly changing needs of customers."

"Thanks to its largest local and international network strategically located in the major world financial centers, NBK has always maintained a dominant and advanced position to provide the best banking and investment solutions that covers a wide range of international markets, taking into consideration the specific profile of each and every customer," noted Khalife.

"I take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks and gratitude to both the trust of NBK clients as well as the invaluable efforts of the Private Banking team at NBK that enabled the bank to win such a prestigious title," said Khalife.

Euromoney is a leading British Financial magazine that organizes annually this event. The Private Banking Awards event covers over 60 countries each year. The results are voted by experts and analysts worldwide. The results are also based on other major criteria such as the services provided, asset management, wealth management and client relationship management. For more information on this award please visit www.euromoney.com

NBK continues to enjoy collectively the highest credit ratings in the region from the three international rating agencies Moody's, Fitch Ratings and Standard and Poor's. The Bank's ratings are supported by its high capitalization, prudent lending policies, and its disciplined approach to risk management, in addition to its highly recognized and very stable management



Malek Khalife, NBK's General Manager, Private Banking Group receiving the three awards from Euromoney.

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 net-

work 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).



NISSAN QASHQAI PREMIUM CONCEPT AND NISSAN X-TRAIL PREMIUM CONCEPT

DUBAI: Nissan will showcase two striking special versions of its best-selling crossovers, the Qashqai and X-Trail, at the forthcoming Geneva Motor Show.

Taking the current models as a starting point, Nissan has explored how a more premium and dynamic design interpretation could enhance and extend the appeal of its award-

winning crossover range in the future. The two cars are called the Qashqai Premium Concept and the X-Trail Premium Concept. While they are separate models, the colours, materials and themes which run through them mean they are unmistakably a pair. The Qashqai Premium Concept has been created by Nissan Design Europe (NDE) in the heart of London, while the X-Trail Premium Concept is the work of Nissan's Global Design Centre (GDC) in Japan.

With crossovers playing such an integral part in Nissan's continuing success across Europe, these two Premium Concepts showcase Nissan's desire to extend the target market while acknowledging customer diversity.

Shiro Nakamura, Senior Vice President, Design and Chief Creative Officer, Nissan Motor Co., Ltd. commented: "We allowed the creativity of our design teams to shine through in this two-car project. Ultimately we settled on two

designs - which are contrasting but share common themes - as they reveal a new premium character in our crossovers."

From how the Nissan design language is expressed to the advanced materials are used, both cars offer a fresh take on the widespread appeal of a premium Nissan crossover. Considering the concept of the urban explorer. each Premium Concept has a unique execution and is designed to appeal to a very different customer. The Qashqai has been designed for the 'Premium Urbanite', who dreams of a weekend absorbing the cultural highlights of a European destination city such as Geneva, Paris or Rome. The X-Trail is targeted for the 'Premium Adventurist', who will be thinking of mountain adventures in the Alps or the Pyrenees.

Common to both cars is a simple yet vibrant colour palette; the stark appeal of black and white, contrasting with a premium golden copper which brings elegance and warmth to the crossover.

Qashqai Premium Concept Using a contemporary matt black as its

dominant colour, the Qashqai Premium Concept cleverly blends design, colour and new materials. High quality premium golden points on the body shell - on the wheel arches, around the window line, in the headlamp clusette of the exterior. It is further highlighted by the authentic carbon fibre used in lower sections, as well as the bold technical detail of the machined 20-inch wheels. The bumpers and side sills add an overall feeling of sporting performance and integrated quality. The enhanced 'V-motion' grille gives purpose to the car's nose, and is a bold design statement about its premium positioning.

The interior of the Qashqai redefines premium quality in the compact crossover segment, using soft white Nappa leather upholstery, which is usually found in luxury cars, with quilting finish on the central section of seat back and base. The expression of quality is further enhanced by the use of a unique premium golden copper gold weave carbon fibre throughout the interior, with a striking black satin chrome and liquid gloss black on the steering wheel and gear shifter.

X-Trail Premium Concept

In stark contrast to its sibling, the X-Trail Premium Concept uses a matt white paint as its

copper-coloured detailing accentuates various main colour. The bonnet and roof are crafted with deep black matt carbon fibre, giving the car a truly premium yet tough feeling, as well ters and on the roof rails - and contrasts sharply as a lightweight impression. The high contrast with the black to enhance the dynamic silhou- of the white and black emphasises the line which starts from the 'V-motion' grille and continues through the bonnet and side to the rear of the car. This contrast also reflects the rugged 'go-anywhere' nature of the adventurous X-Trail. The premium golden copper colour is featured on the front skid plate - drawing the viewer's eye towards it, to enhance the feeling of protection - and on the 20-inch wheels. The body claddings and over fenders are painted in gloss black, a sophisticated touch which lifts the X-Trail beyond other adventure-oriented crossovers.

The interior upholstery is premium leather, with a natural tan and black colour scheme that reflects the car's appeal to adventurous customers. The seats are tailored in a combination of premium leathers; tan coloured leather with a 'cloud effect' design on the head rest and seat sides, plus Ultrasuede(r) accentuated with gold pearl leather piping on the central section of seat back and base. On the dashboard and door trim, black carbon fibre finishing and matt chrome black are used, giving the interior space a premium sports appeal.

News

in brief

US dollar edges up against KD to 0.300

KUWAIT: The exchange rate of the US dollar against the Kuwaiti dinar rose to KD 0.300, while the euro went down to KD 0.328 compared to the exchange rates for Wednesday, said a statement by the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) yesterday. According to the CBK, the exchange rate of the Sterling pound was down to KD 0.416 and the Swiss franc remained stable at KD 0.301. Exchange rate of the Japanese Yen remained the same at KD 0.002.

Saudi CB plans got-backed mortgage scheme

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia's central bank plans to launch an "affordable mortgage" program to finance residential real estate purchases by Saudi citizens, it said in a statement yesterday. The central bank said it had completed coordination with the ministries of housing and finance to develop the scheme. It did not specify when the program would start or give details of its size or eligibility requirements. Under the scheme, home buyers would be responsible for an advance payment of 15 percent of the property's value. Commercial banks would supply a further 70 percent, as well as an additional 15 percent that would be guaranteed by the Ministry

AL-TIJARI ANNOUNCES winners of Najma Account

KUWAIT: Commercial Bank of Kuwait held the Al-Najma Account draw on February 28, 2016.

The draw was held under the supervision of the Ministry of Commerce & Industry represented by Abdulaziz Ashkanani.

The winners of the Al-Najma daily draw are:

Naser Helmi Othman — KD 7000, Fagaz Ahmed Yousef — KD 7000, Hameed Abbas Dashti— KD 7000, Saeida Hadi Al-

Al-Najma awards are now brighter and bigger than ever. With the revamped Al Najma account, all your dreams will be turned to reality. On top of offering the highest daily prize in Kuwait for KD 7,000, now our Mega prize draws got bigger to reach KD 250,000.

The new prizes scheme for AlNajma account; daily draw to win KD 7000.

Quarterly draws to win great prizes that would start from KD 100,000 to KD 250,000

With Al-Najma you have more chance to win greater prizes * Each KD 25 kept in your account gives you one chance to

* Each KD 25 kept in your account for one week will give you a chance to enter the daily draw.

- * Each KD 25 kept in your account for 3 months will give you chance to enter the quarterly draw.
 - Additional features
 - * ATM card * Issue a credit card against your account
 - * Obtain all CBK banking services
- You deserve to win! Open an account now with just KD 500 and you will enter all draws.

EXCHANGE RATES

AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

ASIAN COUNTRIES
25.562
4.394
2.865
2.087
2.741
214.230
38.655
3.826
6.303
8.430

	GCC COUNTRIES
Saudi Riyal	80.136
Qatari Riyal	82.548
Omani Riyal	780.535
Bahraini Dinar	798.060
UAE Dirham	81.817

ARAB COUNTRIES

Egyptian Pound - Cash	35.250
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	38.423
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.402
Tunisian Dinar	148.320
Jordanian Dinar	423.540
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	2.002
Syrian Lira	2.142
Morocco Dirham	31.124

JNTRIES

EUROPEAN	& AMERICAN COU
US Dollar Transfer	300.350
Euro	332.190
Sterling Pound	421.240
Canadian dollar	218.360
Turkish lira	102.510
Swiss Franc	304.000
Australian Dollar	217.450
US Dollar Buying	299.150

	GOLD
20 Gram	244.530
10 Gram	125.190
5 Gram	63.440

UAE EXCHANGE CENTRE WLL

CURRENCIES	TELEX TRANSFER PER 100
Australian Dollar	201.91
Canadian Dollar	219.82
Swiss Franc	306.95
Euro	336.85
US Dollar	299.90
Sterling Pound	431.04
Japanese Yen	2.67
Bangladesh Taka	3.817
Indian Rupee	4.375
Sri Lankan Rupee	2.083
Nepali Rupee	2.732
Pakistani Rupee	2.860
UAE Dirhams	0.08161
Bahraini Dinar	0.7970
Egyptian Pound	0.03819
Jordanian Dinar	0.4265
Omani Riyal	0.7788
Qatari Riyal	0.08269
Saudi Rival	0.07994

DOLLARCO EXCHANGE CO. LTD

Rate for Transfer	Selling Rate
US Dollar	301.400
Canadian Dollar	224.990
Sterling Pound	418.805
Euro	330.790
Swiss Frank	301.485
Bahrain Dinar	797.355
UAE Dirhams	82.300
Qatari Riyals	83.510

Saudi Riyals	81.050
Jordanian Dinar	424.580
Egyptian Pound	38.380
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.086
Indian Rupees	4.386
Pakistani Rupees	2.874
Bangladesh Taka	3.834
Philippines Pesso	6.327
Cyprus pound	574.065
Japanese Yen	3.640
Syrian Pound	2.370
Nepalese Rupees	3.735
Malaysian Ringgit	72.525
Chinese Yuan Renminbi	46.435
Thai Bhat	9.400
Turkish Lira	100.970

BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY

DAITRAIN	LACITANGE CO	JIMITAINI
CURRENCY	BUY Europe	SELL
British Pound	0.412557	0.421527
Czech Korune	0.004304	0.016304
Danish Krone	0.040577	0.045577
Euro	0.324894	0.332894
Norwegian Krone	0.030991	0.036191
Romanian Leu	0.086386	0.086383
Slovakia	0.008948	0.018948
Swedish Krona	0.031512	0.036512
Swiss Franc	0.295960	0.306160
Turkish Lira	0.097094	0.107394
	Australasia	
Australian Dollar	0.206972	0.218472
New Zealand Dollar	0.193949	0.203449
	America	
Canadian Dollar	0.217721	0.226221
US Dollars	0.297050	0.301550

US Dollars Mint	0.297550	0.301550
	Asia	
Bangladesh Taka	0.003451	0.004051
Chinese Yuan	0.044581	0.048081
Hong Kong Dollar	0.036755	0.039505
Indian Rupee	0.004192	0.004582
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000018	0.000024
Japanese Yen	0.002590	0.002770
Kenyan Shilling	0.003013	0.003013
Korean Won	0.000234	0.000249
Malaysian Ringgit	0.067878	0.073878
Nepalese Rupee	0.002854	0.003024
Pakistan Rupee	0.002722	0.003002
Philippine Peso	0.006245	0.006525
Sierra Leone	0.000067	0.000073
Singapore Dollar	0.211868	0.217868
South African Rand	0.013371	0.021871
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001742	0.002322
Taiwan	0.008950	0.009130
Thai Baht	0.008125	0.008675
	Arab	
Bahraini Dinar	0.791921	0.799921
Egyptian Pound	0.033558	0.037854
Iranian Riyal		
	0.000083	0.000084
Iraqi Dinar	0.000083 0.000196	0.000084 0.000256
Iraqi Dinar	0.000196	0.000256
Iraqi Dinar Jordanian Dinar Kuwaiti Dinar Lebanese Pound	0.000196 0.420738	0.000256 0.428238
Iraqi Dinar Jordanian Dinar Kuwaiti Dinar	0.000196 0.420738 1.000000	0.000256 0.428238 1.000000
Iraqi Dinar Jordanian Dinar Kuwaiti Dinar Lebanese Pound	0.000196 0.420738 1.000000 0.000150	0.000256 0.428238 1.000000 0.000250
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Iraqi Dinar Jordanian Dinar Kuwaiti Dinar Lebanese Pound Moroccan Dirhams Nigerian Naira	0.000196 0.420738 1.000000 0.000150 0.020481 0.001239	0.000256 0.428238 1.000000 0.000250 0.044481 0.001874
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Iraqi Dinar Jordanian Dinar Kuwaiti Dinar Lebanese Pound Moroccan Dirhams Nigerian Naira Omani Riyal Qatar Riyal Saudi Riyal Syrian Pound	0.000196 0.420738 1.000000 0.000150 0.020481 0.001239 0.775788 0.082007	0.000256 0.428238 1.000000 0.000250 0.044481 0.001874 0.781468 0.083220
Iraqi Dinar Jordanian Dinar Kuwaiti Dinar Lebanese Pound Moroccan Dirhams Nigerian Naira Omani Riyal Qatar Riyal Saudi Riyal	0.000196 0.420738 1.000000 0.000150 0.020481 0.001239 0.775788 0.082007 0.079420	0.000256 0.428238 1.000000 0.000250 0.044481 0.001874 0.781468 0.083220 0.080370
Iraqi Dinar Jordanian Dinar Kuwaiti Dinar Lebanese Pound Moroccan Dirhams Nigerian Naira Omani Riyal Qatar Riyal Saudi Riyal Syrian Pound	0.000196 0.420738 1.000000 0.000150 0.020481 0.001239 0.775788 0.082007 0.079420 0.001276	0.000256 0.428238 1.000000 0.000250 0.044481 0.001874 0.781468 0.083220 0.080370 0.001496
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Iraqi Dinar Jordanian Dinar Kuwaiti Dinar Lebanese Pound Moroccan Dirhams Nigerian Naira Omani Riyal Qatar Riyal Saudi Riyal Syrian Pound Tunisian Dinar Turkish Lira	0.000196 0.420738 1.000000 0.000150 0.020481 0.001239 0.775788 0.082007 0.079420 0.001276 0.145602 0.097094	0.000256 0.428238 1.000000 0.000250 0.044481 0.001874 0.781468 0.083220 0.080370 0.001496 0.153602 0.107160





The new-generation Mercedes-Benz A-Class

Mercedes AMG A 45 4MATIC, world's most powerful mid-sized sports model

KUWAIT: The new-generation Mercedes-Benz A-Class has arrived in Kuwait, and will be available at A R Albisher & Z Alkazemi Co's Showroom. Reconciling the conflicting aims of sporty performance and enhanced comfort, Mercedes Benz has increased the range of available engines with an A 250 that produces a peak output of 155 kW (211 hp) and maximum torque of 350 Nm.

With its dramatic design in the style of the successful MERCEDES AMG PETRONAS Formula 1 team, the special "Motorsport Edition" model will particularly appeal to racing fans. The MercedesAMG A 45 4MATIC also benefits from the model update. With a peak output of 280 kW (381 hp) and maximum torque of 475 Nm, the entry-level model from Mercedes-AMG is the world's most powerful mid-sized sports model. The revised gear ratios, aerodynamic fine-tuning and the new DYNAMIC SELECT driving modes raise overall performance to a higher level, underlining the claim to leadership in this market segment.

'The A-Class has been a favourite compactdrive since it was first launched, and this new generation model is set to enjoy even more appeal. Its attractive exterior is complemented by a solid, fun and astonishingly quiet performance, with a myriad of technological options that will enthuse and delight both drivers and passengers. We encourage our Mercedes-Benz aficionados to visit our showroom and see the A-Class on display to understand just how much this dynamic vehicle offers," said Michael Ruehle, CEO, A.R.Albisher & Z.Alkazemi Co.

The chassis: comfort at the touch of a button

With DYNAMIC SELECT the vehicle characteristics can be adjusted in seconds at the touch of a button to the four driving modes "Comfort", "Sport", "Eco" and "Individual". DYNAMIC SELECT allows a particularly broad range of setting options in combination with the new suspension with adaptive damping (optional extra). In this case the driver is able to modify the vehicle's damping characteristics using the DYNAMIC SELECT Switch. There is a choice between Comfort mode with comfortable damping characteristics and Sport mode for a sporty and more taut damper set-up. A proportional valve is actuated electronically at each shock absorber to control the oil flow and therefore the damping characteristics.

The design: dynamically curved surfaces and a fresh ambience.

Striking lines, dynamically curved surfaces and coupe-like window lines characterise the exterior of the A-Class, following the design philosophy of sensual purity. With a diamond grille, new LED high performance headlamps (optional extra) and newly designed tail lamps with dual tailpipe trim integrated flush into the bumper,

the new generation emphasises the sportiness and dynamics of the successful midsized class model series. Apart from their distinctive look, the LED High Performance headlamps (standard for Mercedes-AMG A 45 4MATIC) offer additional safety at night thanks to their wide beam pattern, a light which has a colour similar to daylight and low energy consumption. On unlocking the vehicle, the driver is welcomed by the "coming home" function with its unusual light show. Ambient lighting, available on request, creates a unique and pleasant atmosphere inside the vehicle with twelve different colours which can be dimmed in five stages.

New colours and materials, as well as new finishes for the trim in the dashboard, ensure a fresh ambience. The A-Class is available in a fresh new "on-trend" colour elbaite green metallic.

New features include sahara beige / black leather in the Exclusive package and a new seat design with red or green highlights in the Style line.

The powertrain: engine range expanded

The Mercedes-AMG A 45 4MATIC also benefits from the model update. With a maximum output of 280 kW (381 hp) and a peak torque of 475 Nm, the entrylevel model from Mercedes-AMG is the world's most powerful mid-sized sports model. This power pack delivers a dynamic performance that is unrivalled: it accelerates from rest to 100 km/h in just 4.2 seconds. This means that the new Mercedes AMG A 45 takes 0.4 seconds less for this exercise than its predecessor.

Reassuring Safety

from the drowsiness detection system ATTEN-TION ASSIST to DISTRONIC PLUS distance control, the A-Class is able to give its driver comprehensive support and protection. For example, the standard COLLISION PREVENTION ASSIST PLUS extends the functions of the previous COL-LISION PREVENTION ASSIST (radar supported proximity warning and braking assistance by Adaptive Brake Assist) with autonomous partial braking to reduce the risk of rear-end collisions.

The drowsiness detection system ATTENTION ASSIST (standard) has been similarly upgraded: operating within an extended speed range (60 -200 km/h), it now uses a five-stage bar display to visualise the driver's current attention level.

The new generation Mercedes-Benz A-Class will be on display and available at A R Albisher & Z Alkazemi Co's Shuwaikh showroom.





ZAIN ACQUIRES STRATEGIC STAKE IN MOBILITY PROVIDER AND CONSULTANCY FIRM FOO

Lebanon-based digital player to fast-track Zain's services

BARCELONA/KUWAIT: Zain Group, a leading telecom innovator in eight markets announces a strategic investment in FOO, a

successful Lebanon-based entity offering a full spectrum of innovative end-to-end across the Middle East and Africa, mobility related services including digital strategic consultancy, user interface and



experience (UI- UX) design, app and web transforming the way people live their lives development solutions, digital marketing and incubation of startups.

Zain's partnership with FOO builds on the establishment of the Zain Digital Frontier and Innovation (ZDFI) business unit, which is charged with launching Zain into the digital space with the view to growing the company through innovative business streams that add to Zain's customer service offerings. ZDFI focuses on the areas of innovation; digital services; corporate venturing; and smart cities.

The partnership was announced at the Mobile World Congress in Barcelona at a signing ceremony attended by Zain Group Chairman Asaad Al-Banwan, Zain Group CEO Scott Gegenheimer, FOO Managing Partners Elie Nasr and Ghady Rayess, and senior executives from both Zain and FOO.

Commenting on the strategic stake in FOO, Zain Group CEO, Scott Gegenheimer said, "FOO is one of Lebanon's technology success stories and this strategic investment will fast-track and enhance Zain's delivery of innovative digital services to customers and enterprises."

Gegenheimer continued, "We believe in technology unlocking the potential of and and conduct their business. Given the coming together of the Internet of Things and the power of robust data applications, Zain plans to capitalize on its relationship with

Elie Nasr, Managing Partner of FOO commented, "Our vision is to become the leader in digital innovation and become our client's innovation partner. We believe the partnership with Zain will help us reach this goal. As a renowned mobile operator, Zain has proven itself to be a leading innovator in its own right, and we are sure there will be plenty of opportunities for us to leverage each other's experience in the

Zain is a leading telecommunications operator across the Middle East and Africa providing mobile voice and data services to over 45.6 million active customers as of 31 December, 2015. With a commercial presence in 8 countries, Zain operates in: Kuwait, Bahrain, Iraq, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Sudan and South Sudan. In Lebanon, the Group manages 'touch' on behalf of the government. In Morocco, Zain has a 15.5 percent stake in 'INWI', through a joint ven-

HARD TO FIND BREAD IN SHORTAGE-STRICKEN VENEZUELA

CARACAS: At a popular east Caracas bakery, customers can buy Spanish olive oil, Italian tomato sauce and even American chocolates. But bread? Forget it. Cardboard signs on the door warning of "No bread" have become increasingly common at Venezuelan bakeries.

Venezuela gets 96 percent of its foreign currency from oil exports, and as crude prices have plunged, so have the country's imports-among them wheat. The leftist government of President Nicolas Maduro has tightly controlled access to hard currency, and this has affected imports ranging from medicine to toilet paper. Now it is seriously affecting imports of wheat, which Venezuela does not grow.

Add to this the soaring inflation rate — 181 percent in 2015, the world's highest-and you see why customers are mainly interested in buying basic food items such as bread.

The few bakeries that can still get a hold of a 50-kilogram (110-pound) sack of flour to make bread limit their sales to just two "canillas"-thin half-baguettes-per person three times

Customers line up for bread in the morning, at noon and in the evening. "Our ovens are off," baker Freddy Vilet told AFP. His store has crackers, sausages and ham for sale, but no bread. He doesn't even have hamburger or hot dog bread. Rosa Perez, who manages a bakery in the tony Chacao district, said that her store is working at about 30 percent capacity. "With the little flour that we have, we make cachitos (bread filled with ham and cheese) and pizzas. We sell them at a higher price and that helps compensate our losses," she said.

Wheat mills closed

Venezuela appears to have reached a critical point in its flour shortage. "We are truly worried about the wheat mills being paralyzed," Federation of Flour Workers chief Juan Crespo said. Five of Venezuela's 12 wheat mills, which employ some 12,000 people, have closed, Crespo said. The remaining mills employ another 8,000 people. An industrialist who requested anonymity said there is currently "only enough wheat for the next 12 days."

He said he was happy that the government is looking into making more hard currency available and possibly approving new shipments. The government is sending state-bought consumables "so that industries do not close down, but the lack of foreign currency will impact the food inventories," he said. The government recently announced that 170,000 tons of wheat would arrive in March, enough to cover demand for one month and guarantee inventory for another 30 days.

Who to blame?

After visiting four bakeries in a quest to buy two "canillas," an angry 71-year-old Francesco Angelastro declared that buying bread has become an "ordeal." In Catia, west of Caracas, the 4F bakery-a reference to the late ex-president Hugo Chavez's February 4, 1992 attempted coup-sells state-subsidized bread. But customers complain that the prices have just gone up, and are closer to prices found in privately-run bakeries. For Luis Rondon, 86, who has been in a bread line for two hours in his quest to buy two loaves of rustic bread, the culprits are the rich businessmen. He blames President Nicolas Maduro for the scarcity and rising prices "for not setting the businessmen straight."— AFP

GE GETS SUBPOENA **OVER SUBPRIME** MORTGAGE BUSINESS

NEW YORK: General Electric says the US Department of Justice has subpoenaed the company as part of an industrywide investigation into subprime mortgage lending prior to the housing bust.

According to a filing the industrial conglomerate made Friday, federal prosecutors are examining potential violations by GE's WMC mortgage lending business from 2005 to 2007. The company says it received the subpoenas in January and will cooperate with the investigation, which it says is "at an early

WMC specialized in making loans to consumers with less-than-perfect credit scores. GE sold the business in 2007 after the collapse of the US housing

In the last year, Fairfield, Connecticut-based GE has been focusing on selling off most of its finance and lending operations to refocus on its industrial businesses. — AP



PARIS: People visit the "Salon de l'Agriculture" (Agriculture Fair) in Paris yesterday. — AFP

GLOBAL ECONOMY WEEK AHEAD

AFTER G20 STALEMATE, FOCUS TURNS TO SIGNS OF GROWTH

LONDON: Investors worried about the risk of a new global recession are hoping that data over the coming week will show that some momentum remains in the world economy, eight years into its slow recovery from the financial crisis. The Group of 20 economies were unable to agree on a joint push for new stimulus measures at a meeting which ended on Saturday, turning attention instead to upcoming business surveys from China, Japan, Europe the United States.

Central banks in Europe and Japan may inject a little more stimulus into their

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economies later in March. But the Federal Reserve and the Bank of England look likely to sit tight for now, meaning hopes for a period of calm in the world's volatile financial markets lie largely with the indicators.

"It seems economic data will have to bear the burden of stabilizing sentiment," economists at Barclays said in a note to clients on Friday. A first reading of inflation in February for the euro zone on Monday will help shape expectations of how much further below zero the European Central Bank is likely to push its deposit rate the following week.

Eurozone inflation picked up in January but is expected to have fallen back to zero in February, according to a Reuters poll of economists. If there is also a weakening of the monthly purchasing manager indexes for Germany and other leading euro zone countries, the ECB may consider increasing its bond-buying program as well as cutting rates on March 10.

"There is a growing chance that the ECB will do more at its March meeting than simply lowering its deposit rate," Ralph Solveen, an economist at Commerzbank, said. US payrolls figures on Friday may help ease fears about the world's biggest economy, which appeared to stumble soon after the Federal Reserve felt confident enough to hike interest rates for the first time in nearly a decade in December.

Solid US job growth and pay growth are seen as the best antidote to the upheaval in global financial markets which has hurt confidence and even raised questions about whether the United States was heading back into recession. Markets have turned calmer in recent days, helped by stronger-thanexpected US inflation figures. But the impact of plunging share prices has shaken the confidence of many households and businesses in rich countries.

Economists at Citi have cut their forecast for global economic growth this year to 2.5 percent from 2.7 percent due to slowing activity in developed economies. They said growth could come in below 2 percent-equivalent to a global recession- because of the chance of weaker growth among emerging economies. Bank of England Governor Mark Carney said on Friday that the global economy risked becoming "trapped in a low growth, low inflation, low interest rate equilibrium."

Political risks are also on the rise. Businessman Donald Trump could

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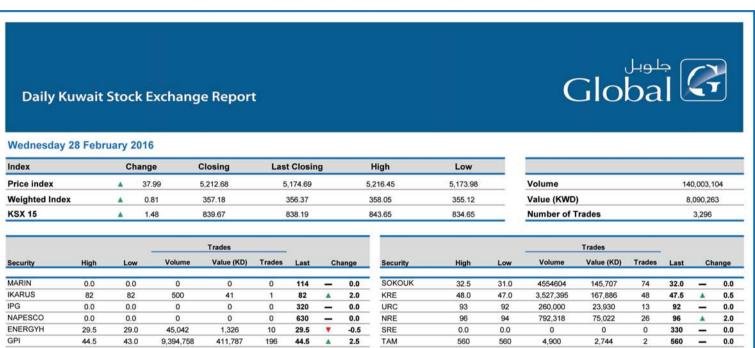
5.65

extend his lead as the front-runner to be the Republican contender for the US presidency on Tuesday when voters in 11 US states choose among the candidates. The idea of Trump in the White House is a worrying one for some investors who balk at his populist, unpredictable style.

Politics is becoming a factor in Britain, too. With a referendum now set for June 23 on its membership of the European Union, sterling has touched seven-year lows against the U.S. dollar. A decision to leave the EU could hurt growth more in Europe as well as Britain, economists

Most opinion polls have shown the two campaigns running neck and neck although one published on Friday gave the 'out' campaign a four percentagepoint lead. More polls are likely in the coming days. Economists at SocGen said they saw the possibility of a so-called Brexit as their top risk for the global economy, topping the chance of a severe economic slowdown in China.

"We would classify a UK exit from the EU as a powerful geopolitical shock, a negative shock," Italian Finance Minister Pier Carlo Padoan said at the G20 meetings in Shanghai on Saturday, echoing the concerns of other policymakers. — Reuters



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Price index Weighted Index	,		7.99	5,212.68 357.18		356.37			5,216.45 358.05	5,173.98 355.12		Value (KWD)				,090,26	
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-				Trades									Trades				
Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last	С	hange	Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last	Ch	ange
MARIN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	114	-	0.0	SOKOUK	32.5	31.0	4554604	145,707	74	32.0	-	0.0
IKARUS	0.0	0.0	500	41 0	0	82 320	_	0.0	URC	48.0 93	47.0 92	3,527,395 260,000	167,886 23,930	48 13	47.5 92	_	0.5
NAPESCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	630	-	0.0	NRE	96	94	792,318	75,022	26	96	A	2.0
GPI	29.5 44.5	29.0 43.0	45,042 9,394,758	1,326 411,787	10 196	29.5 44.5	¥	-0.5 2.5	TAM	0.0 560	0.0 560	4,900	0 2,744	2	330 560	=	0.0
ABAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	118	_	0.0	AREEC	140	132	1,189	161	2	140	A	2.0
Oil & Gas			9,440,300	413,155	207	760.72		7.43	MASSALEH ARABREC	54 29.0	54 29.0	10,000 1,176,619	540 34,122	23	54 29.0	_	-5.0 0.0
KFOUC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	210	-	0.0	ERESCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	52	_	0.0
BPCC ALKOUT	445 0.0	445 0.0	40,750	18,134 0	0	445 610	*	-5.0 0.0	MABANEE	860 0.0	850 0.0	167,660 0	142,541	13	850 80	*	-10.0 0.0
ALQURAIN	174	174	138,574	24,112	9	174	Ξ	0.0	INVESTORS	20.5	20.0	10,377,473	209,898	112	20.0	=	0.0
Basic Materials			179,324	42,246	11	887.89	7	-3.36	IRC ALTIJARIA	26.5 77	25.5 77	1,817,843 89,200	47,078 6,868	48 5	26.0 77	A .	1.0
KCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	365	_	0.0	SANAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	42.0	_	0.0
REFRI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	320	-	0.0	AAYANRE	65	64	660,267	42,812	20	65	A	2.0
CABLE	340 144	340 144	2,500 12,200	850 1,757	1	340 144	-	0.0 -2.0	ALAQARIA	0.0 22.0	0.0 19.5	7,258	0 155	2	75 19.5	·	-1.0
PCEM	1,060	1,060	116,950	123,967	5	1,060	-	0.0	MAZAYA	106	104	127,193	13,228	11	104	-	0.0
PAPER MRC	420 0.0	420 0.0	450 0	189	0	420 57	=	0.0	ADNC THEMAR	0.0	19.0	10,294,996	201,716	105	20.0	_	0.5
ACICO	265	265	560	148	3	265	*	-15.0	TIJARA	38.5	38.0	47,520	1,806	3	38.0	*	-1.5
GGMC HCC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	470 134	=	0.0	TAAMEER	20.5	20.0	644,300	13,037	0	20.5 85	_	0.5
KPAK	325	320	8,497	2,723	4	325		-15.0	ARGAN	186	186	250	47	1	186	A	4.0
KBMMC NICBM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	250 230	=	0.0	ABYAAR MUNSHAAT	25.5 47.0	24.0 45.5	419,257 1,966,200	10,358 90,823	19 57	25.0 46.0	*	0.5 -0.5
EQUIPMENT	52	51	390,020	19,891	10	52	A	1.0	FIRSTDUBAI	40.5	38.5	1,802,489	71,207	62	40.5	A	2.5
NCCI GYPSUM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	99 102	=	0.0	KBT REAM	41.5 166	40.5 166	3,498,981 80,000	143,668 13,280	75 1	41.0 166	A	1.0 -10.0
SALBOOKH	70	66	163,000	11,013	12	70	_	3.0	MENA	19.5	19.5	61,500	1,199	4	19.5	A	0.5
AGLTY EDU	430 210	425 210	68,984 10	29,323 2	10	425 210	_	0.0 10.0	ALMUDON MARAKEZ	31.0 32.5	29.0 29.0	1,108,107 5,700	32,972 167	29 4	30.0 29.0	A	0.5 -2.5
CLEANING	38.5	38.0	750,000	28,709	26	38.5	Â	0.5	REMAL	30.5	30.5	356,015	10,858	17	30.5	<u>-</u>	0.0
CITYGROUP KGL	0.0 42.5	0.0 41.5	0 474,650	0 19,989	0 27	460 41.5	_	0.0	MASHAER Real Estate	0.0	0.0	0 43,859,234	1,503,830	0 801	100 824.87	_	0.0
KCPC	0.0	0.0	0	19,989	0	210	_	0.0	itear Estate			40,000,234	1,003,030	001	JE4.0/	A	0.70
HUMANSOFT NAFAIS	750 136	750 136	8	6	1 2	750 136	_	0.0	KINV FACIL	90 174	90 172	7,430	669 5.091	2 5	90 174	-	0.0 -2.0
SAFWAN	0.0	0.0	15,000	2,040	0	136 300	=	0.0	IFA	28.0	26.5	29,600 4,501,191	5,091 122,127	95	28.0	A	2.0
GFC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	31.0	_	0.0	NINV	78	77	1,258,537	97,376	39	78	-	0.0
MAYADEEN	18.5 790	17.5 790	6,041,359 1,989	109,018	99	18.5 790	_	0.0	COAST	550 37.0	540 36.0	110,338 1,442,173	59,993 52,441	10 33	550 36.5	·	0.0 -0.5
мтсс	73	72	343,000	24,838	13	73	A	1.0	SECH	37.5	36.0	4,266,233	156,191	68	37.5	A	1.5
UPAC	650 198	650 194	5,207 26,436	3,385 5,186	7	650 194	A	50.0 -4.0	SGC	82 32.5	82 31.5	1,601 247,400	131 7,923	11	82 32.5	_	2.0
MUBARRAD	62	60	1,306,050	79,472	56	61	A	1.0	MARKAZ	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	85	_	0.0
LOGISTICS	63 0.0	58 0.0	2,045,912	125,406	34 0	63 84	<u> </u>	3.0 0.0	ALAMAN	28.0 58	27.0 57	44,750 872,150	1,226 49,729	19 33	27.0 58	¥	-0.5 2.0
GCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	77	-	0.0	ALOLA	46.0	45.0	539,964	24,539	26	46.0	A	1.0
QCEM FCEM	73	0.0 72	0 180,000	0 12,970	3	65 72	_	0.0 -1.0	ALMAL	35.5 23.5	34.5 22.0	3,850,930 5,614,140	135,911 128,362	64 98	34.5 23.5	¥	-0.5 2.5
RKWC	100	99	20,000	1,990	2	100	A	5.0	AAYAN	42.0	41.0	28,010	1,148	2	42.0	A	1.0
SPEC Industrials	85	85	50 11,972,832	604,449	323	85 969.97	A	7.05	BAYANINV	32.5 0.0	32.0 0.0	1,669,620	53,615 0	36 0	32.0 34.5	_	0.5
					1,555/1		- trad		KFIC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	32.0	-	0.0
KSH NSH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	204 64	=	0.0	KAMCO	0.0 47.0	0.0 45.0	3,500	0 161	5	106 47.0	_	0.0 2.5
PAPCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	112	Ξ	0.0	ISKAN	27.0	26.0	1,961,007	51,902	34	26.5	Ā	0.5
CATTL DANAH	0.0 71	0.0 70	0 56,900	0 3,989	0 5	122 70	=	0.0	MADAR ALDEERA	0.0 31.0	0.0 29.5	0 1,145,946	0 34,449	0 48	20.5 31.0	_	0.0 2.0
POULT	200	190	1,400	270	3	200	_	2.0	ALSALAM	31.5	30.5	1,664,876	51,521	37	31.5	Ā	1.5
FOOD Consumer Goods	2,220	2,140	2,940 61,240	6,375 10,634	7 15	2,220 1071.01	A	80.0 12.56	ALMADINA	29.0 31.5	28.0 30.5	2,787,379 2,259,664	80,350 69,909	47 49	28.5 31.0	A	1.0
Consumer Coous	0		01,240	10,004	10	1071.01	-	12.00	NOOR	47.5	47.5	10,000	475	1	47.5	Ā	1.5
MHC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	210 920	=	0	TAMINV EXCH	405 0.0	385 0.0	1,100	444 0	0	405 130	<u> </u>	5.0 0.0
YIACO	238	218	70,000	16,260	4	218	*	-10	TAIBA	75	75	10,000	750	1	75	=	0.0
Health Care			70,000	16,260	4	1009.37		-7.18	KSHC STRATEGIA	35.0	34.5	459,900 0	15,924 0	18	34.5	*	-0.5
KCIN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	1,120	_	0	ASIYA	0.0 37.0	0.0 37.0	36,890	1,365	4	34.0 37.0	_	0.0 -1.0
KHOT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	210	-	0	GNAHC	30.5	30.5	1,740,311	53,079	41	30.5	-	0.0
SULTAN	67 0.0	62 0.0	56,500 0	3,664 0	9	62 24.5	_	-1 0	AMWAL	20.0 75	19.5 75	47,600 610,000	933 45,750	7	20.0 75	_	0.0
EYAS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	385	-	0	MANAZEL	19.0	18.5	1,637,000	30,687	28	19.0	-	0.0
OULAFUEL	172 112	172 110	123 6,049	21 666	8	172	_	10	BIIHC	116 30.5	114 28.0	117,176 12,761,380	13,358 377,699	9 165	116 29.0	A	1.0
MUNTAZAHAT	92	92	142	13	2	92	A	4	SENERGY	9.5	8.5	1,172,300	10,549	24	9.5	A	0.5
JAZEERA SOOR	840 118	810 114	118,114 125,337	96,032 14,304	11 25	830 114	=	0	AGHC KPPC	60 51	58 51	722,750 150,936	42,374 7,698	30 5	58 51	¥	-1.0 1.0
FUTUREKID	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	110	=	0	TAHSSILAT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	47.0	-	0.0
ALNAWADI	0.0	0.0	10	0	0	84 144	_	0	JEERANH EKHOLDING	67 128	64 126	1,000 126,501	66 16,129	3 15	67 128	<u> </u>	3.0 0.0
ZIMAH	100	97	1,672,995	164,636	105	99	Ā	3	GFH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	54	-	0.0
UFIG KOUTFOOD	600	0.0 580	0 34,544	0 20,237	9	96 580	_	10	Financial Service	50	49.5	148,700 54,059,983	7,401 1,809,443	1,123	50 552.41	A	0.5 7.79
Mezzan	1,040	1,020	526,470	547,499	11	1,040	A	20					.,,,	1,120			
Consumer Service	es		2,540,284	847,074	182	969.18	A	10.08	Investment Instru	uments		0	0	0	1081.97	_	0.00
ZAIN	360	355	1,889,444	679,242	61	360		5	ASC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	295	_	0.0
OOREDOO HITSTELEC	1,180 29.5	1,180 28.5	2,221	2,621 104,624	3 45	1,180 29.5	-	0 2	OSOS FUTURE	95 110	94 110	10 5	1	2	94 110	A	1.0
VIVA	960	28.5 940	3,572,814 100,862	104,624 95,732	102	29.5 960	A	10	HAYATCOMM	49.0	45.0	5 605,588	1 28,240	27	48.5	A	2.0
Telecommunication	ons		5,565,341	882,218	211	601.27	A	8.33	Technology			605,603	28,242	30	877.38	A	19.47
NBK	740	730	363,100	265,065	16	730	_	0	BAREEQ	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	104	_	0.0
GBK	204	202	219,500	44,776	10	204	-	0	AFAQ	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	182	-	0.0
ABK	510 0.0	500 0.0	4,520 0	2,261 0	0	510 345	=	0	SAFRE	39.0	0.0 36.5	0 1,495,036	0 56,778	60	460 36.5	_	0.0 -2.5
ALMUTAHED	450	430	3,368	1,449	2	450		5	AJWAN	25.5	25.0	1,012,000	25,301	23	25.5	A	0.5
KIB BURG	194 340	192 335	833,748 277,440	161,347 94,306	13 9	194 340	A	5	MASAKEN DALQAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	69 350	_	0.0
KFIN	510	500	859,401	429,966	46	500	•	-10	ALEID	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	100	=	0.0
BOUBYAN	395 212	390 208	554,624 1,701,764	218,803 355,239	14 41	395 208	*	-2	MIDAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	1,220 50	=	0.0
ITHMR	32.0	31.0	3,361,390	106,510	61	31.5	¥	-1	THURAYA	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	140	_	0.0
WARBABANK Banks	178	176	805,358 8,984,213	143,324 1,823,047	69 284	178 811.82	_	0 -1.40	KCLINIC AMAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	27.0 63	=	0.0
			J,00-1,E13	.,020,041	2.54	3.1.02		1.40	Parallel Market	0.0	0.0	2,507,036	82,078	83	1249.75		-4.90
KINS	700	0.0 700	0	3 363	0	310	=	0									
GINS AINS	700 465	700 465	4,804 35,000	3,363 16,275	1	700 465	Ξ	0.0	-:								
WINS	116	110	54,500	6,046	8	114	-	0.0									
KUWAITRE	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	200	-	0.0									

	N	"-Fin	al Bai	l Mar	kets	it -	NBI NBI	
\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\			Daily I					
,						_		- 11
		Glo	bal Sto	ock In	dices		Daily	Yearly
Index	Previou	us Close	Last	Price	Cha	nge	Performance %	Performanc %
Dow Jones		97.29 32.21		0.47	57.32	Y	0.34	4.51
NASDAQ S&P 500	_	1.70		8.05	8.26 -3.65	A	-0.19	-8.33 -4.69
Financial Times	6,01	7.81	6,09	6.01	83.20	A	1.38	-2.34
DAX		1.48		3.30	181.82	A	1.95	-11.45
CAC 40 Swiss		18.45 14.05		7.03	66.12 82.98	A	1.56	-6.95 -10.67
Nikkei 225		40.34	16,18		48.07	A	0.30	-14.95
Topix		7.54		1.27	3.73	A	0.29	-16.55
Hang Seng		3.40		64.15	475.40	A	2.52	-11.64
Straits Times	2,60			9.38	45.98	_	1.77	-8.09
		ME	NA Sto	ock In	dices			
Index	Previou	us Close	Last	Price	Cha	nge	Daily Performance %	Yearly Performanc %
Kuwait	5,17	4.69	5,21	2.68	37.99	À	0.73	-8.51
Saudi Arabia		5.94		8.95	103.01	A	1.72	-13.54
Dubai Abu Dhabi		1.18	3,17 4,27	6.63	52.56 24.51	A	1.68 0.58	-0.85 -1.30
Abu Dhabi Bahrain		2.30		2.30	0.00	_	0.00	-1.30
Qatar		7.36	9,95		112.35	A	1.14	-5.58
Опіан		8.34		3.56	-4.78	•	-0.09	-0.33
Lebanon		57.28 5.45	1,15 2,11	7.90	-9.37	Y	-0.80	-0.19
Jordan Egypt		9.13		4.46	-0.20 65.33	V	-0.01 1.07	-0.98 13.23
Morocco	9,07	77.19	9,00	4.26	-72.93	•	-0.80	1.70
Tunisia	5,25	1.92	5,27	0.93	19.01	A	0.36	4.16
	Glob	oal Cu	rrenci	es Exc	change	Rate		
Currency	Kuwaiti	Saudi Riyal	US Dollar	Euro	Sterling Pound	Swiss Franc	Japanese Yen	Australian
Kuwait Dinar		12.3724	3.3129	3.0285	2.3872	3.3006	377.64	4.6445
Saudi Riyal	0.08083		0.2678	0.2448	0.1929	0.2668	30.52	0.3754
US Dollar Euro	0.30185	3.7346 4.0853	1.0939	0.9142	0.7206	1.0900	113.99	1.4019
Sterling Pound	0.41891	5.1829	1.3878	1.2687	017002	1.3812	157.98	1.9449
Swiss Franc	0.30297	3.7485	1.0037	0.9174	0.7240		114.40	1.4071
Japanese Yen	0.00265	0.0328	0.0088	0.0080	0.0063	0.008/	0.1.0.1	0.0123
Australian Dollar	0.21531	2.6639	0.7133	0.6514	0.5142	0.7107	81.31	
	MEN		rencie	Telephone Contract		10.000		F 11
Currency	US Dollar	Kuwaiti Dollar	Saudi Riyal	Bahraini Dinar	Qatari Riyal	Omani Riyal	Emirates Dirham	Egyptian Pound
US Dollar		0.30185	3.7346	0.3740	3.6265	0.3831	3.6571	7.7201
Kuwaiti Dinar Saudi Riyal	3.3129 0.2678	0.09092	12.3724	1.2391 0.1001	12.0142 0.9711	1.2692 0.1026	12.1156	25.5759
Juuui Riyal	0.2070	0.08083		V. 1001	. 11.71	0.1020	0.9792	2.00/2
Bahraini Dinar	2.6737	0.80704	9.9850		9.6960	1.0243	9.7778	20.6409
The second second	2.6737 0.2757	0.80704 0.08323	9.9850 1.0298	0.1031		1.0243 0.1056	9.7778 1.0084	20.6409 2.1288
Bahraini Dinar Qatari Riyal Omani Riyal	0.2757 2.6101	0.08323 0.78787	1.0298 9.7479	0.9762	9.6960 9.4657	0.1056		2.1288 20.1506
Bahraini Dinar Qatari Riyal Omani Riyal Emirates Dirham	0.2757 2.6101 0.2734	0.08323 0.78787 0.00254	1.0298 9.7479 1.0212	0.9762 0.1023	9.6960 9.4657 0.9916	0.1056	1.0084 9.5456	2.1288
Bahraini Dinar Qatari Riyal Omani Riyal	0.2757 2.6101	0.08323 0.78787 0.08254 0.03910	1.0298 9.7479 1.0212 0.4838	0.9762 0.1023 0.0484	9.6960 9.4657 0.9916 0.4697	0.1056	1.0084	2.1288 20.1506
Bahraini Dinar Qatari Riyal Omani Riyal Emirates Dirham Egyptian Pound	0.2757 2.6101 0.2734 0.1295	0.08323 0.78787 0.08254 0.03910	1.0298 9.7479 1.0212 0.4838	0.9762 0.1023 0.0484 erest	9.6960 9.4657 0.9916 0.4697 Rates	0.1056 0.1048 0.0496	1.0084 9.5456 0.4737	2.1288 20.1506 2.1110
Bahraini Dinar Qatari Riyal Omani Riyal Emirates Dirham	0.2757 2.6101 0.2734	0.08323 0.78787 0.08254 0.03910	1.0298 9.7479 1.0212 0.4838	0.9762 0.1023 0.0484 erest	9.6960 9.4657 0.9916 0.4697 Rates	0.1056	1.0084 9.5456 0.4737	2.1288 20.1506
Bahraini Dinar Qatari Riyal Omani Riyal Emirates Dirham Egyptian Pound	0.2757 2.6101 0.2734 0.1295	0.08323 0.78787 0.08254 0.03910 G[o]	1.0298 9.7479 1.0212 0.4838 Dal Int	0.9762 0.1023 0.0484 erest	9.6960 9.4657 0.9916 0.4697 Rates 6-M	0.1056 0.1048 0.0496	1.0084 9.5456 0.4737	2.1288 20.1506 2.1110
Bahraini Dinar Qatari Riyal Omani Riyal Emirates Dirham Egyptian Pound Currency Kuwaiti Dinar US Dollar	0.2757 2.6101 0.2734 0.1295 1-Week 0.00 0.39 -0.28	0.08323 0.78787 0.08254 0.03910 G[o] 1-Month 1.19 0.43 -0.26	1.0298 9.7479 1.0212 0.4838 Dal Int	0.9762 0.1023 0.0484 erest onth 44 63	9.6960 9.4657 0.9916 0.4697 Rates 6-M 1. 0.	0.1056 0.1048 0.0496 0.0496	1.0084 9.5456 0.4737	2.1288 20.1506 2.1110 /ear 94 16
Bahraini Dinar Qatari Riyal Omani Riyal Emirates Dirham Egyptian Pound Currency Kuwaiti Dinar US Dollar Euro Sterling Pound	0.2757 2.6101 0.2734 0.1295 1-Week 0.00 0.39 -0.28 0.49	0.08323 0.78787 0.00254 0.03910 Glo 1-Month 1.19 0.43 -0.26	1.0298 9.7479 1.0212 0.4838 Dal Int 3-M 1 0.0	0.9762 0.1023 0.0484 erest onth 44 63 22	9.6960 9.4657 0.9916 0.4697 Rates 6-M 1. 00.	0.1056 0.1048 0.0496 onth 63 88 12	1.0084 9.5456 0.4737 1-1 1. -0	2.1288 20.1506 2.1110 //ear 94 16 .02
Bahraini Dinar Qatari Riyal Omani Riyal Emirates Dirham Egyptian Pound Currency Kuwaiti Dinar US Dollar	0.2757 2.6101 0.2734 0.1295 1-Week 0.00 0.39 -0.28	0.08323 0.78787 0.08254 0.03910 G[o] 1-Month 1.19 0.43 -0.26	1.0298 9.7479 1.0212 0.4838 Dal Int 3-M 1 0.0	0.9762 0.1023 0.0484 erest onth 44 63 222 59	9.6960 9.4657 0.9916 0.4697 Rates 6-M 1. 00.	0.1056 0.1048 0.0496 0.0496	1.0084 9.5456 0.4737 1-1 1. -0 0.	2.1288 20.1506 2.1110 /ear 94 16
Bahraini Dinar Qatari Riyal Omani Riyal Emirates Dirham Egyptian Pound Currency Kuwaiti Dinar US Dollar Euro Sterling Pound Swiss Franc	0.2757 2.6101 0.2734 0.1295 1-Week 0.00 0.39 -0.28 0.49 -0.81	0.08323 0.78787 0.00254 0.03910 Glol 1-Month 1.19 0.43 -0.26 0.50	1.0298 9.7479 1.0212 0.4838 Dal Int 1 0.0 -0.	0.9762 0.1023 0.0484 erest onth 44 63 22 59 80	9.6960 9.4657 0.9916 0.4697 Rates 6-M 1. 000. 1.	0.1056 0.1048 0.0496 onth 63 88 12 73 76	1.0084 9.5456 0.4737 1-1 10 00	2.1288 20.1506 2.1110 (ear 94 16 .02 99
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STRONGER DOLLAR THANKS TO POSITIVE US DATA

NBK MONEY MARKETS REPORT

KUWAIT: The dollar index rallied last week after a set of US economic reports ranging from retail sales, employment, existing home sales and consumer sentiment suggested that the US economy regained its footing in February after stumbling in the fourth quarter. The dollar index opened for the week at 96.762 and then rallied to a high of 98.26 to close the week near its highs at 98.09.

The euro dropped against the US dollar last week as business activity in the eurozone grew at the slowest rate for over a year in February and deflationary pressures intensified, greatly increasing the odds for a more aggressive stimulus from the ECB in March. The euro opened the week at 1.1125 and reached a low of 1.0910 closing the week at

In the UK, the announcement of a referendum for the 23rd of June opening the possibility that Britain would leave the EU sent the Sterling Pound down three percent against the US dollar last week. Economists are worried about the implications of a Britain potential exit. According to the majority of economists polled last week, Britain's economy would be worse off if voters decide the country should leave the European Union. Additionally, analysts at some of the world's biggest banks said an EU exit could shrink UK's economy by as much as two percent over the next couple of years and could take as much as ten percent off GDP over the next decade. Cable opened the week at 1.4308 only to drop to a low of 1.3852. The currency closed the week at 1.3878.

The Japanese Yen also declined against the greenback last week as positive data from the US economy continue to keep the dollar supported. The pair opened the week at 112.61 and quickly reached a low of 111.04. However, positive data released from the US pushed investors to buy the US dollar, pushing it to a high of 113.99. The pair closed the week at its highest level of 113.99.

Strong US housing numbers

US home resales rose in January, reaching a six-month high, confirming that the US economy remains on stronger grounds despite slowing global growth. Existing home sales increased 0.4 % to an annual rate of 5.47 million units, the highest level since July. Economists had forecast home resales to drop by 2.9 percent to a pace of 5.32 million units last month. Existing home sales were up 11 percent from a year ago, the largest year-onyear gain since July 2013. Housing continues to be supported by a tightening labor market, which is starting to push wage growth up. First-time buyers accounted for 32 percent of existing home sales in January, an increase from 28 percent in the same month last year.

Core Durable Goods Orders Rising Sharply The Commerce Department said orders for durable goods, rose sharply by 4.9 percent last month, reversing December's 4.6 percent drop. January's increase was the largest since March 2015 and beat economists' expectations for only a 2.5 percent rise. Additionally, Non-defense capital goods orders excluding aircraft jumped 3.9 percent. The durable February 20. The four-week moving average of claims, considered a better measure of labor market trends, fell 1,250 to 272,000 last week.

US Q4 GDP revised higher

On a different note, US fourth-quarter GDP rose 1.0 percent on an annual basis instead of the previously reported 0.7 percent, the Commerce Department said on Friday in its second GDP estimate. Economist expected that Q4 GDP growth would be revised down

picked up by the most since 2012, keeping the

Federal Reserve interest rate increases on the table this year. Consumer spending, which accounts for more than two-thirds of US economic activity, rose by 0.5 percent in January. Additionally, the core PCE price index increased 1.7 percent in the 12 months through January, the largest rise since July 2014. The core PCE, the Fed's preferred inflation measure, rose 1.5 percent in December.

prices were denting US growth prospects and fear is that the US would no longer be the "strong safety net" for German exports and

German flash manufacturing PMI

Germany's Composite Output Index dropped to a seven month low of 53.8. The German economy appears to be in the middle of a slowdown. Although the PMI is still signaling an overall expansion in economic activity, the rate of increase slowed for the second month running and was the weakest since last July. The slowdown of output growth additionally resulted in a more cautious approach with regards to hiring policies.

Britain's GDP rose by 0.5 percent in the fourth quarter unchanged from an initial estimate and as expected by most economists. The data highlighted the imbalance of Britain's economic recovery, which has depended largely on household demand and service companies. Consumer spending has benefited from near-zero inflation and steady wage growth. However, business spending dropped at sharpest rate for two years in the final quarter, creating anxiety about an unsustainable

Market analysts have warned that growth could moderate this year because of a difficult global economic outlook, as well as domestic factors, particularly June's EU referendum. There are also worries that businesses and consumers will cut back on spending before

Tokyo core CPI

Japan's inflation rate dropped to zero in January, according to government data released last week. Inflation rate in Japan continues to show no improvements amid weaker global economy, slower domestic consumption and lower energy price. The data also has strengthened the case for further easing in Japan, should the Bank of Japan maintain its credibility of reaching its 2 percent inflation

This is another blow to Prime Minister Abe's three-year attempt to put an end to falling prices. Japan has suffered deflation since the late 1990s and authorities have introduced various policies to fight it, including adopting negative interest rates last month.

A separate index by the Bank of Japan that takes away the effect of lower energy costs also showed inflation slowing, suggesting that lower import costs are discouraging firms from raising prices for a wide range of goods.

Kuwait



goods report was the latest sign that the worst of the manufacturing slowdown was probably

Unemployment claims

The labor market remains strong despite worries about both the domestic and global economies. The number of Americans filing for unemployment benefits rose last week, but stayed below levels consistent with a tightening labor market. Initial claims for state unemployment benefits increased 10,000 to a seasonally adjusted 272,000 for the week ended to a 0.4 percent pace. The upward revision to the GDP was due to a smaller trade deficit than initially thought as imports contracted. The trade deficit subtracted 0.25 percent point from GDP growth instead of the 0.47 percent point reported last month. Additionally, business spending contracted by 1.8 percent instead of the 2.5 percent previously reported.

Consumer purchases

US consumer spending rose strongly in January and the underlying inflation rate

German Ifo business climate falls sharply

Sentiment among German manufacturers dropped the most, since the height of the financial crisis in 2008, extending concerns about the health of Europe's largest economy. The Ifo institute's business climate index dropped to 105.7 in February from 107.3 in January. The median estimate by economists was for a drop to 106.8. German companies have been relying on healthy domestic demand and on the strength of the US economy to offset falling exports to China, Brazil and other emerging markets. However, lower oil opened at 0.30030 yesterday morning.

Kuwaiti dinar at 0.30030. The USDKWD

INSURER WARNINGS CAST DOUBT ON ACA **EXCHANGE FUTURE**

NEW YORK: Political uncertainty isn't the only threat to the Affordable Care Act's future. Cracks also are spreading through a major pillar supporting the law Health insurance exchanges created to help millions of people find coverage are turning into money-losing ventures for many

The nation's largest, UnitedHealth Group Inc., could lose as much as \$475 million on its exchange business this year and may not participate in 2017. Another major insurer, Aetna, has questioned the viability of the exchanges. And a dozen nonprofit insurance cooperatives created by the law have already closed, forcing around 750,000 people to find new plans. More insurer defections would lead to fewer coverage choices on the exchanges and could eventually undermine the law, provided the next president wants to keep it. However, insurance experts aren't writing an ACA obituary yet: Enrollment is growing and appears to getting younger in some markets, a crucial factor for stability. Insurers also are learning more about their new customers and adjusting their coverage to do better financially. The future of the exchanges depends on whether those improvements continue and some other, big worries ease.

"Sometimes I think of (the exchanges) as a little campfire that's going to grow, but right now it needs a little more oxygen or kindling," said Katherine Hempstead, director of health insurance coverage programs for the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, a nonpartisan organization that has assisted state governments on ACA insurance expansions.

BALANCING THE SICK AND HEALTHY

The biggest problem with the exchanges reflects a basic insurance rule: Insurers need healthy, premium-paying customers to balance claims they cover from the sick. Insurers have struggled in many markets because people who couldn't get coverage previously due to a condition were among the first to sign up when the exchanges opened a few years ago. Healthy customers have been slower

Insurers say they've also been hurt by customers who appear to be waiting until they become sick to buy coverage. The companies blame liberal enforcement of the ACA's special enrollment exceptions.

The law provides an annual enrollment window for several weeks starting in the fall. This is the main chance most people

have to enroll or change coverage. But customers can enroll outside that window if insurance needs change because they've moved, gotten married or had a child, among other exemptions.

Exchanges have not been asking for birth certificates, marriage licenses or other proof of these life-changing events. Insurers say that leaves them vulnerable.

The Montana Health Co-Op had a severely ill customer in a hospital sign up for its coverage in October and then drop a \$250,000 bill on the insurer. CEO Jerry Dworak said he asked the exchange operator for details on whether the patient had a legitimate reason for the special enrollment. The exchange would only say

that the patient changed ZIP codes. They've got to do something about the special enrollment because we just got killed on that," Dworak said. The federal government runs exchanges in most states and announced Wednesday that it will start seeking proof that customers qualify for these special enrollment periods. This new requirement will unfold

over the next several months. Its effectiveness will depend on how aggressively the government enforces it, Goldman Sachs insurance industry analyst Matthew Borsch said in a research

HIGHER COSTS

Many insurers also are struggling with higher-than-expected costs in general. Part of that comes from either starting an insurance business from scratch, as the co-ops did, or breaking into a new market.

Medical costs almost tripled to more than \$181 million through the first nine months of 2015 for Maine Community Health Options. Outpatient services like expensive drug infusions and orthopedic procedures for hips and knees, in particular, hurt the insurance cooperative.

CEO Kevin Lewis isn't sure yet whether they need to consider that higher-thanexpected use in setting future rates or if it was pent-up demand from people who haven't had coverage.

Community Health Options covered nearly 71,000 people as of late September. That's up 78 percent from the end of 2014, and Lewis said the customer base is getting younger, which is important because those customers generally contribute fewer expenses.

Now the insurer has to hit the right balance of raising rates enough to cover claims but not so high that it scares away those newer customers.

"If higher prices prompt healthier people to bail, it won't be long until it unravels," Lewis said. —AP

PAKISTAN'S UNTAPPED RESOURCES **EMPOWERED BY E-COMMERCE**

ISLAMABAD: In the Hindu Kush mountains craftswomen painstakingly stitch flowing scarves, skilled artisans who were unable to sell their products beyond the remote region until mobile internet came to Pakistan and dropped the market into the palms of millions of previously marginalised people.

The women of northern Chitral are among the unlikely profiteers of an e-commerce boom since 3G and 4G Internet arrived in the deeply conservative Muslim country in 2014, suddenly able to market and sell traditional products without leaving their villages or in some cases even their

"The online platform eliminates the middleman," says Nasrin Samad, the entrepreneur behind the artisan brand Kai, which works with women across the region.

Now, Chitrali women "have access to a global audience," she says. Kai products are sold on polly & other stories (pollyandotherstories.com), which launched late in 2015 to connect traditional artisans like those in Chitral with consumers hungry for "authentic" products.

"Years of working with local community and craft groups had shown us how difficult it was for local small businesses, even the most talented, to access mainstream markets or connect with buyers, both within Pakistan and abroad," founder Amneh Shaikh-Farooqui said.

To bridge the gap, says co-founder Ange Braid, the pair built a website to give "small, creative businesses, many of them led by women or young students, the chance to market and sell".

Opportunities like this in a country like Pakistan are "huge", says Adam Dawood, head of online marketplace Kaymu.pk. In the first quarter of 2015 smartphone shipments to the country soared by 123 percent, according to the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority's annual report, one of the fastest growth rates in the developing world.

Broadband subscribers have topped 26 million people, the Ministry for Information Technology said in February, with broadband penetration going from three percent to more than 15 percent. The ministry cited World Bank studies showing that a 10 percent increase in high-speed internet connections can boost Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by 1.38 percent, adding the arrival of broadband in Pakistan is set to have a "very positive impact on economic growth". Dawood echoed the report's optimism. "There are tremendous opportunities for everyone to start selling and buying instantly and earn money," he said.

Empowerment

Women are seeing the benefits, but ecommerce presents potentially an even greater opportunity for young people in a country where roughly two thirds of the population-of around 200 million-are estimated to be under the age of 30.

A recent economic survey by the finance ministry singled out the challenges facing youth in Pakistan, including "limited job search expertise, a mismatch between education, aspirations and employers' requirements and a lack of mobility, among other factors".

Seventeen-year-old Daniyal Admaney says he was able to defy skepticism over his youth to launch his T-shirt design business on

Scramble for Pakistan?

But global giants of e-commerce such as Amazon still do not have an established presence in Pakistan, hampered by a lack of regulations and infrastructure such as a payments system, says IT expert Shahzad Ahmad.

Unrest in the militancy-plagued country is also a factor, he says. The promise of Pakistan remains enormous, he says, adding that the country's central bank "should undertake a study on the potential of online business and also



KARACHI: Pakistani employees of online marketplace company Kaymu at work in Karachi. Women are seeing the benefits, but e-commerce presents potentially an even greater opportunity for young people in a country where roughly two thirds of the population — of around 200 million — are estimated to be under the age of 30. —AFP

Kaymu, however. "I... thought that I should do something productive during summer vacations when I have nothing to do except getting bored and sleeping," he says.

Kaymu, a venture of German company Rocket Internet, which builds online startups, has helped launch several other e-commerce companies unique to Pakistan such as consumer goods site Daraz.pk.

The online marketplace launched in the country about three years ago and now boasts 3,000 transactions every day, with around 11 million unique visitors in 2015, Dawood told AFP. Kaymu now employs some 150 people in Lahore and Karachi working with 15,000 vendors like Admaney, and has a customer base of more than 300,000 people from around the country.

It has also helped bring some international e-commerce sites to Pakistan, such as carpooling site Tripda and restaurant delivery site foodpanda.

come up with clear regulatory framework so that foreign giants are attracted to tap into Pakistani e-commerce market".

Some hurdles are in the process of being removed already. Last year the global Financial Action Task Force removed Pakistan from its list of high-risk and non-cooperative jurisdictions linked to money laundering. Following the decision, the IT ministry announced in November it will ease e-commerce regulations and invite online payment giants PayPal and Alibaba to the country, where cash on delivery remains preva-

lent but use of debit and credit cards is growing. In the meantime, ambitious Pakistanis are crowding the booming market with their own,

localised, and in many cases successful products. Launching an online business allows Nosheen Kashif, a former banker who quit her job to raise her family, to remain a housewife even as she launches an online jewellery selling business. "The scope of selling online is nationwide," she says. —AFP







AL-QURAIN AUTOMOTIVE TRADING CO UNVEILS FUTURISTIC XC90

Gala National Day and Liberation Day event

KUWAIT: The official agent of Volvo Cars in Kuwait, Al-Qurain Automotive Trading Company, held a special gala event in celebration of the National and Liberation Days at its showroom in Shuwaikh on Sunday, February 21, 2016.

The event, aimed at providing the customers a memorable occasion, saw the unveiling of the latest rollout from the stables of the Swedish car manufacturer - the brand new XC90. The main highlight of the event was a scintillating performance com-



memorating Kuwait's National and Liberation Days that had the guests in awe.

The master of the ceremony and Marketing Manager of Volvo cars in Kuwait, Hanan Abdulrahman Al-Motawaa, added charm to the show with her fluent and graceful presentation. She welcomed the guests and thanked the Volvo team for organizing such a wonderful event." She also thanked the Kuwait market for the support and trust given to the brand, and she reiterated the company's promise to the customers of bringing the latest and best solutions suitable to the regional needs.

The XC90, Hanan added, is a fulfilment of that promise, "which has a variety of features designed to give customers a new and a more enhanced driving experience."

Manager of Volvo Automobiles, Kuwait, Thamer Ahmed Al-Ayoub, delivered the welcome speech, followed by an enlightening talk by the company CEO, Ahmed Abdul Aziz Al Ali Al-Motawaa, about the brand and its vision for 2020. His emphasis on acci-



dent- and fatality-free roads in future was deeply inspiring.

Moreover guests were taken through the various features of the XC90 by explaining why the specimen truly belongs to the future. The XC90 is a handsome, squarejawed Swede providing more efficiency and safety than its rivals while adding a dose of Scandinavian flair. Its 2.0-liter four-cylinder uses turbocharging and supercharging to create 316 hp and drives all four wheels through an eight-speed automatic. An 80-





hp electric motor joins the party in plug-in hybrid models. There's room for seven in the handsomely appointed interior, with deeply comfortable seats as well as Sensus, Volvo's new infotainment system, which combine state-of-the art information and entertainment. A built-in hotspot ensures that XC90 is always connected.

The guests were entertained with fun activities, giveaways, surprise gifts and a live music band. However, the overall theme remained loyal to the patriotic occasion. The



event was organized by Eventique KW, an event-management team run by young Kuwaiti ladies. This team was particularly chosen to organize the event for their love of cars and their belief in the brand.

The event attracted many young Kuwaiti women, who gatnered to be part of the project titled, I Own My Choice, run by Eventique KW with the aim of encouraging the younger generation from all walks of life to get involved in community building exercises.

TAHKEEM PARTICIPATES IN INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENT **CONFERENCE IN KUWAIT**

KUWAIT: As part of a push to increase its cooperation with similar regional and international entities, Sharjah International Commercial Arbitration Centre, "Tahkeem", recently participated in the Conference for Arbitration in International Investment, held in Kuwait from 17-18 February 2016. Organized by the Kuwaiti Ministry of Justice, the General Authority of Endowments and Islamic Affairs and in cooperation with the Permanent Court of Arbitration, the event was held under the patronage of HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Hamad Mubarak Al Sabah.

The conference was attended by many official entities and international organisations, including the UN Commissionon International Trade Law, and the Arab Administrative Development Organisation (ARADO) from the League of Arab States.

As part of the conference program, the Director of Tahkeem, Ahmed Alechlah, presented a paper in which he described the organization's role in the reinforcement of a stable investment environment, in Sharjah. This was highlighted as being achieved by offering flexible, easy to use, efficient services, forthe resolution of commercial disputes. According to Alechlah, Tahkeem's procedures are modelled on and operated to the highest international legal standards. Alechlah also highlighted Tahkeem's mission, which is the dissemination of a commercial arbitration culture among the various economic sectors in the emirate. The rules it has adopted are based on "absolute impartiality, accuracy, flexibility, professionalism, as well as quick settlement of all disputes."

On the sidelines of the conference, Alechlah added: "At Tahkeem we are eager to raise awareness of Sharjah's arbitration systems and practices among law practitioners and business professionals- at a local, regional and international level. The importance of these conferences is such that we can foster a spirit of cooperation with likeminded entities in order to achieve our objectives of developing practical solutions for all challenges facing the arbitration sector." "These conferences are an ideal platform for Tahkeem to promote its outstanding services and for meeting an elite group of international experts and consultants in this field. It is also a great opportunity for us to share information about the latest procedures, laws and regulations," Alechlah added.

Through its participation in the conference, Tahkeem sought to boost its collaboration with governments and private agencies so as to reinforce Sharjah's position as a pioneering centre for the attraction of foreign direct investment (FDI) into the emirate.

Discussion areas at the conference included topics such as: international agreements for arbitration of investment disputes in Washington DC, Geneva, at the European Convention, Riyadh, and the Arab Convention; the extent of the agreements' success in attaining their goals; the procedural aspect of arbitration of investment disputes; issues that interfere in the enforcement of arbitration rulings; the enforceable law for arbitration of international investment disputes; and the role of national judiciaries in the control and implementation of rulings.

JOYALUKKAS MAKES A SPARKLING ENTRY INTO KUKATPALLY WITH ITS NEW SHOWROOM

KUKATPALLY: The global giant Joyalukkas Jewellery opened its new showroom in Kukatpally on 27th February, 2016. This is as part of their mega expansion plan they have planned for this financial year "This financial year we are committing ourselves to rapid expansion across India, GCC and a couple of new countries. This compliments my vision to make the brand accessible and available to every jewellery lover in the world," said Joy Alukkas, Chairman & MD, Joyalukkas Group.

Joyalukkas Jewellery is also scheduled to expand its footprint in Karnataka with new showroom launches in Hassan and Davangere in the month of March. The brand which is one of the world's largest jewellery retail chains is a part of a multi-billion dollar global conglomerate, which has varied business interests.

The Joyalukkas Group's business interests include Jewellery, Money Exchange, Fashion & Silks, Luxury Air Charter, Malls and Realty.

The world's largest jewellery retail chain has presence in Singapore, London, UAE, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, Oman & India and will soon open in 2 new countries. The jewellery retailer currently has a customer base of over 10 million customers worldwide and offers over 1 million choices in all types of jewellery at each of its showroom.

"Our plan for Joyalukkas Jewellery in this financial year (2015-2016) includes strengthening our presence across various parts of India and opening our showrooms in cities and towns that we feel is ready for the Joyalukkas experience said Mr. Joy Alukkas, Chairman & MD, Joyalukkas Group. The



showrooms will feature over One Million dazzling collections and exquisite designs in gold, diamond, precious stones, platinum and pearl. The collections will be a mix of traditional, ethno contemporary and international designs that have won hearts of customers around the world.

Other than this 'Trust' is an integral part of the Joyalukkas offer which is managed through ensuring assurance and peace of mind to customers on their jewellery purchase. The retail chain manages this through

strict adherence to quality and internationally accepted standards eg. 100 percent IGI certified diamonds, BIS Hallmark gold jewellery and PGI certified platinum jewellery etc. Joyalukkas, is also the first and only ISO 14001-2006 & ISO 9001-2008 certified jewellery retail chain,

"My vision for our jewellery business is to 'ornament the world' and we will manage this by offering customers the best mix of Price, Choice, Convenience and Service added Joy Alukkas. Other unique feature of

Jovalukkas iewellery includes consumer friendly value added schemes like 'Advanced Purchase schemes, Joyalukkas Golden Rewards Card, 100 percent buy back guarantee and more

This international jewellery retail chain is also one of few retail chains to be recognised with many awards and accolades for its exceptional standards in jewellery retailing. Joyalukkas has also been awarded the prestigious 'Superbrand' status 5 years in a

BURGAN BANK ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF YAWMI ACCOUNT

KUWAIT: Burgan Bank announced yesterday the names of the lucky winners of its Yawmi account draw, each taking home a prize of KD 5,000.

The lucky winners for the daily draws took home a cash-prize of KD 5,000 each, and they are:

- 1. Mazen Esam Hawwa
- 2. Mohammad Faraj Alsayed Khalaf
- 3. Alsheikha Nawal Mohamad Al-Sabah 4. Ahmad Hussain Ali Hashem

To further add to the anticipation of Yawmi account customers, Burgan Bank now offers a Quarterly Draw with more chances to win higher rewards, entitling one lucky customer to win KD 125,000

every three months. The Yawmi Account now offers Daily and quarterly Draws, the Quarterly Draw requires customers to maintain a minimum amount of KD 500 in their account for 2 months prior to draw date. Additionally, every KD 10 in the account, will entitle customers to one chance of winning. If the account balance is KD 500 and above, the account holder will be qualified for both the quarterly and daily draws.

Burgan Bank encourages everyone to open a Yawmi account and/or increase their deposit to maximize their chances to becoming a winner. The more customers deposit, the higher the chances they receive of winning.

For more information on opening a Yawmi account or about the new quarterly draw, customers are urged to visit their nearest Burgan Bank branch and receive all the details, or simply call the bank's Call Center at 1804080 where customer service representatives will be delighted to assist with any questions on the Yawmi account or any of the bank's products and services.

KASPERSKY LAB HELPS DISRUPT ACTIVITY OF LAZARUS GROUP RESPONSIBLE FOR MULTIPLE CYBER-ATTACKS

DUBAI: Together with Novetta and other industry partners, Kaspersky Lab is proud to announce its contribution to Operation Blockbuster. The goal of the operation is to disrupt the activity of the Lazarus Group - a highly malicious entity responsible for data destruction as well as conventional cyberespionage operations against multiple companies around the world. The attackers are believed to be behind the attack on Sony Pictures Entertainment in 2014, and operation DarkSeoul that targeted media and financial institutions in 2013.

After a devastating attack against the famous movie production company, Sony

mpanies, among others, since at least 2009.

The targets of the Lazarus Group

The most affected regions and countries by the Lazarus group malware

Lazarus Group is a highly malicious entity responsible for data destruction as well as conventional

Saudi Republic ico • USA • Brazil • Turkey • Arabia • Iran • India • Bangladesh • Russia • China • Taiwan • of Korea

cyber-espionage campaigns targeting financial institutions, media stations, and manufacturing

Pictures Entertainment (SPE) in 2014, Kaspersky Lab's Global Research and Analysis Team (GReAT) began its investigation into samples of the Destover malware publicly named as used in the attack. This led to wider research into a cluster of related cyber-espionage and cyber-sabotage campaigns targeting financial institutions, media stations, and manufacturing companies, among others.

Based on the common characteristics of the different malware families, the company's experts were able to group together tens of isolated attacks and determine that they all belong to one threat actor, as other partictheir own analysis. The Lazarus Group threat actor was active

ipants in Operation Blockbuster confirmed in

several years before the SPE incident, and it appears that it is still active. Kaspersky Lab and other Operation Blockbuster research confirms a connection between malware used in various campaigns, such as Operation DarkSeoul against Seoul-based banks and broadcasters, Operation Troy targeting military forces in South Korea, and the Sony Pictures incident.

During the investigation, Kaspersky Lab researchers exchanged preliminary findings with AlienVault Labs. Eventually researchers from the two companies decided to unite efforts and conduct a joint investigation. Simultaneously, the activity of the Lazarus Group was being investigated by many other companies and security specialists. One of these companies, Novetta started an initiative aimed at publishing the most extensive and actionable intelligence on the activity of the Lazarus Group. As part of Operation Blockbuster, together with Novetta, AlienVault Labs, and other industry partners, Kaspersky Lab is publishing its findings for the benefit of the wider public.

A haystack full of needles

By analyzing multiple samples of malware spotted in different cyber-security incidents and creating special detection rules, Kaspersky Lab, AlienVault and other Operation Blockbuster specialists were able to identify a number of attacks as having been conducted by the Lazarus Group.

The link from multiple samples to a single group was found during the analysis of methods used by this actor. In particular, it was discovered that the attackers were actively re-using code -borrowing fragments of code from one malicious program to use in another.

Besides that, researchers were able to spot similarities in the modus operandi of attackers. While analyzing artifacts from different attacks, they discovered that droppers - special files used to install different variations of a malicious payload - all kept their payloads within a password-protected ZIP archive. The password for archives used in different campaigns was the same and was hardcoded inside the dropper. The password protection was implemented in order to prevent automated systems from extracting and analyzing the payload, but in reality it just helped researchers to identify the group.

A special method used by the criminals to try to wipe traces of their presence from an infected system, along with some techniques they used to evade detection by anti-virus products also gave researchers additional means of clustering related attacks. Eventually tens of different targeted attacks, whose operators had been considered unknown, were linked to a single threat actor.

The Operation's Geography

The analysis of samples' compilation dates showed that the earliest might have been compiled as long ago as 2009, five years before the infamous attack against Sony. The number of new samples has grown dynamically since 2010. This characterizes the Lazarus Group as a stable, longstanding threat actor. Based on metadata extracted from investigated samples, most of the malicious programs used by the Lazarus Group appear to have been compiled during the working hours of GMT+8 -GMT+9 time zones.

"As we predicted, the number of wiper attacks grows steadily. This kind of malware

proves to be a highly effective type of cyberweapon. The power to wipe thousands of computers at the push of a button represents a significant bounty to a Computer Network Exploitation team tasked with disinformation and the disruption of a target enterprise. Its value as part of hybrid warfare, where wiper attacks are coupled with kinetic attacks to paralyze a country's infrastructure remains an interesting thought experiment closer to reality than we can be comfortable with. Together with our industry partners, we are proud to put a dent in the operations of an unscrupulous actor willing to leverage these devastating techniques," said Juan Guerrero, senior security researcher at Kaspersky Lab.

"This actor has the necessary skills and determination to perform cyber-espionage operations with the purpose of stealing data or causing damage. Combining that with the use of disinformation and deception techniques, the attackers have been able to successfully launch several operations over the last few years," said Jaime Blasco, chief scientist, AlienVault. "Operation Blockbuster is an example of how industry-wide information sharing and collaboration can set the bar higher and prevent this actor from continuing its operations."

"Through Operation Blockbuster, Novetta, Kaspersky Lab and our partners have continued efforts to establish a methodology for disrupting the operations of globally significant attack groups and attempting to mitigate their efforts to inflict further harm," said Andre Ludwig, senior technical director, Novetta Threat Research and Interdiction Group. "The level of in-depth technical analysis conducted in Operation Blockbuster is rare, and sharing our findings with industry partners, so we all benefit from increased understanding, is even rarer."

APPLE'S TECH ALLIES OPPOSE THE FBI, BUT STILL WANT YOUR DATA

PALO ALTO: In its fight with the FBI, Apple insists it is defending the privacy and safety of all iPhone users by resisting government calls to help unlock an extremist's iPhone. And now other big tech companies such as Google and Facebook are rallying to Apple's side.

Wait just a minute: Aren't those the same companies that Apple has previously criticized by lobbing veiled accusations that they exploit your personal information - to sell ads - and effectively endanger your

Some might argue that Apple's allies are hypocrites when it comes to privacy, much like the fraternity brothers in "Animal House" who declared: "He can't do that to our pledges. Only we can do that to our pledges."

But Silicon Valley's view of privacy is more nuanced than that. And Americans historically have worried less about the private sector and more about the government's power to infringe on individual rights. "The government can put me in jail," said Larry Downs, a scholar at Georgetown University's Center for Business and Public Policy. "Google, Facebook and Twitter cannot."

That makes the details of the iPhone case especially important. The FBI says it's only asking for narrow technical assistance in bypassing security features on a phone used by one of the shooters who killed 14 people in San Bernardino. "We couldn't look the survivors in the eye if we did not follow this lead," FBI Director James Comey said online.

Legal arguments

Apple contends that a magistrate's order would force it to create software that will make other iPhones vulnerable to future hacking by authorities and criminals.

Leading tech companies including Google, Twitter, Facebook and Microsoft say they will file legal arguments in support of Apple's

position. The same companies objected loudly after former government contractor Edward Snowden revealed the scope of National Security Agency surveillance programs that collected user data and even tapped their networks without their knowledge. The companies jabs at his competitors, boasting that Apple doesn't rely on ad revenue for most of its services. As he has said more than once: "When an online service is free, you're not the customer. You're the product." But even Apple collects some customer information. Experts say it is not really clear if Apple's privacy stance is a big selling point for most consumers.

KASPERSKY

Companies like Google and Facebook argue they take pains to protect the data they collect.



NEW YORK: In this April 30, 2015 file photo, Apple CEO Tim Cook responds to a question during a news conference at IBM Watson headquarters, in New York. —AP

have gone to court and Congress to limit that kind of government datagathering, while also fighting attempts to weaken the encryption codes that shield your messages from prying eyes.

Yet privacy advocates have long complained that those companies reap billions of dollars by collecting all kinds of personal information, including records of customers' online behavior, and using it to target them for advertising.

Apple CEO Tim Cook has leveled

Facebook, for example, tracks users' likes and actions so the company can show them ads targeted to people with similar characteristics. But Facebook has said it doesn't give advertisers access to information linked to any individual by name.

Internet companies do operate very differently from traditional data brokers such as credit bureaus, which make their money by selling all kinds of information on individuals - from their income and bill-paying history to where they have lived and worked.

"Google does not sell your personal information," said Rachel Whetstone, then a senior vice president for the giant Internet company, in a speech last year. "Nor do we share it without your permission except in very limited circumstances," such as when faced with a court-issued warrant. Like Facebook, Google says it pushes back against government requests that seem unwarranted or over-broad.

Government surveillance

By contrast with Google's business, Whetstone said, government surveillance often involves data "collected for an entirely separate purpose," usually from people who did not expect it would be seen by authorities. She said Google gives users the ability to limit the collec-

tion of their data. Whetstone was speaking in Europe, where many national governments have strong privacy laws that restrict what businesses can do with individuals' data. "The American view is we need protection from the government misusing information, rather than we need the government to protect us from other people misusing our information," said Downs.

Still, some privacy advocates say the iPhone dispute underscores their worries about data collection. Consumers should realize any information they give to companies could one day be sought by the government, said Cindy Cohn, executive director of the Electronic Frontier Foundation. "I am glad these companies are coming together to support Apple," she said. "It ultimately may raise some hard questions for them about how much information they need to collect, and how they secure it, and how long they keep it." —AP



CUPERTINO: Apple shareholders enter building 4 for the annual shareholders meeting Friday, Feb 26, 2016, at Apple headquarters in Cupertino,

CEO TIM COOK DEFENDS APPLE'S RESISTANCE IN FBI IPHONE CASE

CUPERTINO: Apple CEO Tim Cook got a standing ovation Friday at his first stockholder meeting since his company's epic clash with the FBI unfolded. He defended the company's unbending stance by saying: "These are the right things to do."

On Thursday, the tech giant formally challenged a court order to help the FBI unlock an encrypted iPhone used by a murderous extremist in San Bernardino, California. Federal officials have said they're only asking for narrow assistance in bypassing some of the phone's security features. But Apple contends the order would force it to write a software program that would make other iPhones vulnerable to hacking by

authorities or criminals in the future. Major tech companies are rallying to Apple's cause, and now plan a joint "friend of the court" brief on its behalf. Facebook said it will join with Google, Twitter and Microsoft on a joint court filing. A Twitter spokeswoman confirmed that plan, but said that different companies and trade associations will likely file "multiple" briefs.

Apple filed court papers on Thursday that asked U.S. Magistrate Sheri Pym to reverse her order on the grounds that the government had no legal authority to force the company to weaken the security of its own products. The company accused the government of seeking "dangerous power" through the courts and of trampling on its constitutional rights. The dispute raises broad issues of legal and social policy, with at least one poll showing 51 percent of Americans think Apple should cooperate by helping the government unlock the iPhone.

The FBI and other law-enforcement agencies insist they need to get into the phone in order to run down every lead in the San Bernardino shootings, which were at least partly inspired by the Islamic State extremist group. But skeptics have questioned whether this particular device - a work phone issued by one shooter's employer - is likely to contain much useful information. Both assailants took care to destroy their personal phones prior to the massacre.

Some police officials acknowledge

similar doubts. "If they went out of their way to destroy the other phones, there's a pretty good chance there may not be anything of value," said Jarrod Burguan, San Bernardino's police chief. "This may be a whole lot of saber rattling and back and forth for nothing." Burguan, however, believes police still have "a duty and a responsibility" to make sure there's no useful evidence on the phone.

Unclear

It is unclear how the controversy might affect Apple's business. Analysts at Piper Jaffray said a survey they commissioned last week found the controversy was not hurting the way most Americans think about Apple or its

products. At least one shareholder at Friday's meeting voiced support for the company's stance. "Apple is 100 percent correct in not providing or doing research to create software to break into it," said Tom Rapko, an Apple investor from Santa Barbara, California, as he waited in line to enter the auditorium at Apple's headquarters. "I think if you give the government an inch, they'll take a yard."

Cook offered only brief remarks about the FBI case, and most questions from shareholders concerned other aspects of Apple's business. But the CEO won praise during the meeting from the Rev. Jesse Jackson and Cindy Cohn, executive director of the Internet rights group the Electronic Frontier Foundation.

"We applaud your leadership," said Jackson, a longtime civil rights leader and former adviser to Martin Luther King, Jr. "I recall the FBI wiretapping Dr. King in the civil rights movement," Jackson added. "We cannot go down this path again. Some of us do remember the days of (former FBI director J. Edgar) Hoover and McCarthy and Nixon and enemies lists."

Apple's share price has seen little change since the issue erupted in the news last week. Overall, though, the company's stock has declined in recent months over worries that iPhone sales were slowing around the world. A hearing on the iPhone legal dispute is scheduled for next month. —AP

COMPANIES EXPERIMENTING WITH BUILD-YOUR-OWN SMARTPHONE

NEW YORK: If you could build your dream smartphone, what would it look like? Now suppose you could put it together yourself. That is the promise of modular design, a new concept in smartphones that would basically let you snap together different components like Lego blocks. Say you want a great camera. Snap! A vivid screen and good sound because you watch a lot of video? Snap! But maybe you could live with a smaller battery because you spend most of your day at home or work. Snap!

Sure, phones now offer choices in color and storage. Motorola goes a bit further in letting you choose custom backs made of wood or leather. But the rest of the phone is pretty standard. You're stuck with the processor, battery and other hardware chosen by Motorola, Apple, Samsung and other tech compa-

With modular design, you could just pay for the components you need instead of settling for whatever manufacturers put in their designs. And instead of buying a new phone every year or two, you could just upgrade individual parts as they wear out or become obsolete.

LG is dipping its toes in the modular-design concept with its upcoming G5 smartphone, announced this week at a wireless conference. The bottom of the phone pops out to let you swap in new hardware. For starters, you will be able to attach a camera grip with physical shutter buttons or insert a high-fidelity audio system if regular MP3-quality sound is not good enough for you.

Project Ara

Google's Project Ara, which is not making products yet, is also outlining a modular-design approach that starts with a structural frame and lets you add cameras, sensors and batteries. Google figures a phone could cost as little as \$50 using the most basic

A Dutch startup called Fairphone is selling the \$580 Fairphone 2 online. Though it comes assembled, you can replace the screen for less than \$100, or the camera for \$40. An expansion port will let people add components - perhaps for wireless charging or mobile payments - that Fairphone or outside parties make in the future.

Chinese phone maker ZTE has circulated concept designs. Other startups exploring modular phones include Finland's PuzzlePhone (as in the components fit together like a puzzle). Modular phone design is similar to how hobbyists build their own personal computers or soup up their cars. But there's no guarantee the idea will take off.

For one thing, modular design is itself a trade-off. Many consumers want phones to be thin, light and power efficient, and that means all the parts have to be tightly integrated. You give that up when you go modular.

Samsung, for instance, rejects modular design, preferring to offer "the best combination of features and functionality" in a compact and elegant design, says Justin Denison, Samsung's senior vice president for US product strategy and marketing.

Not easy

Modular design also is not easy. Project Ara missed its 2015 target for a pilot project in Puerto Rico and suggested in cryptic tweets that designing modules has proven more complicated than expected. Google had no further comment.

Ronan de Renesse, lead analyst for consumer technology with the research firm Ovum, says many parts in current smartphones are designed specifically to work together. Swap in a new camera or screen, and the older processors might not know what to do with it. The camera might stutter, the screen might blink, and both might drain the battery faster than expected. —AP

AUSTRALIA BECOMES CHINA'S LAND OF MILK AND HONEY

improve their lifestyle are boosting the fortunes of Australian producers of premium baby milk formula, vitamins and honey, as the region's burgeoning middle class jumps on the health food bandwagon.

With their expanding wallets, middle class consumers are fueling a sharp increase in sales of high-quality products from Down Under, sending the profits and share prices of health foods companies-particularly producers of infant milk formula-into unprecedented territory.

They are led by Chinese consumers fearful of lax food safety standards at home, where cost-cutting by producers have resulted in deaths and health scares. "You've had almost three decades of incredible GDP growth (in China) and that has brought a huge amount of spending power to the Chinese consumer," IG Markets' analyst Angus Nicholson told AFP.

"And given the fact that there has been some questions around-particularly food, health and medical products-in China, there has been an increase in demand for foreign, top quality brands."

The growth is being described as a shift from "mining to dining" as Australia transitions away from supplying China with key metals such as iron ore and coal towards feeding Asia's consumption boom. While much of the focus has been on soft commodities like beef and dairy, smaller Australian-listed firms that produce infant milk powder, vitamin supplements and hon-

SYDNEY: Asian consumers determined to ey are also benefiting from the increased appetite.

Supplements maker Blackmores last year had the Australian stock market's highest share price, jumping 534.03 percent to

Its net profit for the six months to end-December soared 160 percent compared to the previous period, driven by sales to Chinese consumers, which made up 40 percent of revenue. Bellamy's Australia, whose organic baby milk powder is nicknamed 'white gold", saw its share price leap more than 700 percent last year as its net profit spiked by 325 percent in the second half. Rival formula producer a2 Milk Company is also enjoying strong demand.

A firm tapping into the growing Asian craze for honey is Australia's largest producer Capilano, which recorded a 52.9 percent surge in 2015 second half net profit. Brands like Bellamy's and a2 are seen as trustworthy by the Chinese as they are sold in Australia's dominant supermarket chains Coles and Woolworths, Benjamin Sun of digital marketing consultancy ThinkChina said.

"What they are thinking is if the milk powder is being drunk by Australian babies, it should safe for Chinese babies," Sun told AFP.

But the baby powders' popularity has overwhelmed the two supermarket giants, which have imposed two or four-tin limits for each purchase. Even souvenir shops that usually stock stuffed toys and sheep skins now make room for formula, propolis and royal jel-



Peter Barraket, who heads up "Mr Vitamins", a chain of supplement outlets in Sydney, shows a tin of baby milk formula in his Chatswood outlet. — AFP

ly supplements-honey products believed to boost health-as well as manuka honey.

'One kid with six pockets'

The empty racks are the result of a burgeoning grey market where purchasing agents known as "daigou" help Chinese customers secure products in Australia and ship them to China, raking in a tidy profit in the process. There are between 5,000-10,000 daigou-who can range from entrepreneurs to international students-in Australia, Sun estimated, adding they could make an average of Aus\$100,000 (\$71,600) each year.

Likewise, shipping firms charging some Aus\$5 per kilogram are easily found in suburbs such as Sydney's Burwood and Hurstville, which are popular with Chinese.

The daigou market their services through popular messaging app WeChat, with some establishing stores on Alibaba's consumer-toconsumer platform Taobao.

Although buying via diagou could see items marked-up by 100 percent, Chinese customers seem happy to pay up, partly due to the now-relaxed one-child policy, which was introduced some three decades ago. "People who were born in the 1980s now have a baby, so what's happening now is not an only child but also an only grandchild," Sun said.

"That's the whole family including the grandparents supporting the one kid. That's why we call them one kid with six pockets." Peter Barraket, who heads up "Mr Vitamins", a chain of supplements outlets in Sydney, said he noticed Chinese customers' behaviour change over the past two years, with shoppers becoming more organized and brand

He is now planning to grow the business by shipping directly to China. A flagship store on Alibaba's business-to-consumer platform Tmall Global is being considered, although Barraket is careful not to market too heavily while stock levels remain low.

"We've only got enough to cater for our current demand," Barraket, Blackmores' former chief financial officer, told AFP. "I'm actually trying to do a deal with a manufacturer (for baby powder) because once we start to advertise, we want to make sure we've got stock." — AFP

BANGLADESH'S 'TREE MAN' MAY



Mansour Al Rashidi, Committee Secretary of Food Safety in the Department of Municipal



Fahad Jasim Al Mesbahi **Assistant General** Affairs and President of



Engineer Ahmad Al Manager of Kuwaii



ALL MARS CHOCOLATE PRODUCTS IN KUWAIT ARE SAFE FOR CONSUMPTION: MUNICIPALITY

No suspected products distributed in Kuwait: Eng Al-Manfoohi

KUWAIT: In reference to the latest announcement issued by Mars Gulf and regarding the decision to take a precautionary recall of a selection of Snickers (Miniatures), Mars (Minis and Miniatures) and Best of Our Minis products produced in The Netherlands after finding a small piece of plastic in one of its products, the Committee of Food Safety in the Department of Municipal Affairs and Administration, under the supervision of Fahad Jasim Al-Mesbahi -Assistant General Manager in the Department of Municipal Affairs and the President of Food Safety Committee, conducted a comprehensive investigation in co-operation with the distributor of Mars in

Kuwait that has revealed and confirmed that no suspected products were distributed in Kuwait.

Engineer Ahmad Al-Manfoohi, General Manager of Kuwait Municipality, stated: "In an effort to take all necessary measures to protect the safety of consumers in Kuwait, the Kuwaiti Municipality led a large-scale inspection to identify the safety of the suspected products leading to the confirmation that no suspected products were distributed in Kuwait, and that all co-operative societies, private supermarkets and points of sales across Kuwait are completely free from the suspected products. MARS chocolate lovers can be reassured that all MARS chocolate products in Kuwait are completely safe for consumption." Mars Gulf had reassured that the limited recall on some products produced in The Netherlands is a voluntary and precautionary measure driven by the company's belief that the consumer's safety is its first priority.

As a result of the investigation led by Mansour Al-Rashidi, Committee Secretary of Food Safety in the Department of Municipal Affairs and Administration, and the inspection of the certificates of origins, the production country and date, all MARS chocolate products in Kuwait are confirmed to be completely safe for consumption.

NEED DOZEN MORE OPERATIONS **DHAKA:** A Bangladeshi father dubbed "Tree Man" for massive bark-like warts on his hands and feet may need a dozen more operations to remove the growths, a hospital director said yesterday.

A team of doctors operated on Saturday on Abul Bajandar's right hand to remove some of the smaller growths, his second such operation, said Dhaka Medical College Hospital facility director Samanta Lal Sen. The 26-year-old was admitted to hospital last month to finally shed some of the growths weighing at least five kilograms (11 pounds) that first began appearing 10 years ago. "We removed some small warts from his palm. We also did dressing of his fingers, which were operated on last week. He's now better," Sen told AFP.

But Bajandar would need up to 15 operations in total to rid his body of the growths, which may take six months to one year, Sen said.

Bajandar, from the southern district of Khulna, was diagnosed with epidermodysplasia verruciformis, an extremely rare genetic condition dubbed "tree-man dis-

ease" that causes the growths. He has become a celebrity, with people travelling to Khulna over the years to see him and hundreds visiting him in hospital.

Bajandar said he was determined to continue with the treatment no matter how long it took.

"The first operation has given me hope," he told AFP by phone from hospital. "I don't want to return to my village without clearing my hands and feet. I want to get back to my old life," the father-of-one said.

Bajandar was given the all-clear for surgery after tests confirmed the warts were not cancerous. He opted to have the surgery now after the Bangladesh government decided to pay the bill. Bajandar initially thought the warts were harmless but slowly as the growths covered his hands and feet, he was forced to quit working as a bicycle rickshaw puller.

Sen said only three known cases of epidermodysplasia verruciformis existed in the world. An Indonesian villager with massive warts all over his body underwent a string of operations in 2008 to remove them. — AFP

STILLBIRTH OFFERS ANOTHER CLUE TO POSSIBLE DAMAGE FROM ZIKA

WASHINGTON: A stillbirth in Brazil is offering another clue to possible health effects of the Zika virus, this time beyond the developing brain. In addition to a devastating loss of brain tissue, this fetus also had another abnormality - severe swelling and fluid build-up in other parts of the body - that by itself can be life-threatening, researchers reported.

Researchers found the Zika virus in the fetus even though the mother didn't report any symptoms of infection, according to the case report published in the journal PLOS Neglected Tropical Diseases.

Disease detectives should take a closer look at stillbirths in Zika-affected areas, concluded the team from Yale University and the Hospital Geral Roberto Santos in Salvador, Brazil.

Zika is spreading rapidly through Latin America and raised global concern after Brazil reported a surge in babies born with unusually small heads, a birth defect called microcephaly that can signal underlying brain damage. Whether the mosquitoborne Zika really causes microcephaly isn't yet proven. But in a handful of previously published cases, researchers have found both the virus and serious. brain abnormalities after fetal or newborn death.

Thursday's report could alert doctors to watch for other congenital problems - like the fluid build-up

cited in the study - during prenatal ultrasound exams of women potentially at risk. The fluid problem is called hydrops fetalis.

If a doctor spotted hydrops alone, "you might not immediately attribute it to Zika virus because what has been described are brain abnormalities," said Dr. Sallie Permar of the Duke Human Vaccine Institute. an expert on maternal-fetal viral infections who was-

n't involved with the Brazil case. The case raises the possibility "that this could be a systemic infection of the fetus, that not only the brain development could be affected," Permar added. — AP



DHAKA: Bangladesh patient Abul Bajandar, 26, dubbed "Tree Man" for massive bark-like warts on his hands and feet, sits at Dhaka Medical College Hospital in Dhaka. — AFP

RHINOS FLOURISH IN A SOUTH AFRICAN WILDLIFE PARK

HLUHLUWE-IMFOLOZI GAME RESERVE, South Africa: During the rescue of a South African rhino calf whose mother was killed by poachers, six heavily perspiring men squeezed the sedated orphan into a helicopter whose seats and doors had been removed to make more space, according to a witness account. The rhino's behind stuck out of the aircraft a bit, but the improvised airlift in February was a success. Days later, an Associated Press team saw the jittery calf trotting around a holding pen at

Hluhluwe-iMfolozi, a wildlife area whose tradition as a rhino refuge contrasts with an otherwise grim picture in which rhinos have been slaughtered in increasing numbers to meet demand for their horns in parts of Asia, especially Vietnam.

The disoriented calf, which collided noisily with an enclosure door at one point, could spend a couple of years under human care until it is resilient enough to return to the wild. It is the guest of conservationists whose predecessors, many decades



Young rhinos eat in their enclosure at a rhino orphanage in the Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Game Reserve in the KwaZulu Natal province South Africa. — AP

ago, chased darted rhinos through thorny bush on horseback, or noosed them while speeding alongside the galloping beasts in open trucks.

The storied history at Hluhluwe-iMfolozi, the last redoubt of southern white rhinos a century ago and then a gene pool for distribution of surplus rhinos elsewhere in Africa and in Western zoos and parks, is a source of hope among groups struggling for a formula to curb poaching. In the late 19th century, there were estimated to be fewer than 100 of that type of rhino because of uncontrolled hunting, posing a crisis comparable in some ways to today's

Cross-border conservation

"They were where we are now - in dire straits, with their backs against the wall," said Werner Myburgh, chief executive officer of the Peace Parks Foundation, a group that promotes cross-border conservation areas.

Today, there are about 20,000 southern white rhinos, most of them in South Africa. There are only three northern white rhinos left in the world, living at a Kenyan conservancy. The critically endangered black rhinos number about 5,000. Other kinds of threatened rhinos live in parts of Asia.

Hluhluwe-iMfolozi, formerly split into two parks, transfers roughly 100 rhinos annually, many going to other conservation areas or private farms, said Cedric Coetzee, manager of rhino security in South Africa's KwaZulu-Natal province, which includes the

"We're still in a sustainable model here," Coetzee said. Hluhluwe-iMfolozi was among the first areas in Africa where wildlife was formally protected in the late 19th century, and had also been a former royal Zulu hunting ground with some restrictions on the killing of animals.

"It's one area where we all meet together," Coetzee said. "It's got steep, steep traditions in Zulu history and it's got steep, steep traditions in white history as well."

The park is under less pressure from infiltration than South Africa's Kruger National Park, which is particularly vulnerable because it borders Mozambique, where many rhino poaching teams are based.

Still, the threat looms. Poachers killed 24 rhinos

in KwaZulu-Natal province as of Feb. 25 this year, an increase of 16 percent over the same period in 2015. Nationwide, poachers killed 1,175 rhinos in South Africa in 2015, down 40 from the previous year, according to the government.

The facility in the Hluhluwe-iMfolozi park where the white rhino calf was taken after its helicopter ride can house several dozen rhinos. On a recent afternoon, two black rhino calves snacked on leaves and one approached visitors at a barrier, seemingly content to be patted on its head. — AP



The French scientific expedition schooner Tara at the Kaiser Franz Joseph fjord, on the eastern coast of Greenland. — AFP

HEALTH & SCIENCE





ROYALE HAYAT HOSPITAL WINS FIRST PLACE

Service Hero award for sixth year in a row in Healthcare category

By Faten Omar

Poyale Hayat Hospital was named first in the healthcare category for the sixth year in a row by Service Hero. Service Hero is the Arab world's only 100 percent consumer-driven customer satisfaction index. Their voting platform empowers consumers to rate the service quality of places they have visited and tried their services. "We are proud once again of Royale Hayat's dedicated physicians, staff and management who work hard to provide the best medical care and services to its customers. When we started, quality of service was one of our major points," said Dr Hamid Ghaderi, Deputy Medical Director.

Ghaderi is also an anesthesia, intensive care and pain management consultant and member of a German board. "Improving services is a challenge, and the Service Hero award is the proof that we are on the right track. We have established a system to monitor customer happiness and improving services for them. We are oriented towards the customer, taking ideas and suggestions from our customers to satisfy their needs," he told Kuwait Times.

Ghaderi said Royale Hayat Hospital is one of the first hospitals



Dr Hamid Ghaderi, Deputy Medical Director, Royale Hayat Hospital, Kuwait. —Photos by Joseph Shagra

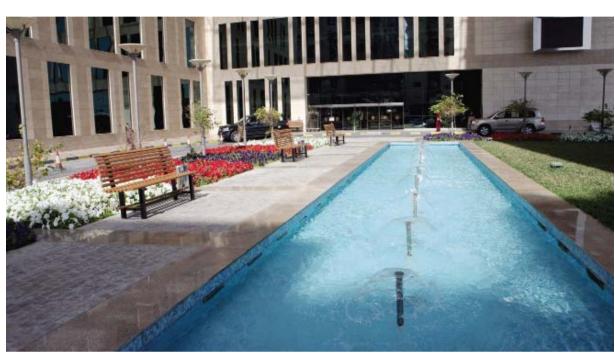
in Kuwait and in the region to combine hospital and hotel services. "We are trying to compete with hospitals and hotels in providing hotel services like choosing rooms and a high-class ambiance, along with medical services," he said.

Royale Hayat Hospital started as a maternity hospital but it has added new specialties. Ghaderi told Kuwait Times that the hospital has special packages for deliveries. "We give the patient the option to choose his or her room and doctors. Once a patient is admitted, he/she will get an iPad with all services and applications. If a patient is planning to

undergo surgery, she/he can choose the doctor and check out on his/her qualifications or they can choose doctors from outside the hospital who have a medical license with Royale Hayat," he said.

"Royale Hayat Hospital has a high-class intensive care unit to monitor newborn babies. The anesthesia service is very excellent and Royale Hayat hospital is one of the first hospitals that provides patient with epidural anesthesia and that's one of the main points of why a lot of external doctors bring patients here," Ghaderi said. About the medical staff, Ghaderi said that the hospital has a good combination of Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti staff from various countries (Europe, North America and Arab countries), doctors who have experience in different specialties and they choose the best of the best to make the hospital highly qualified to attract patients and good doctors as well.

To keep updated with the latest technology and medical improvement, Royale Hayat Hospital visits medical conferences inside and outside Kuwait, has an internal education program, monthly department meetings, educational sessions, with every session reported to the management, educational events



with international visitors, and visits to Germany every year to keep updated with the latest medical products to improve services. He added that Royale Hayat Hospital has a good surgery department, dental, family medicine, ENT (ear, nose and throat) department and a well-known plastic surgery center. It recently hired a new neurologist

and endocrine specialist. The hospital also started in 2015 a smaller branch of Royale Hayat in Mahboula as a non-surgery cosmetic, dental and general clinic.

Since launching in 2006, Royale Hayat has promised and delivered the safest, most modern and highest quality of medical care and services to the Kuwaiti society in an environment of compassion, comfort and care. Royale Hayat achieved this by redefining and setting global benchmarks in hospitality and through providing a culture of continuous learning, innovation and excellence in healthcare, and will always be thankful to the team of doctors, nurses, and staff who are a great part of this continuous success.











Kuwait - Times
248 33 199













KUWAIT KERALA ISLAHI CENTER LAUNCHES QURAN EXPO

he Press Information Secretary of the Indian Embassy, AK Shrivastave, inaugurated the Quran Expo, a three-day event aimed at spreading awareness about the message of the Quran and its miraculous nature, at the Kuwait Abbasiya Pakistan School on Friday. The event was organized by Kuwait Kerala Islahi Center (KKIC) under the aegis of the Ministry of Awqaf, and attended by the Undersecretary of Ministry of Awqaf, Sheikh

Farid Al Imadi, in addition to other prominent members from the Indian community.

In his address the Press Secretary said that all religions teach peace, and that the misdemeanors of a small fringe who indulge in extreme acts of violence in the name of religion do not represent its pure teachings.

Sheikh Farid Al Imadi, who inaugurated a seminar entitled 'Quran, a Great Miracle,' said the contributions made by the Indian com-

munity for centuries in the cause of Islam are truly remarkable. The undersecretary hailed the efforts of the Indian diaspora throughout the world and particularly those of the scholars from the subcontinent "whose efforts have helped further the knowledge about Islam." Further, Sheikh Al Imadi lauded the efforts of KKIC and expressed his in-depth support for the organization on behalf of the Ministry of

Awqaf.

The Malaysian Ambassador to Kuwait, Ahmed Abdul Ghani, who was the chief guest at the seminar, for his part emphasized the importance of the seminar by underlining the need to learn the Quran, "to discover the valuable solutions it puts forth to all of humanity's problems." The event also witnessed the awarding ceremony for the class toppers at the KKIC-run Madrasa (religious schools) and the winners of the WhatsApp Quran Contest.

A special seminar hosted by KKIC President, PN Abdul Latif Madani, was attended by prominent members of the Indian community. A journal published by KKIC was launched at the event with the Director of Jamiya Al Hind, Faisal Moulavi, presenting a copy to the renowned orator, Abdul Malik Salafi. Former State President of MSM, Twalahat Salahi and CP Abdul Aziz also spoke during the expo.







ICSK KHAITAN CONDUCTS SHUBHECHHA SAMAROH

n an emotionally amplified atmosphere the students, staff and management of the Indian Community School Kuwait, Khaitan branch, bid adieu to the 10th standard students of 2016 batch at a grand function held at the school campus

A number of events were organized to mark this nostalgic moment which would go down the memory lane of the outgoing students. In the welcome speech, KG Shirsath, Principal of ICSK Khaitan, welcomed the guests and the gathering. An amazing Mohiniyattyam performance was presented by Anitta Rose of class X which enthralled the spectators. Special recognition awards were given out to the students who made their Alma matter proud in various fields. In a nostalgic speech Master Mohammad Mishal and Ms Mariam Paul recollected their school time and

stressed on the importance of life in shaping one's destiny. In his Presidential address, Honorary Secretary to the Board of Trustees Vijay Karayil remarked that self-motivation is the only key to success.

Earlier in the morning, Mr. Crawford Wilson D'Souza, a renowned mind-trainer and life coach had conducted a workshop for students on the topic 'Score More'. Parent representative to the Board of Trustees Nizar KVand other dignitaries presented mementos to the outgoing students of class 10.

The program concluded with the corridor of blessings where all students received infinite blessings from teachers and parents. An emotional song "showers of blessings we need" that was sung by the choir on the occasion was deeply touching.





JABER AL-ALI SCHOOL CELEBRATES DIRECTOR'S RETURN

irector of Jaber Al-Ali Secondary School, of Mubarak Al-Kabeer educational Area, Khaled Al-Sager, his deputy, Fadhel Ghadanfar, the school's administrative and teaching staff all recently celebrated the return of deputy director, Mohammed Al-Hudhainah after a long medical trip to the US. They are all thankful to Almighty Allah for Al-Hudhainah's recovery and wish him a long happy and healthy life. Congratulations and welcome back, Bo Talal.









JAPANESE EMBASSY CONDUCTS CULTURAL WORKSHOPS

The Embassy of Japan in Kuwait organized Japanese cultural workshops in cooperation with DAI, and Yarmouk Cultural Center. The workshops took place on Wednesday February 17, 2016 at AI-Yarmouk Cultural Center. The workshops invovled were tea ceremony, origami and Japanese calligraphy. All the workshops were presented by Japanese specialists. More than 200 guests were present and took part in the event. The participants were given the chance to experience the beauty of the Japanese culture in a sweet friendly atmosphere.













KUWAIT CELEBRATES THE BAND OF THE ROYAL REGIMENT OF SCOTLAND

n recognition of the Amir's 10th year since accession, as well as 55 years of Independence and 25 years since Liberation by coalition forces, the Band of the Royal Regiment of Scotland visited Kuwait from 17 - 27 February 2016 to perform musical program to celebrate this unique period of time. The Band is a part of the United Kingdom's 51 Brigade, which is twinned with the GCC countries to provide training and support. It is therefore with great pleasure that the British Embassy Defense Section in conjunction with the UK Ministry of Defense has been able to organize the visit and celebrate the Kuwait/Britain bilateral relationship.

During their visit to Kuwait, the Band

will play at numerous venues including: The British School Kuwait, the British Embassy, The Avenues, Al-Shaheed Park, the Mubarak Al-Abdullah Joint Command and Staff College and one or two other surprise venues.

The Band's History

In 2006 the Band of The Royal Regiment of Scotland was established to supersede the Lowland and Highland bands of The Scottish Division. The role of the band is to support the Army and the State and Ceremonial occasions that occur in Scotland's capital city and beyond. These engagements include Garden Parties for the Royal Family, state banquets and Guards of Honor at Holyrood Palace,

Edinburgh and Stirling Castles and Balmoral. In addition to concert and marching band, through the diverse skills of its musicians, the band are able to provide a wide range of musical variety encompassing pop and soul ensembles, folk and ceilidh groups, fanfare trumpets and various chamber ensembles. All members of the band are fulltime musicians but are also trained as soldiers: in 2003, many members of the band served their country in Iraq, working in support of 33 and 202 Field Hospitals. More recently in 2011 the band served in Afghanistan entertaining the troops over the Christmas period. They are conducted today by their Director of Music, Captain Tony



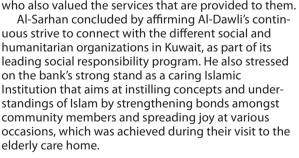




AL-DAWLI PRESENTED GIFTS TO THE **ELDERLY CARE HOME TO CELEBRATE** THE NATIONAL DAYS WITH THE ELDERS

n the occasion of the National and Liberations Days, delegates from the Communications Unit at Kuwait International Bank (KIB) paid a visit to the elderly care home and distributed gifts among them aiming to bring joy to their hearts. "It brings great pleasure to the bank's staff to visit the elderly care home and share with them the joy of the National Days", said Fahad Al-Sarhan, the Team Leader -Corporate Communications at KIB. He also praised the great effort of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor in providing the social and medical care to the elderly

who also valued the services that are provided to them. Al-Sarhan concluded by affirming Al-Dawli's continuous strive to connect with the different social and humanitarian organizations in Kuwait, as part of its leading social responsibility program. He also stressed on the bank's strong stand as a caring Islamic Institution that aims at instilling concepts and understandings of Islam by strengthening bonds amongst community members and spreading joy at various occasions, which was achieved during their visit to the



WE ALL DREAM IN GOLD: THE OSCARS AIRS LIVE AND EXCLUSIVELY ON OSN

ith just one day to go, the countdown for the most celebrated and prestigious awards of the year has begun. Stay tuned to OSN, the region's leading pay-TV network, to see all of the live action from the star-studded 88th Academy Awards ceremony at the same time as the US.

Organised under the theme 'We All Dream in Gold,' and hosted by comedian, Chris Rock, viewers will be in for a treat as OSN, the home of blockbuster movies and series, telecasts the ceremony live and exclusively across the region on OSN Movies Premiere HD and streams on OSN Play on February 29 at 4.30am (KSA time), and the repeat at 8pm (KSA time) on the same

OSN subscribers will be treated to daily screenings of Hollywood's finest with a line-up of previous Oscar winners such as Birdman, The Theory of Everything, Interstellar and more, all airing on OSN this month. Film fans can also get up close to all the excitement from the red carpet live on E! as this year's nominees and A-list stars show off their glamorous attire and stop for interviews with renowned TV presenter Giuliana Rancic.

With fierce competition put up by blockbuster movies such as, The Revenant, The Martian, Star Wars: The Force Awakens, Mad Max: Fury Road, Joy and Steve Jobs this year's Oscars is set to make for golden viewing. Tune in to the live airing to watch the festivities and the grand Oscar ceremony only on OSN.

WHAT'S ON - SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

All photos submitted for What's On should be minimum 200dpi. Articles must be in plain text and should include name and phone numbers. Articles and photos that fail to meet these requirements will not be published.

Please send them to news@kuwaittimes.net





LONG SMART BROWN CREWS LEVY McLENDON-COVEY EGGOLD HENAO AND PERRY

NOTHING LIKE A LITTLE GROUP THERAPY.



Teenage Witch 03:45 Sabrina Secrets Of A

04:35 Binny And The Ghost

06:50 Gravity Falls 07:15 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug

12:20 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug

15:45 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug

19:05 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug

Teenage Witch

05:00 Violetta

05:45 The Hive

06:00 Lolirock

06:25 Sofia The First

05:50 Mouk

& Cat Noir

07:40 Jessie

11:25 Jessie

11:50 Jessie

15:20 Jessie

16:10 Violetta

17:00 The Next Step

17:50 Mako Mermaids

18:15 Dog With A Blog 18:40 Gravity Falls

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

23:35 Binny And The Ghost

00:00 The Grace Helbig Show

The 2016 Academy...

Kardashians

Kardashians

18:00 E! News

22:00 WAGs

The 2016 Academy...

23:00 Sex With Brody

Kardashians 07:50 Style Star

04:30 A-List Listings 05:00 Beyond Candid With

06:00 Keeping Up With The

06:55 Keeping Up With The

08:20 Live From The Red Carpet:

The 2016 Academy... 11:10 #RichKids Of Beverly Hills

11:35 #RichKids Of Beverly Hills

12:05 Live From The Red Carpet: The 2016 Academy...

15:00 Keeping Up With The

Kardashians 16:00 Keeping Up With The

17:00 Stewarts And Hamiltons

19:00 Live From The Red Carpet:

23:30 Live From The Red Carpet: The 2016 Academy...

tooa

00:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives

01:00 Rev Run's Sunday Suppers

04:00 Australian Food Adventures

06:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives

Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives

All Star Academy

With Matt Moran

05:00 Chopped

07:00 Man Fire Food 07:30 Man Fire Food

09:00 Barefoot Contessa 09:30 Barefoot Contessa

The Kitchen

11:00 The Pioneer Woman 11:30 The Pioneer Woman

14:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives

14:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives

The Pioneer Woman

Chopped

13:00 Guy's Big Bite 13:30 Guy's Big Bite

15:00 Man Fire Food

15:30 Man Fire Food

19:00 Chopped 20:00 Iron Chef America

22:00 Mystery Diners

22:30 Mystery Diners

23:00 Save My Bakery

21:00 Staten Island Cakes

16:00 Chopped 17:00 The Kitchen

08:00 Chopped

03:00 Follow Donal... To Europe

00:30 WAGs 01:30 Live From The Red Carpet:

17:25 Austin & Ally

& Cat Noir

& Cat Noir 19:30 Violetta

Teenage Witch

23:10 Hank Zipzer

& Cat Noir

08:05 Shake It Up

09:45 Austin & Ally

10:35 A.N.T. Farm

12:45 Fish Hooks

13:35 | Didn't Do It

13:10 Good Luck Charlie

14:00 Dog With A Blog 14:30 H2O: Just Add Water

14:55 Girl Meets World

08:55 That's So Raven

04:10 Hank Zipzer

00:50 Gator Boys 01:45 Gator Boys 02:40 Wild Capture School 03:10 Wild Capture School 03:35 Wildest Latin America 04:25 Wild Hawaii 05:15 Wildest Middle East

06:02 Wildest Islands 06:49 How Sharks Hunt 07:36 Swamp Brothers Swamp Brothers

08:25 Bad Dog 09:15 Big Fish Man 10:10 Treehouse Masters 11:05 Tanked 12:00 Bad Dog

12:55 Bondi Vet 13:50 Big Fish Man 14:45 Gator Bovs 15:40 Treehouse Masters 16:35 Tanked 17:30 Wildest Islands

18:25 River Monsters 19:20 Treetop Cat Rescue 19:50 Treetop Cat Rescue 20:15 Tanked

21:10 Mutant Planet 22:05 Treehouse Masters Treetop Cat Rescue 23:30 Treetop Cat Rescue

23:55 Gator Boys

Discovery 00:20 Fast N' Loud

01:10 Incredible Engineering Blunders: Fixed 02:00 Incredible Engineering Blunders: Fixed 02:50 Wheeler Dealers: Top 5 03:40 Storage Hunters 04:05 The Liquidator 04:30 Auction Hunters: Pawn Shop

05:00 How It's Made: Dream Cars 05:30 How Do They Do It? Flying Wild Alaska

06:50 Kings Of Crash 07:40 Fast N' Loud Storage Hunters 08:55 The Liquidator 09:20 Auction Hunters: Pawn Shop

09:45 How It's Made: Dream Cars 10:10 How Do They Do It? Fast N' Loud 11:25 Street Outlaws

12:15 Extreme Car Hoarders

13:05 Storage Hunters 13:30 The Liquidator 13:55 Auction Hunters: Pawn Shop

14:20 Flying Wild Alaska 15:10 Kings Of Crash 16:00 Fast N' Loud 16:50 How It's Made: Dream Cars 17:15 How Do They Do It? 17:40 Gold Rush

18:30 Gold Divers 19:20 Close-Up Kings The Liquidator 20:35 Auction Hunters: Pawn Shop Edition 21:00 Gold Rush

21:50 Diamond River Hunters 22:40 Pacific Warriors 23:30 Kings Of Crash



00:35 Moon Machines 03:42 Food Factory 07:37 How Do They Do It? 08:00 How Do They Do It? 08:23 Weird Or What?

09:08 Mythbusters 09:53 Unchained Reaction 10:38 How It's Made 11:00 How It's Made 11:23 Alien Mysteries Moon Machines

12:53 Unchained Reaction 13:38 Weird Or What? 14:46 How It's Made 15:10 Mythbusters 15:57 Alien Mysteries

16:44 Moon Machines 17:31 Unchained Reaction 18:18 Mythbusters 19:05 Weird Or What? 19:50 Strangest Weather On Earth

Moon Machines 21:25 How It's Made 21:50 How It's Made Mythbusters

23:00 Strangest Weather On Earth 23:45 Moon Machines

03:10 House Of Horrors: Kidnapped 03:35 House Of Horrors: Kidnapped 04:00 Deadline: Crime With Tamron Hall 04:45 Deadly Affairs

05:30 Deadly Devotion

00:40 Deadly Affairs

02:20 Serial Killers

01:30 Deadly Devotion

06:20 The Will 07:10 The Will 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 Ćrime With Aphrodite Jones

21:45 California Investigator 22:10 Who On Earth... 22:35 Who On Earth... 23:00 House Of Horrors: Kidnapped 23:25 House Of Horrors:

23:50 California Investigator



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

03:20 Sabrina Secrets Of A

03:15 The Hive

00:10 The Chase 01:05 Emmerdale 01:30 Emmerdale Coronation Street 02:00 02:30 Murdoch Mysteries 03:25 Seven Days With,Ķ 04:20 The Jonathan Ross Show 05:15 The Chase: Celebrity

06:10 Who's Doing The Dishes? 07:05 More Tales From Northumberland... 07:30 Seven Days With,Ķ 08:25 The Jonathan Ross Show 09:20 Murdoch Mysteries The Chase

Specials

11:10 More Tales From Northumberland... 11:35 Blue Go Mad In Ibiza 12:30 Who's Doing The Dishes? 13:25 Emmerdale 13:50 More Tales From

Northumberland... 14:20 Coronation Street 14:45 Murdoch Mysteries 15:35 Come Dine With Me Couples 16:30 Churchill's Secret 18:20 Who's Doing The Dishes?

CHANNEL [1] 00:10 Big Fish, Texas

02:00 Megastructures 02:55 Lawless Island Big Fish, Texas 04:45 World's Toughest Fixes 05:40 Yukon Gold 06:35 Buried Secrets Of The

07:30 How To Win At Everything 07:55 How To Win At Everything 08:25 80s: The Decade That Made Us

09:20 World's Toughest Fixes 10:15 Lawless Island 11:10 Primal Survivor 12:05 The Next Mega Tsunami 13:00 80s: The Decade That Made

14:00 How To Win At Everything 16:00 Lawless Island 17:00 Primal Survivor

Evacuate Earth

OF FIRST HD

06:30 Community 10:30 Community 13:30 Community

OS FIRST HD

00:00 Chicago Fire 01:00 Scandal 02:00 How To Get Away With

04:00 Bones 05:00 Good Morning America 06:00 Suits 07:00 The Whispers

08:00 C.S.I. Cyber 09:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show Bones 11:00 The Whispers

14:00 Suits 18:00 C.S.I. Cyber

19:00 Scandal Murde

MOVIES

ACTION

Special ID 10:00 Biker Boyz12:00 Dying Of The Light 16:00 Special ID 17:45 King Arthur

20:00 Dying Of The Light

MOVIES HD ACTION

TV PROGRAMS

02:00 Biker Boyz-PG15 04:00 Big Ass Spider!-PG15 06:00 Special ID-PG15 08:00 Biker Boyz-PG15 10:00 Dying Of The Light-PG15 12:00 Toxin-PG15 14:00 Special ID-PG15

00:00 Into The Grizzly Maze-18

15:45 King Arthur-PG15 18:00 Dying Of The Light-PG15 20:00 Snitch-PG15 22:00 The Man With The Iron Fists-

OM MOVIES HD

MOVIES

DRAMA

03:00 The Trials Of Cate McCall-

07:00 Late Bloomers-PG15 09:00 The Truth About Emanuel-

COMEDY 00:00 Three Night Stand 02:00 50 First Dates 04:00 Garfield's Pet Force 05:45 Renaissance Man 08:00 UHF 10:00 Garfield's Pet Force

12:00 50 First Dates

01:00 Mr. Pip-PG15

05:00 Still Mine-PG15

11:00 Still Mine-PG15

13:00 Reclaim-PG15

14:45 Jack Strong-PG15 17:00 The Truth About Emanuel-

19:00 Go For Sisters-PG15

21:15 A Long Way Down-PG15

OM MOVIES HD

FESTIVAL

01:30 When A Man Loves A

14:00 Dunston Checks In 16:00 UHF 18:00 Man Of The House **NATIONAL** 20:00 Dumb And Dumber To 22:00 Hot Tub Time Machine 2 **GEOGRAPHIC**

PG15

PG15

Woman

21:30 71

03:45 Gattaca

09:30 Manny 11:00 Safe Haven

23:00 Anna-18

01:00 Challenger Disaster: Lost

Buddha

14:30 How To Win At Everything 15:00 Challenger Disaster: Lost

COMEDY

19:00 The Grinder

Murder 03:00 The Last Kingdom

12:00 Coronation Street

12:30 Coronation Street 15:00 Live Good Morning America 17:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show

20:00 How To Get Away With

21:00 Quantico

22:00 Rosewood 23:00 Allegiance

00:00 Death Race 02:00 Into The Grizzly Maze

04:00 Biker Boyz 06:00 Big Ass Spider

13:00 Reds 16:15 Black Nativity 18:00 Manny 19:30 Frank

05:30 Safe Haven 07:30 What Dreams May Come

01:00 Rosewater-PG15 03:00 Song For Marion-PG15

05:00 The Single Moms Club-PG15 07:00 Veronica Mars-PG15 12:45 The Signal-PG15 14:30 The Maze Runner-PG15
16:30 The Hobbit: The Battle Of The Five Armies-PG 19:00 Edge Of Tomorrow-PG15

23:00 The Equalizer-18

OM MOVIES HID

01:00 Ghatothkach - Master Of Magic 02:45 The Unbeatables 04:30 Goat Story 2 06:00 The Olsen Gang In Deep

Trouble

08:00 Bamse And The City Of Thieves 09:45 Worms 11:15 Columbus In The Last Journey 12:45 The Unbeatables 14:30 Mamma Moo And Crow

16:00 The Three Dogateers 18:00 Worms 20:00 The Heart Of The Oak 22:00 Mamma Moo And Crow 23:30 The Three Dogateers

OM MOVIES HD PREMIERE 08:00 The Imitation Game-PG15

18:00 The Imitation Game-PG15 TLC HD 00:45 Outrageous Kid Parties 01:10 Outrageous Kid Parties

23:30 Gainsbourg: A Heroic Life

ON MOVIES HID

09:00 Step Up All In-PG15 11:00 The Book Of Life-PG

21:00 The Pyramid-PG15

07:15 Hoarding: Buried Alive 08:05 My Big Fat Fabulous Life 08:55 7 Little Johnstons 09:45 Jon & Kate Plus 8 10:10 Little People, Bia World 10:35 Sister Wives 11:50 Designer Darlings 12:40 Bakery Boss

13:30 Designer Darlings14:20 Outrageous Kid Parties15:10 Jon & Kate Plus 8 15:35 Little People, Big World 16:00 Hoarding: Buried Alive 16:50 Sister Wives

01:35 Long Island Medium 02:00 90 Days To Wed 02:50 Sister Wives

04:30 Jon & Kate Plus 8

05:00 Little People, Big World

05:30 Cake Boss 06:00 Say Yes To The Dress 06:25 Bakery Boss

03:40 Craft Wars

17:40 Cake Boss 18:05 Say Yes To The Dress 18:30 Craft Wars 19:20 Billion Dollar Hotel 20:10 Bakery Boss21:00 Oprah Winfrey Leadership Academy... 22:40 Curvy Brides



Pawn Stars Australia 00:20 Pawn Stars Australia 00:45 American Restoration 01:35 American Restoration 02:00 Shipping Wars

Shipping Wars Shipping Wars 04:30 Pawn Stars **Hunting Hitler** 05:00 06:00 Ice Road Truckers Duck Dynasty Swamp People

Shipping Wars

American Pickers

02:50

06:50 Duck Dynasty 07:15 07:40 Ax Men 08:30 Storage Wars Mountain Men 10:35 American Pickers

11:25 **Hunting Hitler** 12:40 Pawn Stars Shipping Wars 13:05

13:30 Shipping Wars 13:55 Pawn Stars 14:20 Pawn Stars 14:45 Pawn Stars Australia 15:10 Pawn Stars Australia Storage Wars 16:00 American Pickers

Rob Roy Jason's Lyric Groundhog Day How To Murder Your Wife 04:35 One Summer Love

10:00 Impromptu 11:45 Waking Up In Reno 13:20 Miracles 14:45 Grayeagle

One More Kiss 16:30 18:10 The Great Escape

21:00 Night Manager

Rob Roy



01:45 02:00

02:30

02:55

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Loopdidoo

Art Attack

Calimero

Loopdidoo

Art Attack

Zou Loopdidoo

Art Attack

Art Attack

Calimero

Loopdidoo

Goldie & Bear

Doc McStuffins

Sofia The First

Goldie & Bear

Sofia The First

Goldie & Bear

Doc McStuffins

Loopdidoo

Mickey Mouse Clubhouse

Miles From Tomorrow

The Hive

Zou Loopdidoo

Zou

Henry Hugglemonster

Henry Hugglemonster

Henry Hugglemonster Calimero

Miles From Tomorrow Sofia The First

Jake And The Never Land

Mickey Mouse Clubhouse

Miles From Tomorrow

Special Agent Oso

Zou

Zou

Zou

00:00 Killer Kids 01:00 The Haunting Of.. 02:00

THE SINGLE MOMS CLUB ON OSN MOVIES HD

The Haunting Of Crimes That Shook Britain 03:00 Private Crimes 04:30 Private Crimes Killer Kids

The Haunting Of.. 06:00 07:00 Fred Dinenage: Murder Casebook

09:00 Frenemies Private Crimes Crimes That Shook Australia 11:00 Nightmare In Suburbia

Beyond Scared Straight I Killed My BFF 13:00 14:00 Crime Stories 15:00 Crimes That Shook Australia Frenemies 16:00 **Private Crimes** 16:30

The FBI Files 17:00 Beyond Scared Straight 18:00 19:00 20:00

Crime Stories Nightmare In Suburbia Crimes That Shook Australia Frenemies



00:20 Calimero 00:35 Zou Loopdidoo 00:50 Art Attack 01:30



Handy Manny Jungle Junction Mickey Mouse Clubhouse 12:50 13:15 13:30 14:25 Henry Hugglemonster 14:50

> 16:35 Jake And The Never Land **Pirates** 17:00 Sofia The First Jungle Cubs Aladdin 17:25 17:50 Gummi Bears 18:40 Goldie & Bear Miles From Tomorrow 19:05 Sofia The First 19:55 Doc McStuffins

Jake And The Never Land 20:35 Miles From Tomorrow 21:00 Goldie & Bear Sofia The First Jungle Cubs 22:00 22:25 Aladdin 22:50 Gummi Bears 23:20 Lilo And Stitch

Cars Toons



7:00am KSA Star vs The Forces Of Evil 07:00 K. C. Undercover Supa Strikas Annedroids 07:50 08:15 08:40 Lab Rats 09:10 Kirby Buckets Wander Over Yonder Rocket Monkeys Ultimate Spider-Man 10:25

12:35 Lab Rats Lab Rats Phineas And Ferb 13:00 Phineas And Ferb Kickin' It

Boyster

Boyster Pair Of Kings Pair Of Kings

14:20 Kickin' It Disney Mickey Mouse Rocket Monkeys Wander Over Yonder Star vs The Forces Of Evil

Kirby Buckets



CLASSIFIEDS

Kuwait Times

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 2016



Kuwait Cines CINEMA

KNCC PROGRAMME FROM THURSDAY TO WEDNESDAY (25/02/2016 TO 02/03/2016)

•							
SHAROIA-1		HELP, I SHRUNK MYTEACHER	2:30 PM	HELP, I SHRUNK MY TEACHER	5:30 PM	ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: THE ROAD CHIP	5:30 PM
HELP, I SHRUNK MY TEACHER	12:30 PM	HELP, I SHRUNK MYTEACHER	4:30 PM	HELP, I SHRUNK MY TEACHER	7:30 PM	ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: THE ROAD CHIP	7:45 PM
HELP, I SHRUNK MY TEACHER	2:30 PM	HELP, I SHRUNK MY TEACHER	6:30 PM	HELP, I SHRUNK MY TEACHER	9:30 PM	SHAKET DABOUS	9:45 PM
HELP, I SHRUNK MY TEACHER	4:30 PM	HELP, I SHRUNK MY TEACHER	8:30 PM	HELP, I SHRUNK MY TEACHER	11:30 PM	SHAKET DABOUS	11:45 PM
CONTAINMENT	6:30 PM	SHAKET DABOUS	10:30 PM				
HELP, I SHRUNK MY TEACHER	8:15 PM	THE FINEST HOURS	12:30 AM	AVENUES-4		360°-3	
CONTAINMENT	10:15 PM			THE DRESSMAKER	11:30 AM	THE HOUSE ON PINE STREET	1:15 PM
CONTAINMENT	12:05 AM	FANAR-3		THE DRESSMAKER	2:00 PM	THE HOUSE ON PINE STREET	3:45 PM
		THE FINEST HOURS	1:00 PM	THE FINEST HOURS	4:30 PM	SYNCHRONICITY	6:15 PM
SHARQIA-2	4 00 014	ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: THE ROAD CHIP	1:30 PM	Special Show "THE FINEST HOURS"	4:30 PM	THE HOUSE ON PINE STREET	8:45 PM
BARBIE: SPY SQUAD	1:00 PM	COLONIA	3:30 PM	THE DRESSMAKER	7:15 PM	THE HOUSE ON PINE STREET	11:15 PM
HELP, I SHRUNK MY TEACHER BARBIE: SPY SOUAD	3:00 PM 5:00 PM	THE FINEST HOURS COLONIA	5:30 PM 8:15 PM	Special Show "BACKTRACK" THE FINEST HOURS	7:15 PM 9:45 PM	AL-KOUT.1	
BACKTRACK	6:45 PM	CONTAINMENT	10:15 PM	CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES	12:15 AM	BACKTRACK	12:30 PM
BACKTRACK	8:45 PM	COLONIA	12:15 AM	CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES	12.13 AW	BACKTRACK	2:30 PM
BACKTRACK	10:45 PM	COLONIA	12.13 AW	AVENUES-5		BACKTRACK	4:30 PM
BACKTRACK	12:45 AM	MARINA-1		BACKTRACK	1:00 PM	BACKTRACK	6:30 PM
B) (CIVITA CIV	12.13741	HELP, I SHRUNK MYTEACHER	1:00 PM	BACKTRACK	3:00 PM	BACKTRACK	8:30 PM
SHARQIA-3		HELP, I SHRUNK MYTEACHER	3:00 PM	BACKTRACK	5:00 PM	BACKTRACK	10:30 PM
THE DRESSMAKER	12:15 PM	HELP, I SHRUNK MYTEACHER	5:00 PM	Special Show "CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES"	5:00 PM	BACKTRACK	12:30 AM
THE DRESSMAKER	2:45 PM	HELP, I SHRUNK MY TEACHER	7:00 PM	BACKTRACK	7:00 PM		
THE DRESSMAKER	5:15 PM	CONTAINMENT	9:00 PM	BACKTRACK	9:00 PM	AL-KOUT.2	
THE HOUSE ON PINE STREET	7:30 PM	CONTAINMENT	10:45 PM	BACKTRACK	11:00 PM	HELP, I SHRUNK MY TEACHER	1:00 PM
THE DRESSMAKER	9:45 PM	CONTAINMENT	12:30 AM	BACKTRACK	1:00 AM	THE DRESSMAKER	3:15 PM
THE DRESSMAKER	12:15 AM					HELP, I SHRUNK MY TEACHER	5:45 PM 7:45 PM
		MARINA-2		AVENUES-6		HELP, I SHRUNK MY TEACHER THE DRESSMAKER	9:45 PM
MUHALAB-1	4.45.014	THE DRESSMAKER	12:15 PM	BACKTRACK	12:00 PM	THE DRESSMAKER THE DRESSMAKER	12:05 AM
HELP, I SHRUNK MY TEACHER	1:15 PM	THE DRESSMAKER	2:30 PM	BACKTRACK	2:00 PM	THE BRESSWARER	12.05 AW
HELP, I SHRUNK MY TEACHER	3:15 PM	THE DRESSMAKER	4:45 PM 7:15 PM	BACKTRACK	4:00 PM 6:00 PM	AL-KOUT.3	
HELP, I SHRUNK MY TEACHER HELP, I SHRUNK MY TEACHER	5:15 PM 7:15 PM	THE DRESSMAKER THE HOUSE ON PINE STREET	9:30 PM	BACKTRACK BACKTRACK	8:00 PM	HELP, I SHRUNK MY TEACHER	11:30 AM
THE DRESSMAKER	9:15 PM	THE DRESSMAKER	11:45 PM	BACKTRACK	10:00 PM	BARBIE: SPY SQUAD	1:30 PM
THE DRESSMAKER	11:45 PM	THE DIESSIMAKEN	TT.+5 FW	BACKTRACK	12:05 AM	CONTAINMENT	3:30 PM
THE DRESSWAKER	11.451111	MARINA-3		BACKTIACK	12.03 AW	BARBIE: SPY SQUAD	5:15 PM
MUHALAB-2		BACKTRACK	12:00 PM	AVENUES-7		CONTAINMENT	7:00 PM
THE DRESSMAKER	12:30 PM	BACKTRACK	2:00 PM	ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: THE ROAD CHIP	11:45 AM	THE HOUSE ON PINE STREET	8:45 PM
THE DRESSMAKER	2:45 PM	BACKTRACK	4:00 PM	ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: THE ROAD CHIP	2:00 PM	CONTAINMENT	11:00 PM
CONTAINMENT	5:00 PM	BACKTRACK	6:00 PM	ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: THE ROAD CHIP	4:15 PM	CONTAINMENT	12:45 AM
CONTAINMENT	6:45 PM	BACKTRACK	8:00 PM	ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: THE ROAD CHIP	6:30 PM	BAIRAQ-1	
THE HOUSE ON PINE STREET	8:30 PM	BACKTRACK	10:00 PM	COLONIA	8:45 PM	BACKTRACK	11:45 AM
CONTAINMENT	10:45 PM	BACKTRACK	12:05 AM	COLONIA	11:00 PM	BACKTRACK	1:45 PM
CONTAINMENT	12:30 AM	AVENUES 4		COLONIA	1:15 AM	BARBIE: SPY SQUAD	1:45 PM
MULIAL AR 3		AVENUES-1	1.15 044	AVENUES O		BARBIE: SPY SQUAD	3:45 PM
MUHALAB-3	1.00 DM	BARBIE: SPY SQUAD	1:15 PM	AVENUES-8	11.20 444	ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: THE ROAD CHIP	5:45 PM
THE FINEST HOURS BACKTRACK	1:00 PM 1:30 PM	BARBIE: SPY SQUAD BARBIE: SPY SQUAD	1:30 PM 3:15 PM	CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES SYNCHRONICITY	11:30 AM 1:30 PM	BACKTRACK	7:45 PM
THE FINEST HOURS	3:30 PM	BARBIE: SPY SQUAD	5:15 PM	FITOOR - Hindi	3:30 PM	BACKTRACK	9:45 PM
HELP, I SHRUNK MY TEACHER	6:00 PM	FITOOR - Hindi	7:15 PM	SHAKET DABOUS	6:15 PM	BACKTRACK	11:45 PM
	8:00 PM	SHAKET DABOUS	10:15 PM	SHAKET DABOUS	8:15 PM		
BACKTRACK						BAIRAQ-2	
BACKTRACK BACKTRACK		THE FINEST HOURS	12:05 AM	CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES	10:15 PM		11.45 000
BACKTRACK BACKTRACK BACKTRACK	10:00 PM 12:05 AM	THE FINEST HOURS	12:05 AM	CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES	10:15 PM 12:15 AM	HELP, I SHRUNK MY TEACHER	11:45 AM
BACKTRACK	10:00 PM	THE FINEST HOURS AVENUES-2	12:05 AM			HELP, I SHRUNK MY TEACHER HELP, I SHRUNK MY TEACHER	2:00 PM
BACKTRACK BACKTRACK FANAR-1	10:00 PM 12:05 AM	AVENUES-2 COLONIA	12:00 PM	CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES 360°-1	12:15 AM	HELP, I SHRUNK MYTEACHER HELP, I SHRUNK MYTEACHER HELP, I SHRUNK MYTEACHER	2:00 PM 4:00 PM
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BACKTRACK BACKTRACK FANAR-1 THE DRESSMAKER THE DRESSMAKER	10:00 PM 12:05 AM 11:30 AM 1:45 PM	AVENUES-2 COLONIA COLONIA THE HOUSE ON PINE STREET	12:00 PM 2:15 PM 4:30 PM	CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES 360°-1 THE FINEST HOURS THE FINEST HOURS	12:15 AM 12:00 PM 2:30 PM	HELP, I SHRUNK MYTEACHER HELP, I SHRUNK MYTEACHER HELP, I SHRUNK MYTEACHER	2:00 PM 4:00 PM
BACKTRACK BACKTRACK FANAR-1 THE DRESSMAKER THE DRESSMAKER CONTAINMENT	10:00 PM 12:05 AM 11:30 AM 1:45 PM 4:00 PM	AVENUES-2 COLONIA COLONIA THE HOUSE ON PINE STREET THE HOUSE ON PINE STREET	12:00 PM 2:15 PM 4:30 PM 7:00 PM	CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES 360°-1 THE FINEST HOURS THE FINEST HOURS THE FINEST HOURS	12:15 AM 12:00 PM 2:30 PM 5:00 PM	HELP, I SHRUNK MYTEACHER HELP, I SHRUNK MYTEACHER HELP, I SHRUNK MYTEACHER HELP, I SHRUNK MYTEACHER HELP, I SHRUNK MYTEACHER	2:00 PM 4:00 PM 6:00 PM 8:00 PM
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BACKTRACK BACKTRACK FANAR-1 THE DRESSMAKER THE DRESSMAKER CONTAINMENT THE DRESSMAKER CONTAINMENT	10:00 PM 12:05 AM 11:30 AM 1:45 PM 4:00 PM 5:45 PM 8:00 PM	AVENUES-2 COLONIA COLONIA THE HOUSE ON PINE STREET THE HOUSE ON PINE STREET	12:00 PM 2:15 PM 4:30 PM 7:00 PM	CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES 360°- 1 THE FINEST HOURS	12:00 PM 2:30 PM 5:00 PM 7:30 PM 10:00 PM	HELP, I SHRUNK MYTEACHER THE DRESSMAKER THE DRESSMAKER BAIRAQ-3	2:00 PM 4:00 PM 6:00 PM 8:00 PM 10:00 PM 12:15 AM
BACKTRACK BACKTRACK FANAR-1 THE DRESSMAKER THE DRESSMAKER CONTAINMENT THE DRESSMAKER CONTAINMENT THE DRESSMAKER TONTAINMENT THE DRESSMAKER	10:00 PM 12:05 AM 11:30 AM 1:45 PM 4:00 PM 5:45 PM 8:00 PM 9:45 PM	AVENUES-2 COLONIA COLONIA THE HOUSE ON PINE STREET	12:00 PM 2:15 PM 4:30 PM 7:00 PM 9:45 PM	CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES 360°- 1 THE FINEST HOURS THE FINEST HOURS THE FINEST HOURS THE FINEST HOURS	12:00 PM 2:30 PM 5:00 PM 7:30 PM	HELP, I SHRUNK MYTEACHER THE DRESSMAKER THE DRESSMAKER BAIRAQ-3 THE DRESSMAKER	2:00 PM 4:00 PM 6:00 PM 8:00 PM 10:00 PM 12:15 AM
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BACKTRACK BACKTRACK FANAR-1 THE DRESSMAKER THE DRESSMAKER CONTAINMENT THE DRESSMAKER CONTAINMENT THE DRESSMAKER CONTAINMENT THE DRESSMAKER CONTAINMENT	10:00 PM 12:05 AM 11:30 AM 1:45 PM 4:00 PM 5:45 PM 8:00 PM 9:45 PM	AVENUES-2 COLONIA COLONIA THE HOUSE ON PINE STREET AVENUES-3 HELP, I SHRUNK MYTEACHER	12:00 PM 2:15 PM 4:30 PM 7:00 PM 9:45 PM 12:15 AM	CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES 360°-1 THE FINEST HOURS	12:15 AM 12:00 PM 2:30 PM 5:00 PM 7:30 PM 10:00 PM 12:30 AM	HELP, I SHRUNK MYTEACHER THE DRESSMAKER THE DRESSMAKER BAIRAQ-3 THE DRESSMAKER THE DRESSMAKER THE DRESSMAKER FITOOR - Hindi	2:00 PM 4:00 PM 6:00 PM 8:00 PM 10:00 PM 12:15 AM 11:30 AM 1:45 PM 4:00 PM
BACKTRACK BACKTRACK FANAR-1 THE DRESSMAKER THE DRESSMAKER CONTAINMENT THE DRESSMAKER CONTAINMENT THE DRESSMAKER TONTAINMENT THE DRESSMAKER	10:00 PM 12:05 AM 11:30 AM 1:45 PM 4:00 PM 5:45 PM 8:00 PM 9:45 PM	AVENUES-2 COLONIA COLONIA THE HOUSE ON PINE STREET AVENUES-3	12:00 PM 2:15 PM 4:30 PM 7:00 PM 9:45 PM 12:15 AM	CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES 360°-1 THE FINEST HOURS	12:00 PM 2:30 PM 5:00 PM 7:30 PM 10:00 PM	HELP, I SHRUNK MYTEACHER THE DRESSMAKER THE DRESSMAKER BAIRAQ-3 THE DRESSMAKER THE DRESSMAKER THE DRESSMAKER	2:00 PM 4:00 PM 6:00 PM 8:00 PM 10:00 PM 12:15 AM 11:30 AM 1:45 PM

Job Vacancy

1- Store keeper

2- Auditor

- Knowledge of computer software
- Minimum 3 years experience

- Transformable visa

Send your C.V& Personal photo, with job vacancy # Email: careers@ntcq8.com / Fax: 24761122

CHANGE OF NAME

Aasiyah Zariwala, Passport No. K3390434, residing at 7, Najam Marg, Bohrawadi, Udaipur - 313001, Rajasthan, India, shall henceforth be known as INSIYA ZARIWALA. (C 5137) 28-2-2016

SITUATION VACANT

A maid with a good experience in cooking and cleaning is needed to work as a part timer in a house located in Salmiya. Salary is 100 KD/month. For further information call 66417504. (C 5139) 29-2-2016

Restaurant For Sale

Restaurant located in Salmiya near Indian School, 24 seats having good business for sale.

terested parties contact: 97847873 60692720

EMERGENCY (

Prayer timings
Fajr: 04:56
Shorook 06:15
Duhr: 12:01
Asr: 15:19
Maghrib: 17:46

19:03

Isha:



Flight Schedule In case you are not tra

In case you are not travelling, your proper cancellation

of bookings will help other passengers to use seats

Directorate General of Civil Aviation Home Page (www.kuwait-airport.com.kw)

	Ar	rival Flights on Monday 29/2/2016		FDB	057	Dubai	14:10		Depa	arture Flights on Monday 29/2/2016		JZR	176	Dubai	13:45
Airlines		Route	Time	SVA	500	Jeddah	14:30	Airlines		Route	Time	MSR	611	Cairo	14:00
MSC	415	Sohag	00:05	KAC	788	Jeddah	14:50	AIC	982	Ahmedabad/Chennai	00:05	UAE	872	Dubai	14:15
BBC	044	Dhaka/Dammam	00:05	KAC	538	Sohag	14:50	MSC	502	Alexandria	00:05	KAC	617	Doha	14:45
MSC	403	Asyut	00:15	GFA	221	Bahrain	15:00	JZR	528	Asyut	00:05	KNE	481	Taif	14:50
FDB	8063	Dubai	00:30	KNE	472	Jeddah	15:05	MEA	407	Beirut	00:30	PAL	669	Dubai/Manila	14:55
MEA	408	Beirut	00:30	OMA	645	Muscat	15:30	PIA	206	Lahore	00:40	KAC	673	Dubai	15:00
JZR	267	Beirut	00:30	KAC	562	Amman	15:40	FDB	072	Dubai	00:40	FDB	058	Dubai	15:10
JZR	539	Cairo	00:40	ABY	127	Sharjah	15:45	JAI	573	Mumbai	00:55	QTR	1079	Doha	15:10
FDB	069	Dubai	00:55	UAE	857	Dubai	15:55	MSC	416	Sohag	01:00	KAC	513	Tehran	15:10
RJA	642	Amman	01:05	IAW	157B	Al Najaf	16:00	FDB	8064	Dubai	01:10	SVA	501	Jeddah	15:45
THY	772	Istanbul	01:05	QTR	1072	Doha	16:10	MSC	404	Asyut	01:15	GFA	222	Bahrain	15:45
DLH	635	Doha	01:35	FDB	051	Dubai	16:30	MEA	409	Beirut	01:30	KAC	773	Riyadh	15:50
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	01:45	ETD	303	Abu Dhabi	16:40	BBC	044	Dhaka	01:35	KAC	613	Bahrain	15:50
PGT	858	Istanbul	02:00	KAC	542	Cairo	16:55	THY	773	Istanbul	02:30	KNE	473 128	Jeddah Shariah	16:05 16:25
UAE	853	Dubai	02:30	RJA	640	Amman	16:55	DLH	635	Frankfurt	02:35	ABY OMA	646	Sharjah Muscat	16:30
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:30	SVA	510	Riyadh	17:15	ETH	621	Addis Ababa	02:45	IAW	157B	Al Najaf	17:00
OMA	643	Muscat	02:55	GFA	215	Bahrain	17:30	UAE	854	Dubai	03:45	JZR	266	Beirut	17:05
FDB	067	Dubai	03:05	MSR	614	Cairo	17:50	PGT	859	Istanbul	03:55	ETD	304	Abu Dhabi	17:30
MSR	612	Cairo	03:10	KAC	118	New York	17:55	OMA	644	Muscat	03:55	JZR	238	Amman	17:30
CEB	7694	Manila	03:15	JZR	777	Jeddah	17:55	FDB	068	Dubai	04:00	FDB	052	Dubai	17:35
QTR	1076	Doha	03:15	KAC	502	Beirut	18:00	MSR	613	Cairo	04:10	QTR	1073	Doha	17:40
KKK	6507	Istanbul	03:20	UAE	875	Dubai	18:00	ETD	306	Abu Dhabi	04:15	JZR	538	Cairo	17:45
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:25	SYR	341	Damascus	18:05	KKK	6508	Istanbul	04:20	UAE	858	Dubai	17:45
KKK	6502	Istanbul	03:55	FDB	063	Dubai	18:05	QTR	1077	Doha	05:00	RJA	641	Amman	17:55
JZR	503	Luxor	04:25	JZR	177	Dubai	18:20	THY	765	Istanbul	05:15	SVA	511	Riyadh	18:15
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:40	KAC	786	Jeddah	18:30	CEB	7695	Manila	05:20	GFA	216	Bahrain	18:20
THY	770	Istanbul	05:55	KAC	618	Doha	18:35	JZR	560	Sohag	06:10	JZR	184	Dubai	18:40
FDB	5061	Dubai	06:30	ABY	123	Sharjah	18:45	FDB JZR	070	Dubai	06:30	MSR	615	Cairo	18:50
BAW JZR	157	London	06:40 06:50	QTR KAC	1080 614	Doha	18:55		164 643	Dubai	06:55	SYR	342	Damascus	19:05
PAL	529 668	Asyut Manila/Dubai	06:55	KAC	774	Bahrain Riyadh	19:10 19:25	RJA THY	771	Amman Istanbul	07:05 07:05	JZR	124	Bahrain	19:10
KAC	412	Manila/Bugai Manila/Bangkok	07:20	GFA	217	Bahrain	19:30	FDB	5062	Dubai	07:03	FDB ABY	064 124	Dubai Sharjah	19:20 19:25
QTR	1086	Doha	07:40	KAC	514	Tehran	19:35	GFA	212	Bahrain	07:10	UAE	876	Dubai	19:30
FDB	053	Dubai	07:45	KAC	104	London	19:40	KAC	537	Sohag	08:20	GFA	218	Bahrain	20:15
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:50	KAC	674	Dubai	19:45	FDB	054	Dubai	08:30	KAC	283	Dhaka	20:35
KAC	382	Delhi	08:00	KAC	154	Istanbul	19:45	QTR	1087	Doha	08:40	KAC	353	BLR	20:40
KAC	206	Islamabad	08:25	KNE	480	Taif	20:10	BAW	156	London	08:45	KAC	361	Colombo	20:45
KAC	352	Kochi	08:30	FDB	061	Dubai	20:20	KAC	671	Dubai	09:15	QTR	1081	Doha	20:50
UAE	855	Dubai	08:40	OMA	647	Muscat	20:20	KAC	787	Jeddah	09:25	KAC	351	Kochi	20:50
KAC	362	Colombo	08:50	DLH	634	Frankfurt	20:55	ABY	126	Sharjah	09:40	KNE	461	Riyadh	21:10
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:00	JAI	572	Mumbai	20:55	UAE	856	Dubai	09:55	KAC	331	Trivandrum	21:10
KAC	284	Dhaka	09:10	QTR	1088	Doha	21:00	KAC	541	Cairo	09:55	OMA	648	Muscat	21:20
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	09:20	FDB				KAC	561	Amman	10:00	FDB	062	Dubai	21:20
QTR	1070	Doha	09:25	FDB	5053	Dubai Dubai	21:00 21:05	ETD	302	Abu Dhabi	10:25	DLH	634	Doha	21:45
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40		8061			KAC	501	Beirut	10:30	DHX	171	Bahrain	21:50
IRA	667	Esfahan	10:00	ETD MEA	307 402	Abu Dhabi	21:20	FDB	056	Dubai	10:35	JAI	571	Mumbai	21:55
OMA	641	Muscat	10:05			Beirut	21:20	KAC	153	Istanbul	10:40	JZR	502	Luxor	22:00
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	ALK	229	Colombo	21:25	QTR	1071	Doha	11:00	QTR KAC	1089 381	Doha Delhi	22:00 22:00
UAE	873	Dubai	11:05	UAE	859	Dubai	21:40	IRA	666	Esfahan	11:00	FDB	8062	Dubai	22:05
AXB	889	Mangalore/Bahrain	11:15	GFA	219	Bahrain	21:45	KAC	165	Rome/Paris	11:00	KAC	301	Mumbai	22:10
JZR	165	Dubai	11:30	QTR	1082	Doha	22:00	OMA	642	Muscat	11:05	ETD	308	Abu Dhabi	22:10
MEA	404	Beirut	11:55	JZR	125	Bahrain Channai/Caa	22:00	GFA	214	Bahrain	11:25	MEA	403	Beirut	22:20
IAW	157A	Al Najaf	12:00	AIC	975	Chennai/Goa	22:25	AXB	890	Mangalore	12:15	ALK	230	Colombo	22:25
FDB	075	Dubai	12:25	ETD	309	Abu Dhabi	22:25	JZR	776	Jeddah	12:20	FDB	5053	Dubai	22:30
MSC	401	Alexandria	12:30	FDB	059	Dubai	22:30	KAC	103	London	12:25	GFA	220	Bahrain	22:30
JZR	561	Sohag	12:45	JZR	239	Amman	23:05	UAE	874	Dubai	12:30	UAE	860	Dubai	22:55
UAE	871	Dubai	12:50	JZR	185	Dubai	23:15	MEA	405	Beirut	12:55	QTR	1083	Doha	23:05
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00	FDB	071	Dubai	23:45	IAW	157A	Al Najaf	13:00	KAC	205	Islamabad	23:10
KNE	460	Riyadh	13:50	THY	764	Istanbul	23:50	KAC	785	Jeddah	13:00	ETD	310	Abu Dhabi	23:15
KAC	672	Dubai	14:00	JAI	574	Mumbai	23:55	FDB	076	Dubai	13:10	FDB	060	Dubai	23:35
QTR	1078	Doha	14:10	MSC	403	Asyut	23:55	MSC	402	Alexandria	13:30	KAC	411	Bangkok/Manila	23:35

DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

CROSSWORD 1181

1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11		12	13	14
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84	+			85									86	+	

ACROSS

- 1. Electrical conduction through a gas in an applied electric field.
- 4. A broad band that passes over the back of a horse and supports the shafts of a vehicle.
- 12. The part of the nervous system of vertebrates that controls involuntary actions of the smooth muscles and heart and glands.
- 15. The month following February and preceding
- 16. Pertaining to the tiny air sacs of the lungs. 17. Resinlike substance secreted by certain lac
- 18. A deficiency of red blood cells.
- 20. A cruel and brutal fellow.

insects.

- 21. A health resort near a spring or at the seaside. 22. The capital and largest city of South Korea.
- 24. The cardinal number that is the sum of seven and one.
- 26. A general conscious awareness.
- 27. A New England state.
- 29. A chronic inflammatory collagen disease affecting connective tissue (skin or joints).
- 30. North American republic containing 50 states -48 conterminous states in North America plus Alaska in northwest North America and the
- 34. An antidepressant drug that acts by blocking the reuptake of serotonin so that more serotonin is
- available to act on receptors in the brain. 37 The basic unit of money in Yemen.

Hawaiian Islands in the Pacific Ocean.

- 39. English theoretical physicist who applied relativity theory to quantum mechanics and predicted the existence of antimatter and the positron (1902-
- 40. The thick short innermost digit of the forelimb. 42. The atomic weight of an element that has the same combining capacity as a given weight of
- another element. 44. A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine
- 45. One of the five major classes of immunoglobu-
- 48. American prizefighter who won the world
- heavyweight championship three times (born in 1942)
- 50. A broad flat muscle on either side of the back. 51. A festival featuring African-American culture.
- 53. Agile long-tailed nocturnal African lemur with dense woolly fur and large eyes and ears.
- 56. (Norse mythology) Goddess of old age who defeated Thor in a wrestling match.
- 57. A member of a Turkic people of Uzbekistan and neighboring areas.
- 59. A colorless and odorless inert gas.
- 60. A silvery ductile metallic element found primarily in bauxite.
- 61. A unit of length of thread or yarn. 62. A trivalent metallic element of the rare earth group.
- 64. A public promotion of some product or service. 66. God of fire.
- 69. An Indian tree of the family Combretaceae that is a source of timber and gum.
- 71. A short labored intake of breath with the mouth open.
- 74. The French-speaking capital of the province of Ouebec.
- 77. An edilbe seaweed with a mild flavor. 79. Aircraft landing in bad weather in which the
- pilot is talked down by ground control using precision approach radar.
- 80. A city in the European part of Russia. 81. Officially rebuked or found blameworthy.
- 83. A light touch or stroke. 84. An abnormally large amount of this fetoprotein
- in the fetus can signal an abnormality of the neural tube (as spina bifida or anencephaly) 85. The Arab prophet who founded Islam (570-
- 632).

86. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from

DOWN

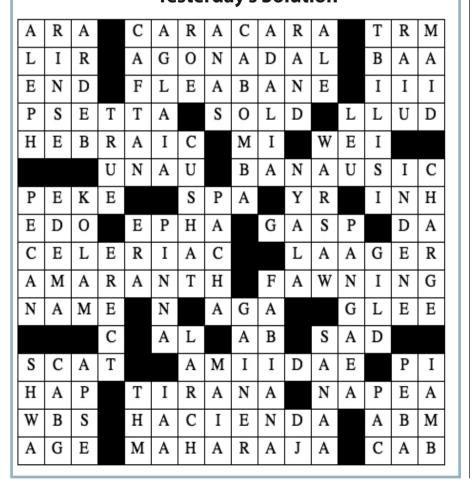
1. Collect or gather.

aba cloth.

- 2. (the feminine of raja) A Hindu princess or the wife of a raia
- 3. (Greek mythology) The brother of Jocasta and uncle of Antigone who became king of Thebes after the fall of Oedipus
- 4. The agent to whom property involved in a bailment is delivered.
- 5. A flat wing-shaped process or winglike part of
- an organism. 6. Being five more than one hundred.
- 7. The central building block at the top of an arch or vault.
- 8. A copy of a written work or composition that has been published (printed on pages bound togeth-
- 9. A white linen liturgical vestment with sleeves. 10. Small tree of dry open parts of southern Africa having erect angled branches suggesting candelabra.
- 11. In 1649 the place was captured by Oliver Cromwell, who massacred the Catholic inhabi-
- tants. 12. In addition.
- 13. Plant with an elongated head of broad stalked leaves resembling celery.
- 14. Any of a number of fishes of the family Carangidae.
- 19. Of or relating to or supporting Islamism.
- 23. A radioactive element of the actinide series 25. (architecture) Oldest and simplest of the three
- orders of classical Greek architecture. 28. 4-wheeled motor vehicle.
- 31. A Dravidian language closely related to Tamil that is spoken in a hilly section of southwestern
- 32. West Indian tree having racemes of fragrant white flowers and vielding a durable timber and
- resinous juice. 33. The organic group of acetic acid (CH3CO-).
- 35. Cloak consisting of an oblong piece of cloth
- used to cover the head and shoulders. 36. Living in or characteristic of farming or country
- 38. Jordan's port.
- 41 Informal terms for your occupation.
- 43. (prefix) Bad or erroneous or lack of. 46. A person of French descent.
- 47. In a state of mental numbness especially as
- resulting from shock. 49. Moderately warm.
- 52. (Sumerian and Babylonian) A solar deity.
- 54. (astronomy) The angular distance of a celestial point measured westward along the celestial equator from the zenith crossing. 55. (informal) Exceptionally good.
- 58. The dialect of Malay used as the national language of the Republic of Indonesia or of Malavsia. 63. Tall perennial herb of tropical Asia with dark green leaves.
- 65. (Irish) Chief god of the Tuatha De Danann. 67. A ludicrously false statement.
- 68. A less than average tide occurring at the first
- and third quarters of the moon. 70. Starch resembling sago that is obtained from
- 72. Someone who works (or provides workers) during a strike.
- 73. A metabolic acid found in yeast and liver cells. 75. Electronic warfare undertaken to prevent or reduce an enemy's effective use of the electromagnetic spectrum.
- 76. The corporate executive responsible for the
- operations of the firm. 78. A doctor's degree in education. 82. A state in New England.

Yesterday's Solution

cuckoopint root.



STAR TRACK

Aries (March 21-April 19)

Your experiences will be out of the ordinary and you will likely feel generous. Great opportunities may soon emerge in work or in spiritual affairs. Good things are a magnet for you today. There is a lot of passion that can be best applied in the form of sports or some outdoor activity later this afternoon. You enjoy activities that are both carefree and pleasant with friends and relatives. You face tremendous responsibilities in relationships with loved ones and are apt to have difficulty expressing your own wants and desires. You should try to loosen up and enjoy your companions without being afraid to voice true feelings. Games and exercise, such as the ones today, would bring several opportunities to clear away any difficulties.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Your drive to accomplish is high and your creative mind is lively and ready to be applied to whatever creative work you have decided to throw yourself into just now. Considerable success is sure to be yours-your concentration is at a high. You are expressive and if you need help, you will receive help. Perhaps you are ice sculpturing or woodcarving and seeking to win an award. You feel that luck is on your side and you are full of confidence. You will succeed at any project you attempt. Make sure that both your expectations and abilities are in balance. You are well disposed towards friends and family. Companionship with others is most rewarding at this time and you should take every opportunity to be with friends. You can be helping each other.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You have a love of life that manifests itself in good cheer and generosity. This is a time when relationships, especially with women, are good. This is also an aspect of good fortune. Parental instincts may come to the forefront-you make every effort to appease any friction at home. In addition, there is a strong wish to make your surroundings as pleasant as possible. The accent all day is on sociability. This is a nice day when everything has positive endings. This time is great for social get-togethers with lighthearted conversation. You will most likely be full of energy just now and ready to take on the world. Any past tensions are forgotten. It is a perfect day to go to a concert, take a drive or start a vacation. The planning for a vacation is most of the fun.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

You should enjoy being around most people today, but the rapport between you and your significant other should be especially good. With this understanding, you both can be nurturing without being pushy. Unfortunately, your rapport with food and drink could be strong. Work is definitely on the back burner, although you could be inspired to do something to beautify your home or surroundings. A new job offer may come from a surprising source this afternoon and could possibly be worth your consideration. Whatever your financial situation is, keep in mind that your job for this year is to build up reserve funds. Working on finances now will guarantee immediate relief



Leo (July 23-August 22)

Your emotions have taken a short vacation, giving you some time to reflect on where you are and where you are going. If something puzzles you, an older, wiser head may give counsel. If there are problems, you can handle them methodically and without panic. You may take comfort in the past, with its old ways and old solutions. If they worked once, they will most likely work again. This afternoon, you become more actively involved on a social level-taking a bigger part in collective events and developments. A friend or acquaintance may not want to follow through on some responsibilities today that could take up a great deal of time. Because you have little patience for people who do not live up to their word-you may offer help. Practice meditation.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Practice meditation as often as possible and count your blessings-this is indeed a happening day. Shopping, running errands and sprucing up your living area will leave you ready to either entertain or settle in for the day. There are thoughts about continued education and you may also be interested in taking some sort of creative writing class in the future. Phone conversations are fun; you always have many interesting things to say. Lovers, children and other people or things dear to your heart are emphasized at this time in your life. There is a chance to understand those around you and to have a special time with someone you love. There is a general warm glow of happiness illuminating the whole scene at your house this evening; smile.

WORD SEARCH

Summer

Find and circle all of the summer words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell an additional summer item.

J	U	Ν	Е	S	Т	S	S	S	S	Υ	Κ	S	Ε	U	L	В	Μ
U	S	М	Е	Α	U	Υ	Ε	0	U	Н	1	Κ	1	Ν	G	S	Α
S	М	W	Е	Ε	А	Ν	L	U	В	Ν	W	А	S	Ε	Υ	R	Е
U	Т	W		R	R	S	G	-	С	Α	В	L	Ν	Α	R	Е	R
Ν	S	Н	٧	М	Т	С	С	L	Т	Ε	Α	U	D	Т	٧	L	С
Т	Υ	U	G	Ι	М	Υ	S	Е	Α	D	В	-	R	S	S	Κ	Е
Α	G	L	С	Ι	С	1	R	Ν	Ν	S	L	R	R	Ν	D	Ν	С
Ν	R	Ε	U	L	F	М	Ν	Α	U	0	S	Е	Α	R	G	1	
0	Е	Α	Е	J	Е	R	S	G	Н	S	W	Е	Α	В	Ν	R	С
S	Е	D	Α	L	В	R	Ε	L	L	0	R	0	S	R	1	Ρ	R
С	Ν	Α	0	F	L	0	G	Т	L	Т	В	Т	Е	Е	Т	S	Е
Н	G	Ν		Н	S	-	F	F	Α	Е	0	Α	Е	Е	Α	Н	С
0	R	С	Α	Μ	Ρ	1	Ν	G	Т	W	Т	Н	В	Z	0	С	С
0	Α	С		Ν	С	1	Ρ	Α	W	Α	S	Ρ	S	Ε	В	А	0
L	S	F	L	1	Ε	S	Κ	М	0	S	Q	U	1	Т	0	Ε	S
Т	S	U	G	U	Α	S	1	L	L	Α	В	Е	S	Α	В	В	0

GNINEDRAGSUNSHINEN SUNBURN ANTS **FISHING** JULY AUGUST **FLIES** JUNE **FLOWERS** MOSQUITOES BARBECUE

BASEBALL BEACH BEES BICYCLE **BLUE SKY** BOATING CAMPING

GARDENING NO SCHOOL GOLF PICNIC GREEN GRASS ROLLER BLADES SANDALS SKATEBOARD HIKING HOLIDAYS SOCCER SOLSTICE ICE CREAM **SPRINKLERS**

SUNGLASSES SUNSCREEN SUNSHINE SUNTAN SWEAT SWIMMING U V RAYS WASPS WATER FIGHTS WATERMELON

Libra (September 23-October 22)

This morning you may find yourself giving lectures or teaching classes. You have a supersensitive awareness of the moods and needs of others, making you a fine teacher. This afternoon financial obligations grab your attention. Your instinctive orientation at this time is toward getting down to basics by organizing your taxes to do yourself or to take to an accountant. Be careful when you talk about home improvements with family members this evening. If you are not flexible, others could respond to your ideas in a negative way. There may be little time to do things with friends this evening, though it's a good idea to take some time to give someone you care about a call. Share the firelight with a special someone later this evening.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

Today you are interested in grasping the widest view of a concept-this could all be in a religious setting. You will find others want to join in the conversation-input and ideas from people are welcome. These contributions not only reinforce and widen your vision and fill in gaps, but also give you insight. You have a festive spirit and it's best to act on it now. You should do well at social gatherings. Activities you enjoy at home with friends or relatives should be most successful. This afternoon is an excellent time for taking part in social activities with friends. Your sensitivity to others is heightened-expressing affection should come easily and can do much good for your disposition. Your nurturing side is easily expressed this evening.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

This is a great day to get things done, whether you are alone or with others. especially if you lead. You take an interest in social activities and volunteer work. However, this could be the day you move, put things in storage or repair an existing housing problem. Your mental attitude is positive-this is the time to discuss any problems with friends and get them out in the open and solved. With your guidance, others will know just what to do. Clear instructions and conversations make for a positive quick end result. Reward the people that have helped you-perhaps a pizza party or some other fun way to show your appreciation. There may be numerous romantic interests now. You may spend a great deal of time and effort to balance commitments.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

Logic prevails. You can think about all your relationships-friendships, associations or love affairs-and discuss them without emotions getting in the way. This is a good day for fun interaction between best friends. This time indicates that relations with partners are both easygoing and rewarding. Later this afternoon you and a friend may find a used bookstore to enjoy. Find a book about some intriguing new subject. A common interest in spiritual and mystical values among family members may also occur at this time. It is best to take it easy and let others have their way. You are gracious and understanding to friends and relatives. This is an excellent time to engage in activities with members of the opposite sex.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

Your emotions are so close to the surface that anyone could read them from across the room. If you are teaching a religious class or guiding young people, you will be able to gain everyone's attention. You have a love of life that manifests itself in good cheer and generosity. This is a time when relationships are good. There is an aspect of good fortune at this time. You show a great deal of interest in all family matters, particularly with regard to the general living environment in the home. Try to relax-anxiety can be paralyzing. Your power to effect a positive change in a relationship is greater than you can imagine at this time. Your inner resources and emotions are accented. Expect a sense of support and good will from others.

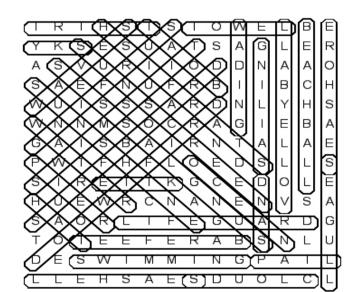


Pisces (February 19-March 20)

Mystical approaches to health may appeal to you today. You always like knowing as much as possible about keeping healthy. Someone may have brought to your attention the subject of new techniques that cleanse the body and you could spend a great deal of time in reading and research. Time passes much too quickly this morning; there are things to do and places to go. A perfect balance between your career needs and personal needs brings about an inner peace today that you rarely get a chance to enjoy. Neither side of you has to struggle with the other. In addition, you have a supersensitive awareness of the needs of others, making this a great time to run a seminar. This evening is a good time to uncork some champagne.

Yesterday Solution

The Beach



BARE FEET BEACH BALL BOAT CLOUDS DRIFTWOOD HAT KITE LIFEGUARD OCEAN

PAIL

SAILING SAND SEAGULL SEASHELL SEASHORE STARFISH SUNGLASSES SUNSCREEN SUNSHINE

SURFBOARD SURFING SWIMMING SWIMSUIT T SHIRT TOWEL VOLLEYBALL WADING WATER WAVES

The hidden message is: SANDCASTLE

			Dai	ly SuDo	ku			
9						2		
	7			3		5	4	
					2	7		1
		9		1	7			
		5				6		
			6	2		8		
8		1	4					
	3	2		6			5	
		6						4

Yesterday's Solution 5 3 9 6 3 9 8 5 6 4 8 3 4 9 6 2 3 8 9 5 4 6 4 3 5 2 6 8 9 8 3 5 9 6 2 3 8 9 6 9 5 8 6 4 9

Sabah Hospital

Amiri Hospital

Chest Hospital

Adan Hospital

Ibn Sina Hospital

Al-Razi Hospital

Kaizen center

Rawda

Adaliya

Khaldiya

Kaifan

Shamiya

Shuwaikh

Nuzha

Qadsiya

Dasmah

Shaab

Qibla

Mirqab

Sharq

Salmiya

Jabriya

Bayan

Mishref

Sabah

Jahra

W Hawally

New Jahra

West Jahra

South Jahra

North Jahra

North Jleeb

Ardhiya

Firdous

Omariya

N Khaitan

Fintas

Bneid Al-Gar

Ayoun Al-Qibla

Maidan Hawally

Abdullah Salem

Industrial Shuwaikh

Physiotherapy Hospital

Maternity Hospital

Farwaniya Hospital

Mubarak Al-Kabir Hospital

00352

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00389

00261

0034

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001664 00212

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Luxembourg

Macedonia

Madagascar

Majorca

Malawi

Malaysia

Maldives

Marshall Islands

Martinique

Mauritania

Mauritius

Mayotte

Mexico

Micronesia

Moldova

Monaco

Mongolia

Morocco

Montserrat

Mozambique

Mali

Macau

INTERNATIONAL

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Afghanistan

Albania

Algeria

Andorra

Angola

Anguilla

Antiga

Argentina

Armenia

Australia Austria

Bahamas

Bahrain Bangladesh

Barbados

Belarus

Belgium

Belize

Benin

Bermuda

Bhutan

Bolivia

Bosnia



For labor-related inquiries and complaints:

Clinics

24812000

22450005

24843100

25312700

24849400

24892010

23940620

24840300

24846000

24874330/9

25716707

22517733

22517144

24848075

24849807

24848913

24814507

22549134

22526804

24814764

22515088

22532265

22531908

22518752

22459381

22451082

22456536

22465401

25746401

25316254

25623444

25388462

25381200

22630786

24810221

24770319

24575755

24772608

24775066

24775992

24311795

24884079

24892674

24719048

24710044

23900322

Call MSAL hotline 128 **Hospitals**

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 Khaldiya Coop	Fahad Al-Salem St Khaldiya 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

STATE OF KUWAIT DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION

METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT



Tel: (+965) 161 Ext: 2627 - 2630 Fax: (+965) 24348714 www.met.gov.kw

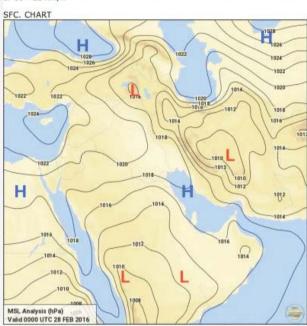
no warnings or weather watches



Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours Issued 28/02/2016-11:00 LT UTC +3hr

Max Temperature 26 °C

By Day: Partly cloudy with light to moderate south easterly wind, with speed of 15 - 35 km/h By Night: Cool with variable wind changing to light to moderate north westerly wind, with speed of 06 - 28 km/h



Four-Day	Forecas

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
	*	*	*	*
Expected Weather	sunny	sunny	sunny	sunny + scattered clouds
Min Temp °C	13	11	12	12
Max Temp °C	27	28	28	28
Wind Direction	north westerly	north westerly	north westerly to light variable	variable wind changing to light to moderate south easterly
Wind Speed km/h	12 - 35	10 - 32	06 - 26	08 - 30

Station	MIN °C REC	Max °C EXP
KUWAIT CITY	15	25
KUWAIT AIRPORT	14	26
ABDALY	14	28
BUBYAN	16	24
JAHRA	14	27
FAILAKA ISLAND	15	24
SALMIYAH	15	21
AHMADI	14	20
JAL ALIYAH	15	27
QAROH ISLAND	16	22
UMM AL-MARADEM	16	21
NUWAISIB	15	26
WAFRA	14	28
MANAGISH	13	27
SALMY	14	28
MUTRIBA	15	26

Max Temp (°C)		26
Min Temp (°C)		13
Max Rel Hum (%)		89
Min Rel Hum (%)		27
Max Wind Speed (km/h) and Direction		46 E
TOTAL RA	AINFALL IN 24 HR	8.18 mm
*	Sunrise	06:15
_	Sunset	17:46
Prayer T	imes	
Fajr	04	:56
Sunrise	06	:15
Zuhr 12:		:01

15:19

17:46

19:03

Sunset

Isha

PRIVATE CLINICS

Ophthalmologists				
Dr. Abidallah Al-Mansoor	25622444			
Dr. Samy Al-Rabeea	25752222			
Dr. Masoma Habeeb	25321171			
Dr. Mubarak Al-Ajmy	25739999			
Dr. Mohsen Abel	25757700			
Dr Adnan Hasan Alwayl	25732223			
Dr. Abdallah Al-Baghly	25732223			
Ear, Nose & Throat (ENT)				
Dr. Ahmed Fouad Mouner	24555050 Ext 510			
Dr. Abdallah Al-Ali	25644660			
Dr. Abd Al-Hameed Al-Taweel	25646478			
Dr. Sanad Al-Fathalah	25311996			
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Dr. Mahmoud Al-Booz	25651426			
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Dr. Mohamme Y Majidi	24555050 Ext 123			
Dr. Yousef Al-Omar	24719312			
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Dr. Nabeel Al-Ayoobi	24577781			
Dr. Dina Abidallah Al-Refae	25333501			
Urologists				
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Dr. Fawzi Taher Abul	22639955			
Dr. Khaleel Abidallah Al-Awad	li 22616660			
Dr. Adel Al-Hunayan FRCS (C)	25313120			

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Dr. Abdal-Redha Lari	22617700			
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Dr. Verginia s.Marin	2572-6666 ext 8321			
Dr. Fozeya Ali Al-Qatan	22655539			
Dr. Majeda Khalefa Aliytami	25343406			
Dr. Ahmad Al-Khooly	25739272			
Dr. Salem soso	22618787			
General Surgeons				
Dr. Amer Zawaz Al-Amer	22610044			
Dr. Mohammad Yousef Bash	er 25327148			
Internists, Chest & Heart				
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Dr. Mousa Khadada	22666300			
Dr. Latefa Al-Duweisan	25728004			
Dr. Nadem Al-Ghabra	25355515			
Dr. Mobarak Aldoub	24726446			
Dr Nasser Behbehani	25654300/3			

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Dr. Abd Al-Aziz Al-Rashed	25340300			
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Dr. Sohail Qamar	22621099			
Dr. Snaa Maaroof	25713514			
Dr. Pradip Gujare	23713100			
Dr. Zacharias Mathew	24334282			
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Dr. Mohammed Salam				
Bern University	23845955			
Dentists				
Dr Anil Thomas	3729596/3729581			
Dr. Shamah Al-Matar	22641071/2			
Dr. Anesah Al-Rasheed	22562226			
Dr. Abidallah Al-Amer	22561444			
Dr. Faysal Al-Fozan	22619557			
Dr. Abdallateef Al-Katrash	22525888			
Dr. Abidallah 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 Abidallah Al-Ali	22633135			

	Endocrinologist			
<u> </u>	Dr. Abd Al-Naser Al-Othman	25339330		
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	Dr. Kamal Al-Shomr 25329924			
	Physiotherapists & VD			
	Dr. Deyaa Shehab 25722291			
	Dr. Musaed Faraj Khamees	22666288		
	Rheumatologists:			
504	Dr. Adel Al-Awadi 25330060			
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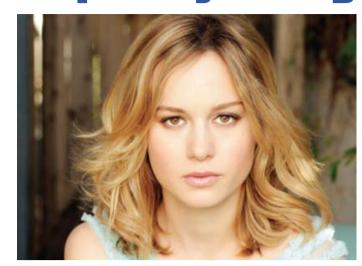
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he British rockers - consisting of Matt Bellamy, Chris Wolstenholme and Dominic Howard - will play the Friday night of the festival in Somerset, England, later this year. Muse - who announced the news on their Twitter page - will now become the first band to headline all three nights of the prestigious music festival, as they previously topped the bill on Sunday in 2004 and Saturday in 2010. They join Coldplay who will perform on the main stage on closing night, making them the first act to top the bill at the festival four times. And Emily Eavis - who organizes the event with her father Michael Eavis - recently revealed that all three headliners are British. She said: "We've got three brilliant British bands headlining the festival." While she did not confirm Saturday's act, Emily revealed she is extremely excited that Chris Martin and Coldplay are returning to Worthy Farm and admits it feels like a homecoming to have them play again. She told BANG Showbiz: "Glastonbury is like their homecoming they've

been all over the world they've the Super Bowl and now they're coming back to the West Country. "It's mean a lot for us to have them back, we've always had immense pride in seeing them go off around the world and become so big. They started at Glastonbury in the new band tent in 1999 and then they headlined the Pyramid Stage two years later off two albums which is pretty impressive. It's been an incredible journey and for them to come back here for a fourth time I think is amazing."

Larson was told she was 'not pretty enough'



he Oscar-nominated star has revealed she spent years attending casting calls in revealing outfits in a bid to attract the attention of ultra-critical directors, many of whom claimed her appearance was not suitable for their movie. The 26-year-old beauty, who stars in 'Room', said: "The best thing about winning awards for 'Room' is that I got to burn my denim mini-skirt."If I see other actresses I'm always asking, 'When did you burn your denim mini-skirt?" When we all auditioned together we had the pumps, we had the tank top, we had the push-up bra and we had the denim mini-skirt for those particular auditions."From the time I got breasts until this moment, I can't tell you how many times I would

go in to audition and they'd be like, 'Can you come back sexier?" And you can't believe that that's a real thing that someone's saying to you. Like, 'We love what you're doing, you can totally play Adam Sandler's girlfriend at 18 years old, perfect, perfect, age not a problem - but you need to come back and sex it up." Brie said the other actresses she has encountered at casting calls all suffered the same fate. She told The Sun on Sunday newspaper: "I was told all the other ones too, like, 'You're too tall, you're not funny enough, you're not pretty enough, you're too pretty, you're not this, you're too much of that'. You just feel weird. "And you're sitting in a waiting room with 20 other girls who are also wearing the denim mini-skirt."



Lohan has transformed her life after finding love

■he 'Mean Girls' actress is said to be "in a great place again" since falling in love with Egor Tarabasov, 22, and the pair are reportedly "getting serious" after enjoying a series of romantic getaways over recent months. A source revealed: "Lindsay has obviously had some issues in the past, and probably been attracted to the wrong sort of guys, but this is different. "She is really happy and a lot of that comes down to meeting Egor." Despite his youth, the insider claimed Egor is a healthy influence on Lindsay, 29. The source told the Sunday Mirror newspaper: "He's a bit younger than she is, but he's a very smart businessman. He's much more mature than his age suggests, and he's a good influence. "Obviously she's done the older guy thing and that hasn't ended well, so it's great to see her with a smile on her face again." Egor is said to be an ideal partner for Lindsay, who has battled drug and alcohol problems in the past. Her friend said: "Lindsay and Egor are spending all their time together. He is massively keen. "He is a perfect boyfriend and - as he is quite wealthy pays for quite a lot of stuff like meals out and trips away. He has been travelling the world with her, and posting loads of pictures of their trips online."

Kylie says she is too young to get married



■he 18-year-old reality TV star is dating 26-year-old rapper Tyga and although the pair are constantly the subject of wedding and pregnancy rumors, Kylie insisted that she is still "a baby". She said: "I'm not pregnant and I'm not married. Cause you're slacking ...I'm just kidding." "Because I'm an infant child and I don't want to be married or have a baby right now!" When Tyga protested that Kylie was "just a young woman that's very focused," she replied: "No, I'm a baby." Meanwhile, it was recently claimed that Tyga - who has a son King Cairo, three, with his ex Blac Chyna - wants Kylie to get his name tattooed on her finger. A source said: "Tyga wants Kylie to tattoo 'TYGA' around her wedding finger. "Where he comes from, that's the ultimate sign of love and commitment. He's already shown Kylie that he's ready and that he's down for her with his tattoo of her name. Now, he wants her to do the same."

Tomlinson 'definitely' wants more children

he One Direction hunk is enjoying being a father to baby Freddie Reign - who was born last month - and can already seeing himself expanding his family in future. Asked how he is finding fatherhood, he said: "It's great, I'm enjoying it a lot and I'd definitely like more kids but not just yet." Though little Freddie's first words are some way off, the 24-year-old singer - who is co-parenting the baby with his former lover Briana Jungwirth - already knows what he wants to hear first. Asked what he hopes the tot's first word will be, he said: "It's a tough question because the immaturity is just pushing through there... but 'dad'!" And the 'Drag Me Down' hitmaker is a

hands-on dad who has no problem getting to grips with stinky nappies. He said: "Have I changed a nappy? I'd actually probably changed about a hundred nappies before Freddie because I used to help out with my sister so I have changed his nappy, thank you!" This week's BRIT Awards in London marked the first time Louis had been away from his Los Angeles-based little boy and he admitted he was missing his son. Speaking to Capital FM at the MasterCard-sponsored event, he said: "I'm still getting used to it. It's my first time away from him so I miss him, obviously, but it's cool. I do get Father's Day now."



Kim defends Kanye West's recent outbursts

■he reality TV star took to her website, KimKardashian West.com, to slam those who have criticised the rapper for his outlandish tweets, in which he has blasted stars including Wiz Khalifa, Taylor Swift and Amber Rose, and praised his new record as "the greatest album of all time". In a blog post entitled 'Currently', Kim wrote: "LOVING My Husband. HAT-ING That people don't get that Kanye will stand up against the whole world for his creativity and art. LISTENING TO 'I Love Kanye.' WEARING Yeezy Season 3 samples I took from the show. "WANTING Everyone to be as honest as Kanye. WATCHING Kanye shoot his new video. READING Kanye's tweets

claimed that Kanye's outbursts have no effect on his family life with Kim and their two children, North, two and Saint, two months. A source said: "It's been a rough week for Kim. She has lots of support from her family though. Everyone knows that Kanye, once in a while, goes on public rants and they are all very understanding that it's exhausting for Kim. It's like a tick that he has. "When he starts his rants, it's very difficult for him to stop. When he starts venting, it's like he needs to get it all out. Kanye might seem mentally unstable at times, but there has never been any concern for Kim, or the kids. Kanye just has a problem controlling his impulses. It's not anything that usually affects their everyday life. Their marriage is not perfect,

but there are no plans to split."

(sic)." Meanwhile, it was recently

Garner and Affleck were separated months before divorce



was claimed that Ben and Christine Ouzounian, who had been hired to care for the couple's children Violet, 10, Seraphina, seven, and Sam, four, had a fling last year leading to his split from Jennifer but she has insisted that Christine had nothing to do with the end of their marriage. She told Vanity Fair: "Let me just tell you something. We had been separated for months before I ever heard about the nanny. She had nothing to with our decision to divorce. She was not a part of the equation." However, she added: "Bad judgment? Yes. It's not great for your kids for [a nanny] to disappear from their lives. I have had to have conversations [with my children] about the meaning of scandal." Despite their split, Jennifer called Ben "the love of my life" but insisted they will not be reconciling. She said: "I didn't

marry a movie star: I married him. And I would go back and remake that decision. I ran down the beach to him, and I would again. "You can't have these three babies and so much of what we had. He's the love of my life. What am I going to say about that? He's the most brilliant person in any room, the most charismatic, the most generous. "When his sun shines on you, you feel it. But when the sun is shining elsewhere, it's cold. He can cast quite a shadow. "The main thing is these kids - and we're completely in line with what we hope for them. Sure, I lost a dream of dancing with my husband at my daughter's wedding. But you should see their faces when he walks through the door. And if you see your kids love someone so purely and wholly, then you're going to be friends with that person."

Drake partied for 36-hours nonstop after the BRIT Awards

he 29-year-old rapper made a surprise appearance at the glamorous ceremony held at the O2 Arena earlier this week when he took to the stage to perform 'Work' with Rihanna. But, despite working up a sweat at the event, the hunk showed no signs of slowing down afterwards as he danced the night away at his multi-millionaire pal Sayed Bukhari's exclusive bash, costing £150,000, at Mayfair's Tramp club. A source exclusively to BANG Showbiz: "Both parties were amazing, the best of everything was laid on and the whole club was booked exclusively for

Drake on Wednesday and Thursday night. "It was a really special couple of evenings for Drake and his friends to let their hair down and relax after the BRITs performance. Drake was really blown away by his friend Sayed's generosity." The Canadian hunk and his entourage relished the moment as they knocked back vintage champagne - including Louis Roederer Cristal Rose 2000, Dom Perignon Rose 1998 and bespoke cocktails - and devoured an extravagant sit down meal, which consisted of; Iranian beluga caviar, seared tuna, Sesame Tataki, and beef Carpaccio.

'Fifty Shades' dishonored at Razzie awards

Philippines hits out at

Madonna over flag stunt

of the incident."

Asian nation.

rotic drama "Fifty Shades of Grey" triumphed Saturday at Hollywood's hall of shame, the annual Razzies anti-awards show. The steamy romance-described as a "warped, disturbingly abusive adult fairy tale" by movie website The Film Stage-took the Golden Raspberry Award for joint worst picture alongside superhero flick "Fantastic Four."



Dakota Johnson and Jamie Dornan pose for photographers at the UK Premiere of Fifty Shades of Grey, at a central London cinema. — AP

he Philippines criticized Madonna

yesterday for disrespecting its flag

during a concert in Manila, and said it

would call on organizers of future events to

Photos from one of her two concerts

last week published in local media showed

the 57-year-old American mega-star

Madonna

roared its approval at the music icon, who

was in the country as part of her global

"Rebel Heart" tour, Filipino authorities were

less amused. "Our flag law is strict as we

want to instill respect for the Philippine

While press reports said the audience

avoid similar incidents.

draped in the Philippine flag.

The big screen adaptation of EL James' sexually explicit novel also took home worst screenplay, worst actor for Jamie Dornan, worst actress for Dakota Johnson, and worst screen combo for the pair. "Fantastic Four," which ran "Fifty Shades" closest to top the roll of dishonor, also bagged worst director for Josh Trank and worst remake, rip-off or secure!

The superhero flop was rated at nine percent on the Rotten Tomatoes movie ranking website, where it is described as "dull and downbeat," and a "woefully misguided," humorless adaption of the comic. In the 36th annual Razzies, hosted at the Palace Theater in downtown Los Angeles, the worst supporting actress was won by Kaley Cuoco for "Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Road Chip."

Eddie Redmayne-an Oscar nominee for best actor for the "Danish Girl"-was named worst supporting actor for his bizarre turn in "Jupiter Ascending" as Emperor Balem Abrasax. The Razzies were created in 1980 as an antidote to Hollywood's star-studded, back-slapping annual awards season, which climaxes on Sunday with the 88th Oscars. "The \$4.97 gold spray-painted Razzie Award is handed out to otherwise great talent who should know better than to associate their name with sub-par projects," the awards show says on its Twitter bio. All but one of the Razzie categories are chosen by the 800 or so members of the Golden Raspberry Award Foundation, who earn voting rights by paying a \$40 membership fee, with a \$25 annual renewal. Nominees very rarely attend the Razzies. Sandra Bullock turned up to accept worst actress in 2010 for "All About Steve," a day before winning best actress Oscar for "The Blind Side." — AFP

flag," presidential spokesman Herminio

Coloma said in a statement. "This should he

made clear to organizers and performers in

concerts so that there will be no repetition

AFP that the government was "keen" on

banning the Queen of Pop from perform-

ing in the Philippines because of the con-

troversy. However Coloma later said the

government did not want to ban her, and

that the initial statement that it did was

based on a wrong interpretation of com-

term, as well as a token fine, for wearing

the Philippine flag "in whole or in part as a

costume or uniform". The flag flap was the

second controversy provoked by

Madonna's visit to the devoutly Catholic

the faithful to stay away from Madonna's

sexually charged concerts, which often

encompass religious themes, calling them

the devil's work. "Pinoys (Filipinos) and all

God-loving people should avoid sin and

occasions of sin," Archbishop Ramon

Arguelles said in a statement posted on the

Catholic Bishops Conference of the

Philippines' official website. —AFP

A Catholic bishop last week called on

A 1998 law prescribes a one-year jail

ments by another presidential aide.

Coloma said in an earlier statement to



French family recycles hand-made bikes as luxury niche

nce forced out of business by mass production, a family firm in Paris has found a new lease of life, once again hand-crafting bicycles as a luxury must-have. Maison Tamboite, founded in 1912, had an A-list clientele including the likes of Marlene Dietrich, Maurice Chevalier, Edith Piaf and Josephine Baker in its heyday.

"My grandfather didn't brag about his customers," said Frederic Jastrzebski. "It was by flipping through his order books and his diary... that we found mentions of these people." It was an uncle who closed down the company in the 1980s when bicycles began being mass-produced and could be found even in supermarkets, Jastrzebski said.

After working in finance for two decades, Jastrzebski was turning 50 in late 2014 when he persuaded his brother-and their wives-"to revive the brand with the same sincere, artisanal workmanship, the same quest for authenticity and perfection." In the new workshop near the Bastille in eastern Paris, Jastrzebski has kept the old wooden drawers from the original shop on the other side of town.

He also has the original tools, an old catalogue and the counter on which his greatgrandfather built bicycles. Production has begun, with the Jastrzebskis peddling their two-wheeled creations as an "urban aesthetic" for the well-heeled. Gleaming but not bling, the bicycles are virtual works of art, their metal frames contrasting with the honey-toned oak from Italy's Lake Como region used in the wheel rims and the mud guards.

'All models are numbered'

Hand-burnished leather is everywhere: used for the seat of course, but also on the handlebar, the pedals and the lock-as well as the



Frederic Jastrzebski co-head of French custom-made bicycles Maison Tamboite poses in Maison Tamboite atelier-showroom in Paris. — AFP photos

optional satchel. They sell for an impressive 11,000 Euros (\$12,000), with the electric version priced at 15,500 Euros. Each bicycle takes three months to make, custom fitted on the basis of no fewer than 15 measurements.

"The time justifies the price," Jastrzebski said. "Like a watch, a piece of jewelry, a handbag or an artwork, (the bicycle) will take its place as a luxury accessory that generates real emotion," he added. Craftsman Hugo Canivenc, the workshop's only employee, said: "It's work similar to making jewelry, requiring the same meticulous-

ness." The frame alone can take a month to make before the glam embellishments are added, the 24-year-old noted.

Asked about the wisdom of leaving a Tamboite bicycle on a public street, even with a sturdy lock, Jastrzebski said: "All of our models are numbered and traceable.

And let's also remember that it's the most basic bicycle models that are stolen the most." Besides, the bikes make excellent decoration in an entrance hall, "or even your living room", he suggested. — AFP

Hollywood screenwriters face their own 'OscarsSoWhite' drama

creenwriter Alyson Fouse was working on a sequel for the "Bring It On" movie franchise when the studio asked for changes. "They wanted the black girl to be more ghetto, for want of a better word," Fouse recalled. "I said that's fine, we're doing a cheerleader comedy so stereotypes are what's funny. But I want the other side of that, too. I want a girl who's not ghetto."

The African-American writer was able to create a black teen from a posh private school, a rare victory in an industry that makes scant room for those of color or their perspective. "OscarsSoWhite," the hashtag protest over this year's all-white slate of nominees, is applicable to the original and adapted screenplay categories as well (with "Inside Out" writer Ronnie del Carmen an exception).

"There just isn't a lot of diversity within the core of people who are coming up with stories and developing characters," said Darnell Hunt, director of the Ralph J. Bunche Center for African American Studies at the University of California, Los Angeles. Hunt also has charted writers' employment for a decade for the Writers Guild of America,

West, and sees "very little progress. To the extent there has been progress, it tends to be in front of the camera and very little behind the camera"

Colorization of America

That's despite the growing colorization of America, with the transition to a non-white majority predicted within three decades. The expanding TV universe has been more agile in adjusting to the demographic change than movies, with ethnic and gender diversity in shows ranging from CW's "Jane the Virgin" to Netflix's "Orange is the New Black," and awards have followed.

The film academy adopted voting changes that may, in the future, prevent the omission of actors such as Idris Alba, who won a SAG award for "Beasts of No Nation," and Michael B. Jordan, overlooked for "Creed," while Sylvester

Stallone earned a supporting actor bid for reviving his Rocky character.

But Oscar-worthy roles start with writers and directors, said Kenya Barris, the creator and executive producer of ABC's groundbreaking African-American family comedy, "blackish." Barris, who is black, works with a writing staff that's majority non-white and half female.

"The moment we make improvements behind the camera, we'll have more opportunities to step up and have real swings at being

noticed - not just for being black, but for being excellent. Not just for being gay, but for being excellent. Not just for being a woman, but being excellent," Barris said.

Diversity yields studio rewards, too. Movies with casts evenly split between white and non-white actors are more profitable, according to a new Bunche Center study that cites "Lucy," the Morgan Freeman-Scarlett Johansson sci-fi drama that grossed \$400 million-plus worldwide, as an example. "This is

not affirmative action. More people would buy tickets if you featured people who look like us or reflect modern society," said Daniel Mayeda, co-chair of the Asian Pacific American Media Coalition.

Mayeda's group is part of an umbrella organization, the Multi-Ethnic Media Coalition, that in 2000 called on TV networks to boost minority hiring in all areas and has seen measureable results. This month, the coalition asked major studios including Sony, Warner

Bros. and Disney to match that effort, including tracking minority employment and investing in "pipeline" programs leading to jobs.

'Business as usual'

The writers' guild has its own program to bring women and minority members to the industry's attention, said Tery Lopez, the guild's diversity director. But they fight a "business as usual" attitude that keeps decision-makers returning to the same pool of white male writers, said guild spokesman Neal Sacharow.

"If folks feel they have a successful formula, they will continue to work it," he said. Alan Yang is an example of what happens when talent, without regard to ethnicity, gets a shot. He started out writing for "South Park" and then moved to a staff job on NBC's "Parks and Recreation," his salary initially defrayed by a network diversity program. There he became friends with cast member Aziz Ansari, and the two went on to create and produce "Master of None," the critically applauded Netflix comedy starring Ansari.

The result? A show that goes beyond tokenism - the old-school version of diversity that made do with a black judge or doctor in the background - and includes a variety of layered characters. "I want the representation of everyone whose stories haven't been told as much to be as accurate, as personal, and as truthful as possible," Yang said. "Some of the stories on 'Master of None' would frankly be very different if they were told by older white guys - no offense to older white guys, many of whom are amazing talents."

Janis Hirsch, a white screenwriter whose credits include the black-oriented sitcoms "My Wife and Kids" and "Eve," has no quarrel with that view. "I can come up with a story, because telling family stories, or single girl stories, there's a certain universality to all of them. But as far as the specifics go, I take a back seat," Hirsch said. "I listen to the black writers. I don't presume to know. How can I?" — AP



In this Feb 5, 2016 file photo, Marsai Martin, from left, Yara Shahidi, creator Kenya Barris, at microphone, Tracee Ellis Ross and Anthony Anderson accept the award for outstanding comedy series for "Black-ish" at the 47th NAACP Image Awards in Pasadena. — AP





(L-R) Actor Brian d'Arcy James, actor Michael Keaton, actor Michael Cyril Creighton, actor Rachel McAdams, casting director Kenny Barden, writer/director Tom McCarthy, actor Mark Ruffalo, actor Jamey Sheridan, actor Liev Schreiber, actor Paul Guilfoyle, and actor Neail Huff accept the Robert Altman Award for "Spotlight" onstage during the 2016 Film Independent Spirit Awards. — AFP

'Spotlight' tops a richly diverse Spirit Awards



Brie Larson accepts the award for best female lead for "Room".

Director Marielle Heller (C) accepts the Best First Feature award for 'The Diary of a Teenage Girl'.

ne 31st Independent Film Spirit Awards provided a clear rebuke to the less diverse Oscars, bestowing awards on "Beasts of No Nation" co-stars Idris Elba and Abraham Attah and "Tangerine" star Mya Taylor, making her the first transgender actress to win at the annual awards.

The newsroom drama "Spotlight" was the big winner at the Spirits on Saturday, the day before it's to compete for best picture at the Academy Awards. Tom McCarthy's film about the Boston Globe investigation into sex abuse by Catholic priests won a leading four awards, including best picture, best director for McCarthy, best screenplay and the Robert Altman award for ensemble.

But this year's Spirit Awards, an annual dressed-down ocean side indie antidote to the Oscars, was most remarkable for its more diverse nominees and winners. Neither Elba, Attah nor Taylor was even nominated for Oscars. Each drew hearty applause. "There is very beautiful transgender talent," said Taylor, who won best supporting actress for playing a Los Angeles sex worker in the iPhone-shot "Tangerine." "You better get out there and put it in your movie."

Considerable overlap

In recent years, the Spirits have overlapped considerably with the Oscars, including the last two top winners: "Birdman" and "12 Years a Slave." But this year, the Spirits - which honor films made for \$20 million or less - widely deviated from their stuffier crosstown counterparts. "Spotlight" was the only best picture nomi-



Laszlo Nemes accepts the award for best international film for "Son of Saul".

nee up for the Spirits' top award; the bigger budget Oscar favorites it's vying with, "The

Revenant" and "The Big Short," didn't qualify. And while the Oscars have been beset by criticism for a second straight year of allwhite acting nominees, the Spirits boasted five nonwhite nominees out of 20 - and three of them won.

"I'm so much prouder of being a producer than my performance," Elba said backstage about the Netflix release. "As a producer you face a lot of doors being closed in your face and in this case we did have a hard time making it but we got there in the end." Elba brought Attah up on stage to share in his award for best supporting actor, but Attah later won one of all his own. The young Ghanaian, who hadn't acted before director Cary Fukunaga cast him in "Beasts of No Nation," beamed before a standing ovation.ate McKinnon ("Saturday Night Live") and comedian Kumail Nanjiani hosted the ceremony, which was broadcast live on IFC. In their opening remarks, Nanjiani introduced themselves as a Pakistani American and a gay woman, "or to Hollywood, a straight woman and her IT guy."

The only Oscar acting favorite, Brie Larson, added another win for her performance in the captive drama "Room." Emma Donoghue, the novelist-turned-screen-

writer, also won for best adapted screenplay for the film.

Studios need to step up

The foreign language favorite from Hungary, Laszlo Nemes' Holocaust drama "Son of Saul" took best international film. And the documentary front-runner, the Indonesian genocide film "Look of Silence" won best documentary. Without the competition of "The Revenant" or "The Big Short," the wins for "Spotlight" likely don't suggest any better fortunes for the film at the Oscars. But McCarthy took the opportunity to celebrate the movie's distinction as an independent film, released by indie distributor Open Road, "Quite honestly, we need studios like this who are going to step up when the other studios won't," said McCarthy, with several of the reporters the films is based on in the crowd. He also shared in best screenplay with his co-writer, Josh Singer. The irreverent and breezy Spirit Awards, held in a tent on the Santa Monica beach, stood apart from the Oscars in other ways, too. Director Marielle Heller, who won best first feature for the coming-of-age tale "Diary of a Teenage Girl," marked her territory in a speech that noted the onrush of interested from bigger productions for the movie's breakout star, Bel Powley. "I call dibs," Heller said of her actress.

At the Spirit Awards, indie-hood can be a badge of honor. In Saturday's ceremony, none could top writer-director Trey Edward Shults, who won the John Cassavetes Award for first feature made for under \$500,000 for his "Krisha." "What can I say," said Shults. "We made this film in nine days at my mom's house and it stars my aunt." — AP



Mya Taylor accepts the award for best supporting female for "Tangerine".

Spirit Awards 2016 complete winners list

Best Feature: Spotlight Best Director: Tom McCarthy, Spotlight

Best Screenplay: Josh Singer, Spotlight **Best First Feature:** The Diary of a Teenage Girl

Best First Screenplay: Emma Donoghue, Room

Best Male Lead: Abraham Attah, Beasts of No Nation

Best Female Lead: Brie Larson, Room **Best Supporting Male:** Idris Elba, Beasts of No Nation

Best Supporting Female: Mya Taylor, Tangerine

Best Documentary: The Look of Silence

Best International Film: Son of Saul

Best Cinematography: Carol

Best Editing: Spotlight



Ed Lachman poses in the press room with his award for best cinematography in "Carol".



Abraham Attah poses in the press room with his award for best male lead for his role in "Beasts of No Nation".



Tom McCarthy, left, and Josh Singer accept the award for best screenplay for "Spotlight".



Actresses Cate Blanchett (left) and Rooney Mara speak



Actor Mark Ruffalo accepts the Robert Altman Award for 'Spotlight'.



Idris Elba speaks at the Film Independent Spirit Awards.















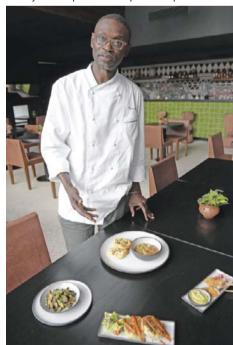




A man rides his bicycle in a park in Peshawar, Pakistan. — AP

From street food to fine dining in Lagos

n ambitious restaurant in Lagos is setting out to elevate Nigerian street food staples to fine dining, tapping into a growing hunger in the city for upscale West African food. Classic West African dishes, passed down from mother to daughter for generations and served today in busy street-side canteens, are revisited in "Nok By Alara" by Pierre Thiam, a Senegalese pioneer of African cuisine. Thiam's menu scours the continent for inspiration, combining ancestral know-how with elements of popular cuisine. The result, a fragrant lobster "pepe"-Nigerian pidgin English for pepper soup, savory sweet potato and plantain pancakes and



Senegalese pioneer of African cuisine Pierre Thiam speaks about his food at Nok By Alara, a restaurant in Victoria Island district of Lagos. — AFP photos



Picture shows special African cuisine dishes prepared by Pierre Thiam.

hibiscus tarts

"Coming to a country that isn't your own and presenting a cuisine that aims to be inspired by this region is a tricky endeavor," Thiam said. "I was expecting to meet some resistance," he said, but was "pleasantly surprised" at the positive reaction. "People are so happy to have these flavors from

n ambitious restaurant in Lagos is setting out to elevate Nigerian street food staples to fine childhood." It's not just the taste that has people hooked. At last, hearty West

African food, usually visually bland, is plated with a discerning eye. "This food that you grew up with is presented in a way that you would not expect," food blogger Nosa Oyegun said. "There's that real fine dining with Nigerian food, which we had never seen anywhere, that's really fascinating."

Chemistry to cooking

Oyegun and Folayemi Agusto, better known as "Nosa and Folly," run an influential food blog "Eat. Drink. Lagos", where they review restaurants across the city. Both in their 30s, they are among several thousand "repats"-people who have returned to Nigeria after studying overseas-living in Lagos.

The well-travelled returnees want Nigerian food but with the same level of service they experienced abroad. Since Oyegan came back to Lagos in 2013, many restaurants have opened catering to the emerging middle class in Nigeria. But amid the barrage of pizza shops and burger joints, few restaurants have tried to capitalize on local cuisine. It's a taboo Thiam finds ludicrous.

"Across the continent, there is a plethora of ingredients that are nutritious and full of flavor," said Thiam, a tall, loquacious man wearing brown metal glasses and a white chef's shirt embroidered with his name. "And then we have techniques to be developed. Today we talk about fermentation but we have known about it for thousands of years," he said.





"Strangers" restaurant.



Snail food prepared by Pierre Thiam.

A chemist by training, Thaim said he didn't think he could turn his passion for cooking into a full-time job. He thought cooking was for women-until he left his native Senegal to work in New York and climbed the ranks from bus boy to chef. Two restaurants and two books later, Thiam can claim he introduced a Western audience to African cuisine-and hopes to accomplish a similar feat in Lagos.

Samosa snails

As Thiam works to establish his restaurant, which opened its doors only in December, other young chefs are joining the growing Nigerian gourmet food movement. On a Saturday in February, 12 guests gathered for a lunch club hosted by Stranger, a trendy hybrid store selling food, art and clothing that boasts an impressive collection of Japanese whisky and a careful selection of African coffees.

"Moving back here made me very excited just to have access to all these resources," said Imoteda, a 29-year-old recent graduate of the Cordon Bleu culinary and hospitality school in Britain. "But the thing about Nigerians is that we eat for sustenance, we don't bother to make the food beautiful, you know we just toss it on a plate," she said with a laugh. Yvette Dimiri, who returned to Nigeria a year ago to work in the oil industry, agrees.

Despite loving Nigerian food, Dimiri admits it can get heavy at times. "Most of the food here is full of oil. And it's mostly carb-based. We used to be farmers and we used to walk for kilometers, which is not the case anymore." In the kitchen, Ozoz Sokoh prepares snail samosas and chicken with green curry and "scent leaves", a Nigerian plant that resembles the Japanese herb shiso.

During the week, Ozoz works as a geologist for Shell. But in the evenings and on weekends she's known as "Kitchen Butterfly" and cooks delicious food for private clients. Her dream, like Thiam, is to introduce a more refined kind of Nigerian food. "I would love us in Nigeria to move from eating because we're hungry, to celebrating Nigerian flavors, textures, colors," she said. "My dream would be to go to a Nigerian restaurant in Paris, maybe not with three Michelin stars yet, but to see people wowed, interested, curious about it." — AFP



Senegalese pioneer of African cuisine Pierre Thiam speaks about his book on African cuisine. — AFP photos