THE FIRST DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF

RABI ALTHANI 14, 1437 AH

Crackdown on street market in Mahboula



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KUWAIT SET TO ENFORCE DNA TESTING LAW ON ALL

OFFICIALS REASSURE TESTS WON'T BE USED TO DETERMINE GENEALOGY



Low Tide

06:48 & 18:27







KUWAIT: Technicians work in the DNA lab at the General Department of Criminal Evidence in Dajeej. — Photos by Joseph Shagra

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: The DNA testing law that will go into effect this year is aimed at creating an integrated security database and does not include genealogical implications or affects personal freedoms and privacy. Senior officials told Kuwait Times that the law, the first of its kind in the world, will only be used for criminal security purposes. When the law (no. 78/2015) is applied, it will be binding on all citizens, expatriates and visitors too. A Kuwaiti security delegation had earlier visited Washington to study DNA testing systems there.

EXCLUSIVE

The National Assembly passed the DNA testing law on July 2, 2015 that will be mandatory on everyone in Kuwait in order to fight crime and terrorism. Kuwait Times was given exclusive and rare access to the DNA lab located at the General Department of Criminal Evidence in Dajeej in an effort to learn more about the latest developments regarding the law.

Senior officials in charge of the project, who spoke to Kuwait Times on the condition of anonymity, explained how the database will be used, the process of collecting samples and privacy concerns. (See Page 3)

KERRY REASSURES GULF ALLIES

RIYADH: US Secretary of State John Kerry, on a visit to Saudi Arabia, sought yesterday to reassure Gulf allies concerned about a perceived warming of ties between Washington and Iran. He also announced that the Syria Support Group of 20 nations and organizations will meet "very shortly" to help push peace in the war-ravaged country. Kerry spoke in Riyadh after meeting his Saudi counterpart Adel Al-Jubeir and other foreign ministers from the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council.

"The United States remains concerned about some of the activities that Iran is engaged in other countries," Kerry told reporters, citing as an example Iran's "support for terrorist groups like Hezbollah" in Lebanon. Saudi Arabia and its Gulf neighbors perceive a lack of US engagement in the region, particularly in the face of what they see as Iran's "interference" in Yemen, Syria, Lebanon and elsewhere.

Those feelings crystallized with the historic international deal which this month lifted crippling economic sanctions on Iran in return for a scaling back of its nuclear capabilities.

Continued on Page 13



RIYADH: US Secretary of State John Kerry meets Saudi King Salman yesterday at the king's farm on the outskirts of the capital. — AFP

IRAN, CHINA VOW TIGHTER TIES

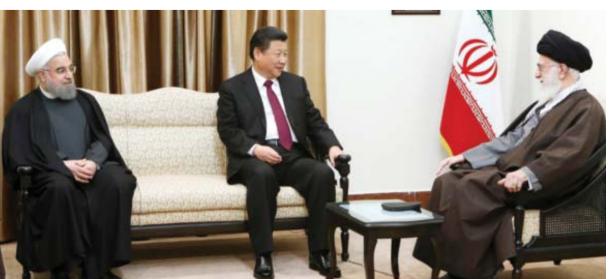
TEHRAN: Iranian President Hassan Rouhani yesterday hailed a "new chapter" in relations with China after talks with President Xi Jinping, who is touring the region to boost Beijing's economic influence. The Asian giant and the Middle East's foremost Shiite power aim to build economic ties worth up to \$600 billion within the next 10 years, Rouhani announced. The two leaders oversaw the signing of 17 agreements in areas including politics, the economy, security and cooperation on peaceful nuclear energy.

to Tehran and our agreements, a new chapter has begun in Tehran-Beijing relations," Rouhani said in a televised speech, flanked by Xi. It is the first visit to Iran by a Chinese president in 14 years, state news agency IRNA said, and comes just days after sanctions against Tehran were lifted under a historic nuclear deal with world powers. "Iran is China's major partner in the Middle East and the two countries have chosen to boost bilateral relations," IRNA quoted Xi as saying. "China and

"With the Chinese president's visit Iran are two important developing countries that must continue regional and international cooperation," Xi added.

Beijing has long taken a back seat to other diplomatic players in the Middle East, but analysts say the region is crucial to Xi's signature foreign policy initiative known as "One Belt One Road", touted as a revival of ancient Silk Road trade routes. China, the world's second-largest economy, also relies heavily on energy imports from the Middle East.

Contined on Page 13



TEHRAN: Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei (right) meets Chinese President Xi Jinping as Iranian President Hassan Rouhani looks on yesterday. — AP





RIYADH: The GCC Foreign Ministers, including Kuwait's Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Sabah (left), are pictured with the US Secretary of State John Kerry and GCC Secretary-General Abdullatif Al-Zayani (right) ahead of their meeting in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia yesterday. — KUNA

GCC, US SHARE VIEWS ON REGIONAL ISSUES

RIYADH: Saudi Foreign Minister Adel Al-Jubeir and American Secretary of State John Kerry have reiterated that the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and the US share the same views on regional issues on the agenda of a joint meeting held in Riyadh yesterday.

The meeting between the GCC chief diplomats and Kerry discussed various issues of the region, developments in Syria, Yemen and Libya, in addition to the stalled Mideast peace process, Juberi told a press conference. The talks also addressed the outcome of the Camp David summit that brought together US President Barack Obama and the GCC leaders last May.

The meeting that was characterized by transparency, frankness and objectivity, discussed Iran's "negative role in the security and stability. On yesterday's region and the Iranian interference in the internal affairs of countries of the region," the Saudi foreign minister said.

Iran still "supports terrorism and practices hostile activities that pose a threat to the region's security and stability," he said, reiterating that Tehran must be committed to the nuclear deal with the world powers (5+1).

Strategic partnership

Kerry, meanwhile, stressed his country's commitment to the strategic partnership and cooperation with the GCC member states, for joint interests, as well as defense against any threats. He also underlined support to Saudi Arabia against whatever threatens the Kingdom's meeting, Kerry said that discussions were "constructive" addressing several issues of common concern, such as the Syrian crisis, the developments in Yemen and the threats posed by the Houthis and Al-Qaeda, besides cooperation against the so-called Islamic State (IS). In addition, the US assured the GCC anew over the nuclear deal with Iran, as well as Tehran's activities in the region, and its support to Hezbollah through Syria, he said.

Referring to Geneva 3 conference on Syria due later this week, Kerry said he would meet later today with the Syrian opposition members and general coordinator Riad Hijab. Talks will focus on the opposition delegation to Geneva III. The US Secretary of State held Syrian president Bashar Al-Asad responsible for attracting "terrorists" to the country, and for the spread of violence, killings and destruction there.

Conclusion

The GCC Foreign Ministers' joint meeting with Kerry concluded yesterday with the participation of First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. The meeting focused on deepening the roots of strategic cooperation between the GCC and the US, discussed international efforts on counterterrorism, and recent happenings in the region. After the meeting, the Kuwaiti Foreign Minister left the country and headed back to Kuwait.



BAGHDAD: Speaker of Kuwait's National Assembly Marzouq Al-Ghanem is welcomed BEIRUT: Speaker of Kuwait's National Assembly Marzouq Al-Ghanem meets by Iraqi parliament speaker Salim Al-Jabouri after his arrival to Baghdad yesterday.



Lebanese Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri in Beirut, Lebanon. —KUNA photos

PARLIAMENT SPEAKER IN BAGHDAD FOR PUIC MEETINGS

Ghanem, Berri talk efforts to release citizen

BAGHDAD/BEIRUT: President of the Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union (AIPU) and Speaker of Kuwait's National Assembly Marzoug Al-Ghanem arrived in Baghdad yesterday to lead Kuwait's delegation participating in the 11th conference of the Parliamentary Union of

the OIC (PUIC) members. Ghanem was received at the Baghdad International Airport by Iraqi parliament speaker Salim Al-Jabouri and several Kuwaiti members of parliament. The two-day conference of the PUIC primarily revolves around efforts by PUIC members states against terrorism and extremism. The Kuwaiti speaker is expected to chair a coordinative meeting of the Arab group of the PUIC to discuss the agenda of the conference.

High-profile

Meanwhile, the media committee of the conference said that the Kuwaiti delegation tops other participants in terms of representation level and members. In a statement to KUNA yesterday, head of the media committee Mohammad Abo-Bakr reiterated Kuwait's the strong and high-profile representation, as the delegation led by Ghanem. He added that up to 40 delegations are taking part in the Islamic gathering, including 10

parliamentary speakers. Ammar Teama, member of the Iraqi delegation to the PUIC conference, highlighted the high-profile Kuwaiti delegation, a matter that reflects "Kuwait's support to the meeting." In addition, this implies Kuwait's seriousness to coordinate with other Muslim countries for countering extremism and terrorism, he noted. The main theme of the conference is "together to defeat terrorism and extremism."

Kidnapped citizen

Ghanem had left Baghdad coming to Beirut, where he visited the AIPU headquarters and met Lebanese parliament speaker Nabih Berri. In pre-departure statements, Ghanem said he had held talks with Berri about ongoing efforts by Lebanese authorities to find and release a Kuwaiti citizen kidnapped in Lebanon. He added that his visit had focused on the following-up of the activities of the Beirut-based Arab Parliamentary Union (AIPU).

The two sides also discussed developing ties between Kuwaiti and Lebanese parliaments as well as coordinating efforts at all levels, in addition to issues connected with regional and international developments, Ghanem said following the meeting. Ghanem was seen of at Beirut International Airport by Kuwaiti Ambassador to Lebanon Abdulaal Al-Qenaei. Ghanem's delegation includes MPs Faisal Al-Shaya, Khalil Abdullah and Dr Aouda Al-Rowaiee. — KUNA

BAHRAIN SPEAKER: GCC MEMBERS ABLE TO SAFEGUARD HUMAN RIGHTS

undoubtedly able to promote and safeguard their human rights by means of introducing mechanisms and initiatives purposed to revamp and disseminate the culture of human rights, said Bahrain's parliament speaker Ahmad bin Ibrahim Al-Mulla."The GCC leaders are determined and able to consolidate and protect human rights," the Speaker of the Bahraini Council of Representatives said in a keynote speech at the Second Human Rights in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Conference, themed 'Human Rights Systems of the National, Regional and International Challenges.'

However, he regretted that there are some external challenges pertinent to the stances of several organizations and countries which are in the habit of capitalizing on the issue of human rights for political purposes and strategic ends. Some organizations often adopt double standards and issue unfair reports and subjective information with the main goal of fomenting sectarian strife within the GCC society, and of dissuading the GCC countries from reform and development, he lamented. "Therefore, it's the responsibility of everyone in the GCC countries to stand united in face of these organizations and countries, and even to expose their lies, incitement and support to terrorists and extremists," Al-Mulla requested.

Partnership

Meanwhile, Secretary-General of the

MANAMA: The GCC member states are Second Human Rights in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Conference Isa Al-Arabi hailed the gathering as mainly aiming to promote inter-GCC partnership in the domain of human rights. Al-Arabi, who doubles as Secretary-General of the Arab Federation for Human Rights, said the federation is seeking to unify efforts so as to create more integration and interaction among all Arab human rights organizations. Meanwhile, Arab Parliament President Ahmad Al-Jarwan highly acclaimed ongoing efforts exerted by the GCC countries to strengthen their human rights situations.

"The GCC members are unequivocally eager to promote their human rights through legislative and political regulations targeting equity among all spectrums of the Gulf society," Jawan said to KUNA on the sidelines of the

But, he regretted that several international organizations and countries are trying to belittle the progress in the GCC members' human rights, rejecting such bids as having nothing to do whatsoever with human rights. The conference is co-organized by the Arab Federation for Human Rights, the Maan Human Rights Society and the International Gulf Organization for Human Rights.

National human rights institutions, GCC Secretariat-General, Arab League, Arab Human Rights Committee, independent human rights agencies, representatives of GCC, regional and international human rights NGOs are taking part in the conference. — KUNA

In my **view**

THE 2016 OIL CRISIS



By Muna Al-Fuzai

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ne price of oil has dropped significantly during the past few weeks. It went down to below \$30 a barrel very quickly, and this is surely terrifying for us all. Now the question is how to react, and what effect will lower oil prices have in a highly volatile region like the Middle East? Can Gulf countries be impacted by this sharp decline?

Most OPEC countries have set their current financial budgets on the basis of oil at a minimum of \$80 a barrel, while some of them have set the price at more than \$100 in their budgets. It seems that the recent decline in world oil prices has created a state of confusion, which is normal. Many Middle East countries lack future strategies for the post-oil era or totally rely on oil and are not even prepared for lower demand and not necessarily the end of the oil era.

Some economists believe that Gulf states may not experience financial problems in the short term because of good financial assets that could be sold to cover the deficit in the budget. However, a continued decline in oil prices in the long term may reduce the typical government support to some key sectors such as healthcare, education and housing, which may affect the standard of living in these countries and thus the needs of the people.

The most important internal political challenges that are likely to face the governments of oil-producing countries that have created revenue systems dependent on oil are to meet their populations' needs and lifestyles, such as the large salaries and benefits that everyone believes is the country's duty to provide no matter the status of oil. For example, a hike now in fuel prices does not seemed justified to some people, even if is necessary and required.

It is unlikely that the current low price of oil will lead to a destabilization of the systems, especially in the Gulf states, that have relatively small populations and large financial reserves, and most reports indicate them to be the least affected. This is good to know.

Today, it is strange that oil prices are falling despite the conditions of security and threats in the Middle East, when usually oil prices rise due to disorder. What we see today is just the opposite, as Iraq and Libya, two main producers of oil, are confronting internal conflicts, but oil prices are collapsing at the same time.

Iraqi forces have been fighting a bloody military war against IS for several months now, which costs the Iragi treasury a large financial burden This is really a crisis that threatens the Middle East, especially Iraq's neighbors. The positive thing about this crisis is that the difficult conditions experienced by all oil-exporting countries may lead to a reduction of tensions between them in order to support the price of oil and raise the prices, so all international parties should sit down at the negotiating table to discuss their issues. Any agreement they reach would support to reduce geopolitical tensions and sectarianism in the Middle East.

A rally in oil prices needs clear international work and a lot of seriousness. Perhaps holding a mini-summit in Egypt, for example, to study the outcomes on the short and long term can be a good strategy. Egypt could be the right location to host such an initiative between the concerned

This is a major crisis, but it can be temporary and controlled.

News

In brief

49 finalists for by-elections

KUWAIT: Forty nine candidates have registered to run for by-elections in the third constituency to select a parliament member to fill the vacant seat of late MP Nabil Al-Fadhl, who passed away last month. The by-elections take place on February 20th, while the deadline to withdraw candidacy is February 13th. Top candidates include the deceased's son Ahmad Al-Fadhl, veteran columnist Fuad Al-Hashim, Neurosurgery Consultant at Ibn Sina Hospital Dr Yousuf Al-Awadhi, former MPs Abdullah Al-Kandari, Hisham Al-Baghli, Osama Al-Tahous and Taher Al-Failakawi, as well as Amani Al-Saleh as the sole female contestant.

Kidnapped journalists

RIYADH: GCC Secretary-General Dr Abdullatif Al-Zayani condemned the kidnapping of Al-Jazeera Arabic news team, who is believed to have been snatched in the city of Taiz in southern Yemen. This act is "shameful and in violation to all international laws," that protect journalists, Zayani said in a press statement yesterday. Zayani held the abductors responsible for the safety of the kidnaped journalists, demanding their immediate release. Al-Jazeera Arabic correspondents Hamdi Al-Bokari and his crew, Abdulaziz Al-Sabri and Moneer Al-Sabai, were last seen on Monday night. — KUNA

Dental clinics

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: The Ministry of Health's Assistant Undersecretary for Architectural Affairs and Projects Naji Al-Saqer toured the dental clinics building at Farwaniya Hospital, which is still under construction. The 5-story building is considered the biggest dental center in Kuwait with 130 clinics, Saqer told reporters during the tour, adding that it can be expanded by 27 extra clinics in the future. He added that the project is considered one of the most important ones in the ministry's health development plan.

Exclusive Interview



KUWAIT TO ENFORCE DNA TESTING LAW ON CITIZENS, EXPATS, VISITORS

TESTS WON'T BE USED TO DETERMINE GENEALOGY, AFFECT FREEDOMS



KUWAIT: The Interior Ministry's General Department of Criminal Evidence building, where the DNA identification lab is located. — Photos by Joseph Shagra

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: In an effort to learn more about the latest updates with regards to the DNA tests that will be applied in Kuwait this year on citizens, expatriates and visitors, Kuwait Times conducted the following interview with senior officials in charge with implementing the project at the Interior Ministry's (MOI) General Department of Criminal Evidence:

O: Tell us about DNA testing and what is its basic purpose?

Back in the 1980s, Professor Sir Alec Jeffery discovered that every human being has a different DNA print that could be detected in each person's deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) in unencrypted areas and genes that cannot be affected or altered by diseases. This was a scientific breakthrough that had great impact on forensic medicine and helped identify culprits by matching samples of their DNA with evidence or crime weapons found at crime scenes using Locard's exchange princi-

DNA tests have proven very effective over the past decade and have been used in solving many crimes by matching biological evidence collected from crime scenes with databases. Therefore, many advanced countries started building their DNA databases according to regulations that ensured information confidentiality, which is reassuring for people subject to the test, be they suspects or volunteers willingly donating their specimens to serve justice. The process started in the UK where authorities started collecting specimens from suspects in 1995, then developed to include larger seg-

The US comes second in this regard, as it started building its DNA database in 1998 and now includes DNA fingerprints of over 15 million people from all states. More countries gradually started following the same steps of utilizing DNA databases in criminal investigations. Passing law number 78/2015 places Kuwait at par with those countries. Kuwait will have a database including DNA fingerprints of all citizens, residents and visitors. This law is the first of its kind in the world and Kuwait is the first country worldwide to apply the sys-

Q: How will the test be used?

Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Sabah formed a special committee to study the method of putting law number 78/2015 pertaining building a DNA database into practice. Preparations are in progress now to set the regulating charter and commence taking mandatory samples from all citizens, residents and visitors.

DNA tests will be done through specimens taken from individuals to match their DNA in paternity cases

DNA tests will be done through specimens taken from individuals to match their DNA in paternity cases or as suspects in criminal cases

or as suspects in criminal cases. Specimens are often taken from saliva or through a few drops of blood placed on special cards. Specimens are then tested in labs according to international scientific and technical methods using special DNA examination equipment.



A senior official at the Interior Ministry's General **Department of Criminal Evidence.**

Q: How will the DNA samples and specimens be collected?

a. From Citizens: Collecting samples from citizens will be done by various mobile centers that will be moved according to a special plan amongst government establishments and bodies to collect samples from citizens in the offices they work in. In addition, fixed centers will be established at the interior ministry and citizen services centers to allow citizens give samples while doing various transactions.

b. From Residents: Collection will done on issuing or renewing residency visas through medical examinations done by the health ministry for new residency visas and through the criminal evidence department on renewing them.

c. From Visitors: Collection will be done at a special center at Kuwait International Airport, where in collaboration with the Civil Aviation Department, airlines and embassies, visitors will be advised on their rights and duties towards the DNA law.

Q: How will it respect privacy?

Privacy is undoubtedly the main concern of MOI in

general and the criminal evidence department in particular. It is our duty to protect the privacy of each and every citizen and resident taking into consideration that the DNA law highlighted this in articles 9, 10 and 11. Clause (A) of article 9 of the law states that "Without contradiction with any stricter penalty stipulated by another law, individuals making Job-related secrets public or revealing any DNA database information they might come across as part of job duties, will be punished by a maximum of three years in prison".

Article 10 of the law also states that "Individuals forging DNA documents or knowingly using fake ones will be punished by a maximum of seven years in prison and/or a maximum KD 5,000 fine". In addition, article 11 of the law states that "Without contradiction with any stricter penalty stipulated by another law, individuals who damage the DNA database will be punished by a minimum of three and a maximum of 10 years in prison".

Technically speaking from a criminological point of view, a special work mechanism has been set for labs and sample collection, which will make it hard for lab staff and other staff dealing with the samples to identify the sources of those samples, by only using special barcodes on samples and specimens. Nonetheless, the executive charter is very strict with staff members dealing with the samples in order to win the trust of citizens, residents, visitors and anyone who has access to the database.

Q: In case of detecting any medical cases, how will you handle them?

The mandatory DNA tests only target non-encrypted genes that are not affected by diseases. The test is not done to diagnose any disease or obtain medical information because such information is part of individuals' privacy and the law bans access to it.

Q: Mol has promised not to use the test for lineage or genealogical reasons. What are the guarantees it won't do so?

This has been confirmed by the law itself. In addition, Mol plans building this database with the aim of limiting crimes and accelerate culprits' identification. The database will be also used in case of natural disasters or major incidents that leave behind bodies that can only be identified through DNA tests.

Q: Will the law be applied to foreign visitors? what if they refuse to take the test?

Yes, the test will be mandatory for visitors. As the executors are responsible to collect and examine samples, we will notify relevant authorities about whoever refuses to give a sample so that they could apply the measures stipulated in the law. We will also coordinate with various airlines and foreign embassies in Kuwait so that all visitors can have a good idea about the law and the possible consequences of rejecting its proce-

Q: What links the smart passport with DNA tests? Will providing a DNA sample allow the issuance of a passport regardless of the results?

There was a study to place all biometric data in one database, but after passing the DNA law number 78/2015, the law separated the DNA database. Although the procedures followed for issuing smart passports are done by the criminal evidence department, issuing all categories of passports is the responsibility of the citizenship and passports directorate.

Q: When will the mandatory DNA tests go in effect?

Sheikh Mohammad has already prepared the law's executive charter and submitted it to the Cabinet. So, the law will go in effect once the Cabinet approves the draft in accordance to recommendations made in the law 78/2015 pertaining DNA testing.

Q: What about eye prints or retinal scans?

Eye prints (retinal scans) are not currently adopted as criminal evidence in Kuwait due to the presence of more accurate technologies including fingerprinting and DNA. Eye prints are used in some countries but there is no international cooperation in this field due to lack of international databases of eye prints.



An official at work at the DNA identification lab in the **General Department of Criminal Evidence.**



A worker examines a sample using high-tech equipment at the lab.



A lab technician works on a machine.



A worker uses a machine at the DNA testing laboratory.

ZAIN, OOREDOO, VIVA TO EXPLORE ROLE OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS IN SAVING LIVES

Companies sponsor 2nd Global Forum on Emergency Telecommunications

KUWAIT: Kuwait's three telecommunications companies; Zain, Ooredoo, and VIVA, announced their platinum sponsorship of the 2nd Global Forum on Emergency Telecommunications - Saving Lives (GET 2016). The prominent forum is hosted by Kuwait's Ministry of Communications and the Communication and Information Technology Regulatory Authority during 25 - 28 January under the patronage of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Subah.

In a joint press statement, the three telecoms considered Kuwait's hosting of this forum as a step forward to the further development of the telecom sector in the region, as Kuwait is the second hosting country of this international forum after the wide success of the first event held at Geneva in 2007.

Disaster Management

GET 2016, organized by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), is considered one of the most globally recognized events that discuss the role of the telecom industry in Disaster Management, especially with the rapid changes in the telecommunications sector in the region, coupled with massive enhancements in the information technology arena. The event is expected to witness the attendance of about 500 participants from around 90 countries, including Telecom Ministers, Director-Generals of Regulatory Authorities, CEOs, and more.

ITU is the United Nations specialized agency for information and communication technologies. The Union allocates global radio spectrum and satellite orbits, develops



Eaman Al-Roudhan

the technical standards that ensure networks and technologies seamlessly interconnect, and strives to improve access to ICTs to underserved communities worldwide.

With the help of its global membership, ITU brings the benefits of modern communication technologies to people everywhere in an efficient, safe, easy and affordable manner. The Union is unique among UN agencies in having both public and private sector memberships, with 193 Member States that include ICT regulators, many leading academic institutions and some 800 tech compa-



Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdullah Al Thani

ITU is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, and has twelve regional and area offices around the world. ITU membership represents a cross-section of the global ICT sector, from the world's largest manufacturers and telecoms carriers to small, innovative players working with new and emerging technologies, along with leading R&D institutions and academia.

Key element

Commenting on Zain's sponsorship of this global forum, Eaman Al-Roudhan, Zain Kuwait's Chief Executive Officer said,



Salman Bin Abdulaziz Al-Badran

"Telecommunications has become a key element of the development process within different fields and sectors. The industry has presented itself as a central player in the establishment of any community's infrastructure, which led it to become the backbone of the economy with technology becoming a critical tool to acquire information, propelling economic and social development."

Roudhan added: "Zain is committed to supporting the communities it serves, making vital telecommunications accessible to all. In emergency situations or natural disasters, the telecom industry is obliged to act and help improve the quality of life for those people in need."

Roudhan concluded: "Sustainability is at the very core of our business and is reflected in every aspect of our day to day operational activities. We continue to take our role in society very seriously and are willing to live up to our responsibilities in the places we do

Vital role

Ooredoo Kuwait CEO and General Manager Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdullah Al Thani commented: "The role of the private sector in general, and the telecommunications sector in particular is vital in contributing to saving lives, and ensuring that we are ready to face disasters. This forum gives us the opportunity to discuss and execute strategies that will yield to a decrease in risks supported by communication technology. The main goal is to ultimately save lives and ensure public safety. We at Ooredoo are committed to the safety of the public, and we are proud to be part of this forum which gives the telecommunications sector a major role in disaster management."

Salman Bin Abdulaziz Al-Badran, CEO of VIVA, commented: "This sponsorship and VIVA's participation stems from our deep understanding of the rapid development of the information technology, in addition to the vital role we, as a communications service provider, play in addressing related challenges. VIVA is extremely conscious of the threats and risks Telecommunications may encounter, and VIVA is very well qualified to be one of the leaders in this domain.

SAUDI AMBASSADOR CONGRATULATES KUWAIT ON AMIR'S SUCCESSION, NATIONAL ANNIVERSARIES

KUWAIT: Saudi Ambassador to Kuwait Dr Abdul Aziz bin Ibrahim Al-Fayez congratulated Kuwait on the tenth anniversary of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's succession, 25th Liberation Day anniversary and 55th



Saudi Ambassador Dr Abdul Aziz Al-Fayez

National Day anniversary, noting that the National Day marked a remarkable turning point in Kuwait's history when the late Amir Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem declared Kuwait's independence in 1961.

In a press release, Fayez stressed that after Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem, Kuwait's rulers carried on with building Kuwait until the reign passed down to His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmed with all his wisdom, experience and accumulated experiences he had gained by assuming various

official positions.

"The passage of 55 years since Kuwait won its independence reminds us all of the great sacrifices made by successive generations who contributed to building modern Kuwait and its institutions," Fayez added, noting that the Kuwaiti people also made considerable sacrifices to liberate it from the aggressive invasion to mark a breakthrough. Within a short period, Kuwait managed to resume its march towards progress and prosperity as well as resume playing its role alongside other GCC sister states.

Fayez stressed that after 10 years in office, His Highness the Amir proved to be very capable of shouldering the responsibility due to his wisdom and experiences that enabled him to wisely lead Kuwait at such an important point in its history despite domestic and foreign challenges. "These three occasions are as dear to us all as they are for Kuwait," Fayez stressed, highlighting the deep-rooted historic relations between both countries under various leaders and all the way until the succession of the current Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdul Aziz and His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-

Accordingly, Fayez expressed heartiest congratulations to His Highness the Amir, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah, the Al-Sabah family and the Kuwaiti people.



NUKS-USA HONORS ALGHANIM INDUSTRIES FOR 32ND ANNUAL CONFERENCE SPONSORSHIP

KUWAIT: Alghanim Industries, one of the largest private companies in the region, was recently honored by the National Union of Kuwaiti Students - USA (NUKS-USA) in recognition of its participation and sponsorship of the 32nd annual conference that took place in San Diego from 26-28 November 2015, under the patronage and attendance of the Minster of Education and Minster of Higher Education Dr

NUKS-USA was represented by students Fahad Al-Jadaan and Dawoud Al-Busairi who visited the company's headquarters whereby they met with the team that represented the company at the conference and honored them with a commemorative plaque in recognition of the company's role and on-going support of NUKS-USA.

Senior Director of Corporate Strategy, BD, and M&A at Alghanim Industries, Dari Al-Reshaid Al-Bader, said: "We sincerely thank NUKS-USA for a well-organized conference, as we value such events that give us the opportunity to meet many of our special students. One of our activities in this year's conference was a special workshop that we hosted for merit students, as well as our involvement in other activities in which we interacted with many students and helped answer any questions they had about the company. We really look forward to future collaborations with NUKS-USA."

As part of its activities at this conference, Alghanim Industries hosted a special workshop entitled "Steer Your Career" to a group of merit scholars with varied majors studying in the United States, where company representatives introduced Alghanim Industries and presented career advice that will help them professionally, such as time management, goal setting, and writing a good resume. The team also presented the "Alghanim Industries Future Leaders Program" (AFLP), a program that extends over

12 months, and is designed to provide recent, high-potential Kuwaiti graduates with a comprehensive introduction to the different businesses and support functions in Alghanim Industries and includes world-class training and development activities. The program is comprised of four months of training and workshops, a one month-long business-based project, and seven months of job rotations and assignments across the company.

The support for education falls under Alghanim Industries' corporate social responsibilities initiatives. The company has goals towards youth empowerment, supporting education, entrepreneurship, and helping entrepreneurs grow. Part of Alghanim Industries' educational initiatives were the sponsorships of Nuqat conference, the NEST project to raise awareness and support education for underprivileged children in Mumbai, not to mention the continuous support to the INJAZ Kuwait organization.

DEPUTY FM IN MANAMA FOR ARAB-INDIAN FORUM

MANAMA: Kuwaiti Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Suleiman Al-Jarallah yesterday arrived in Manama leading a Kuwaiti delegation to the first ministerial session of the Arab-India Cooperation Forum (AICF). The meeting will be held today on the level of Foreign Ministers.

The delegation was received by



Khaled Al-Jarallah

Bahraini Foreign Minister Abdulla Al-Dosary and Dean of Diplomatic Corps in the Kingdom, Kuwaiti Ambassador Sheikh Azzam Mubarak Al Sabah, and officials from the embassy as well as the Bahraini Foreign Ministry.

The one-day ministerial meeting will address a multitude of economic and political files of mutual interest, and means of boosting bilateral trade. Arab League Secretary General Nabil Al-Araby will attend the meeting, together with some Arab foreign ministers and India's External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj.

The meeting follows several preparatory meetings held for senior officials from both sides. In December 2008, the Arab League and the Indian Ministry of External Affairs signed a memorandum of understanding for establishing the AICF in a bid to enhance bilateral ties and create strategic partnership. The delegation includes Assistant Foreign Minister for the Affairs of the Deputy Foreign Minister's Office Ambassador Ayham Abdullatif Al-Omar, Assistant Foreign Minister for Arab World Affairs Aziz Al-Dihani and Kuwait's Permanent Delegate to the Arab League Ahmad Abdulrahman Al-Bakr. —KUNA



HORECA ATTRACTED OVER 6,000 VISITORS

KUWAIT: Leaders Group's General Manager Nabila Al-Anjeri stressed that Horeca Kuwait 2016 exhibition, which was recently concluded, achieved remarkable success and managed to attract over 6,000 visitors including experts, company owners, businessmen and a large number of ambassadors and diplomats.

Anjeri added that such success highlights the role that could be played by the private sector in activating commercial exchanges and boosting the economy. "This would eventually provide enough job opportunities, support the government's development plan and help it set short and medium term strategies to diversify national income sources," she said, adding that sectors like tourism, hospitality, shipment and storage should be top priorities when considering such

Anjeri also thanked the Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah for patronizing the exhibition. She also thanked all participants, sponsors and members of the cooking competition's jury

Further, Anjeri thanked Hospitality Services Company; the main organizer of all Horeca exhibitions throughout the Middle East for cooperating with Leaders Group in organizing Horeca Kuwait 2016.

GOVT COULD SCRAP EMPLOYEES' BONUSES

KUWAIT: As part of the government's austerity measures, ministries will reconsider paying employees the 'excellent performance bonuses' in the 2016-2017 budget, well-informed sources said. These bonuses would not be paid according to present conditions, the sources said, adding that ministries would have to either cancel or reduce them down by limiting them to certain employees who match strict performance assessment conditions. The sources highlighted that the current average excellent performance bonuses were over KD 5 million in most ministries, which adds up to a very high cost. The sources added that the employees who get the bonus do not actually deserve it and it is most often given for profiteering and is followed by filing of many grievances by those who do not get it. "This calls for stricter regulations and conditions," stressed the sources, noting that cancelling bonuses in the oil sector could

in other ministries. "The government will leave the final decision to respective ministries," added the sources.

In another development, the sources added that governmental instructions were issued to the ministerial economic committee to finish its study concerning cutting subsidies and increasing petrol, electricity and water prices so that they could be listed on the Cabinet's agenda for February.

Kuwait Airways

The parliament's financial affairs committee is due to discuss today the proposals made on amending law number 6/2008 pertaining with turning Kuwait Airways into a shareholding company. The committee meeting will be attended by Communication Minister Essa Al-Kandari. The committee's agenda also includes a bill on allowing the government to take funds from the general reserves as requested by Finance Minister and

be the beginning of cancelling them acting oil minister Anas Al-Saleh, who is scheduled to attend the meeting as well.

Citizenship

The parliament's legal and legislative affairs committee is due to meet today to discuss a proposal on granting citizenship to the children of martyrs registered with the Martyrs Bureau. Meanwhile, member of the parliamentary interior and defense affairs committee MP Abdullah Maayouf said that the committee would discuss a bill granting citizenship to a maximum of 4,000 people in

Family safe

A huge fire broke out at a Kuwaiti family's house in Omariya, said security sources, noting that the fire started when a cooking gas cylinder exploded in a kitchen annexed to the house, blowing off parts of the ceiling and walls. The sources added that no casualties were reported.

KUWAITI TEAM IN GENEVA FOR **ROADMAP ON SPORTS SITUATION**

GENEVA: A Kuwaiti governmental delegation in Geneva was briefed on a roadmap suggested by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) before presenting it to competent bodies for careful deliberations. The delegation's head Mohammad Al-Faili said in a statement yesterday that the roadmap was tabled during a meeting held with IOC officials to discuss the IOC's recent decision suspending Kuwait's

"During the meeting, we listened to the IOC's viewpoint, and we voiced our views on suspension too. We stressed that our sports legislations don't run counter with the Olympic Charter," he said. The 16hour-long meeting was convened by the UN, Faili said, appreciating "sincere and relentless" efforts by the UN, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and Special Adviser to the UN Secretary-General on Sport for Development and Peace Wilfried Lemke to resolve the issue of Kuwait's internationally suspended sports activities.

Led by constitutional expert Mohammad Al-Faili, the Kuwaiti governmental team comprises Advisor to the Minister of State for Youth Affairs, Dr Sager Al-Mulla and member of the Public Authority for Sports (PAS) Abdullah Al-

Several officials of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) were present in the meeting. On October 27, 2015, the PAS board of directors had rejected a decision by the IOC suspending Kuwait's Olympic activities, over allegations that the "Kuwait's local sports laws contradict the Olympic Charter." — KUNA



CRACKDOWN AT STREET MARKET IN MAHBOULA

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: Kuwait Municipality launched an inspection campaign in an illegal street market in Mahboula, where three truckloads of vegetables, fruits and used clothes were confiscated, said the acting municipal affairs manager at Hawally and Ahmadi municipalities Fahd Al-Shtaili. All unauthorized and illegal markets would be targeted and strictly dealt with, he noted.

Medical services

Chairman of the Private Medical Professions Union Dr Adel Ashkenani highly commended His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah's instructions to develop domestic medical services and reduce reliance on treatment abroad. "Health sector officials should be fully aware of

this instruction by the Amir of wisdom and humanity. We should learn lessons from such statements," he underlined. Addressing Health Minister Dr Ali Al-Obaidi, Ashkenani said during his meetings with the minister, he detected sincere intentions and efforts to develop health services in general and regulate private health services in particular. "Such intentions need to see light now," he underlined, calling for getting rid of red tape and bureaucracy in issuing licenses. He also urged the Assembly and its health affairs committee to amend medical laws in order to develop the health sector and attract more investments and international hospitals that "will not operate in Kuwait under current circumstances", noting that it was high time the private sector played a more important role in developing medical and health services.

KUWAITI HELD IN TANZANIA RELEASED

KUWAIT: A Kuwaiti citizen, held in Tanzania since June, has been released and is back home, Assistant Foreign Minister for Consular Affairs Plenipotentiary Sami Abdulaziz Al-Hamad said on yesterday. The citizen was held there as of June 23 for violating the Tanzanian laws on exporting some animal species. The penalty in

this case is a tremendous fine, or 20 years behind bars, Hamad told KUNA.

But he was granted a release thanks to ceaseless efforts by the Kuwaiti Embassy in the East African country, based on orders from First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. The efforts were fruitful, Hamad said, appreciating cooperation by the Tanzanian side. The Foreign Ministry urges Kuwaiti citizens to abide by laws when leaving other countries, and not to try to take out animals with them, he said. They have to comply with hunting laws in a host country, and to be cautious, making sure their permits are valid. — KUNA



attempt she had attempted in an apartment where she says she was locked for four days. FIREFIGHTERS THWART SUICIDE ATTEMPT

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: Hawalli firefighters yesterday succeeded in saving a 33-year-old Filipina who attempted suicide by jumping off a second floor apartment in a Hawalli building. The woman was held hostage inside the apartment for four days, said security sources, noting that firefighters had to break into the apartment and talk the woman out of her suicide attempt. Further investigations are in progress.

Unlicensed warehouses

In collaboration with Kuwait Municipality, Farwaniya security forces launched a wide scale inspection campaign in Hasawi, raid-

ing several illegal street marketplaces. The forces also searched five unlicensed warehouses used for storing vegetables and fruits that were all confiscated and sent to charities. The campaign also resulted in removing large quantities of wooden and plastic boxes of produce prepared for sale.

Boat owner summoned In implementation of the environment law, the environment police spotted a boat that had run aground on Fintas shores, said security sources, noting that the owner was summoned and notified to remove the boat to avoid being fined for docking in an area not specified for docking. The sources added that leaving the boat in the area was dangerous for marine life in the area.

Safety conference Major General Khaled Yousif Al-Terkait, Deputy Director for Human Development at Kuwait Fire Services Directorate (KFSD) and Chairman of the Supreme Committee for the 4th International Firefighting and Safety Conference, said that the conference would be held under auspices of His Highness the Prime Minister in the period of March 1-3, 2016, and titled 'Best Experiences for Safe Future.' Terkait added that the conference would coincide with the National

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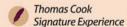
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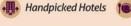
Tour Price: USD 4875

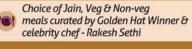
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Al-Qabas

YOU SHOCKED US... WITH ALL IT MEANS

By Iqbal Al-Ahmad

hen the country is stripped of its people's loyalty and priorities for its love differ...when the name of the country is lost, all types of loyalties emerge...then the only diagnosis for this is for the country to

When MP so and so, and MP so and so among the nine MPs boycotted the National Assembly session in protest of as an expression of their stand towards the Abdaly cell verdict, they did not write on the announcement of their candidature that they are the candidates of this or that group, or that their role and responsibility towards the country that harbors them depends on matters bigger than them.

The statements of their candidatures were speaking about Kuwait and its love only, but as soon as confusion shrouded the boycott of those MPs of the session, it made us wonder whether the nation's MPs represent Kuwait with its interests in the first place, and that nothing is above the homeland, and no interest is above its interest.

The world was shocked as we were towards what happened - how can an MP boycott a session in protest of verdicts issued against persons convicted of collecting and storing weapons in several areas, which constitutes a danger against Kuwait and its people, especially what was announced about communications and loyalties to foreign countries. To whom was the priority of belonging in their hearts compared to Kuwait, to which they belong according to their nationalities and IDs, which has all credit in providing them with all means of dignified life. Then they conspired to threaten the security of our homeland and its people. I personally challenge any one of those nine MPs to persuade me that there is a patriotic justification for his action and in the interest of Kuwait.

Sunnis and Shiites elected so and so among those because they trusted their loyalty and their love of the country (and this is a duty, and supposed to be today and every day), because their candidature slogans was playing on the patriotism card just like all candidates at the time.

When we rejected the Iraqi invasion, we did so as Kuwaitis and not as Sunnis and Shiites, and if it was Iran that occupied Kuwait at the time instead of Iraq, we would, both Sunnis and Shiites, also stand against it with the same strength and spirit. So what happened to make loyalties flip and for some MPs to personify their inclinations with such a

If any rulings issued against any person who belongs to a group in Kuwait make MPs who belong to the same group hold a sectarian protest, then sessions will be void of MPs, and the work of MPs would change from legislation for the sake of the homeland to struggles. My wish for 2016 is to celebrate the return of the homeland to our hearts after it has been out for a long time and for many painful reasons. I fear is what happened is a reflection of this desertion. The danger of our illness in Kuwait is that the illness began in a very important part in Kuwait's body, that is its heart (the National Assembly), so there is no way it can be removed to save this body, unlike if it was a finger, hand or foot.

Translated by Kuwait Times



الانهاء

A POINT TO MAKE

ticular.

Al-Anbaa

By Dr Nermin Al-Houti

should first thank the Governor of Sharjah Sheikh Sultan bin Mohammad Al-Qassimi and Information Minister Sheikh Salman Al-Humoud Al-Sabah for their continued interest in the father of arts - theater - and their action to push the Arab and Gulf theatrical movement forward, develop this art and preserve the "father of arts" so that it continues and flourishes in the Internet

My focus is on those who organized the five-day Arab Theater Authority festival. We lovers of theater got intense cultural doses, but we could not absorb and enjoy what was presented to us in the form of Arab and Gulf arts. My suggestions for them are written below so that they may be considered in the future, and before anything, I tell them "May you be strong":

* Each day had three plays at different places and various times, with multiple concepts, making the attendee's theatrical thinking scattered and dispersed. So why the days weren't extended with only one or two shows and not three?

* Seminars were held to discuss the day's theatrical activities. I stand for a moment with the organizer of the seminars and ask: Is it realistic to watch three shows over five hours starting at 5 pm, ending on some days at 11 pm, then ask spectators to participate in the seminars that in some cases extended to dawn? Why did you hold

the seminars in one place? Why didn't you use the theater in which the show being discussed was presented?

Some of the honoring that proceeded the plays delayed some of the shows as far as its scheduled time was concerned, and the non-compliance of some officials with the show's timing led to the delay of the start of the show and rescheduling the shows after it, so we ask the organizing committee, as a suggestion, to have the honoring and prizes organized during hours other than of the shows and in places different from the theater. We also demand that some officials be committed to the show's time because theater is really a commit-

* Workshops did not receive much interest from lovers of the "father of arts", and the reason is time constraints and lack of adequate announcements about

* Finally, the art shows did not receive much attention despite their contents of innovation in the theatrical

world. Finally, we thank Kuwait's guests and those who organized the festival, headed by Sharjah Governor Sheikh Sultan, and thank the information minister in par-

— Translated by Kuwait Times









KUWAIT DIVE TEAM LIFTS BUOY, DEBRIS FROM AL-SHAMLAN PORT

KUWAIT: The Kuwait Dive Team of the **Environmental Voluntary Foundation** recently removed a free-floating buoy as well as two tons of plastics and debris from the waters in Al-Shamlan Port. Waleed Al-Fadhel, president of the Dive Team, reported that the Team raised the

iron-made buoy using equipment on loan from the Kuwait Municipality, given the buoy's weight of 1 ton. The buoy was found by the team run aground in Kuwait Bay and is believed to have floated in from the bay.

The Kuwait Dive Team regularly cleans

the Al-Shamlan Port, as well as other ports and coastal habitats around Kuwait. Fadhel said the team will continue to remove waste harmful to the marine environment and dangerous to seafarer safety. Sunken vessels and floating buoys must be removed in order to secure shipping lanes

around Kuwait. The waste produced by fishing and tourist boats must be cleaned on a daily basis in order to remove harmful pollutants that negatively impact the country's fish stocks.

Fadhel thanked the Kuwait Ports Authority and the Municipality of Kuwait for their help in this operation, as well as the Environmental Public Authority, the Department of Fisheries, the General Administration of Coast Guards, the Fish Market administration, and the Kuwaiti Fishermen's Union for their continued efforts and cooperation in protecting the marine environment. Fadhel also called for fisherman and sailors to stop throwing waste into the sea in order to ensure the historic character of Al-Shamlan Port and Kuwait's seafaring activi-

ties are preserved.

News

in brief

No plans to collect income taxes

KUWAIT: Kuwait has no plans to collect income taxes from Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and Acting Minister of Oil Dr Anas Al-Saleh said. Instated, the government is studying measures in cooperation with the National Assembly pertaining with collecting taxes from companies' net profits, he said, adding that the government currently focuses on rationalizing subsidies and diversifying sources of income. — Al-Anbaa

Vehicle impoundment

KUWAIT: Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Sabah gave orders to authorize traffic police to impound any vehicle for two months for violating the traffic law in the following conditions: Driving without a license plate, reckless driving, crossing the red traffic light, driving a vehicle that emits thick smoke, driving a vehicle that carries stickers that signify a sectarian group or unlicensed organizations, or driving illegally on the shoulder of the road. — Al-Rai

No raids without warrants

KUWAIT: Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Sabah gave orders to Undersecretary Lieutenant General Suleiman Al-Fahad to make sure that officers obtain warrants from the public prosecution before raiding apartments in crackdowns against violators. The new instructions, which came after the Interior Ministry received complains that police raid apartments without a warrant, further indicate that the raids must be carried out based on specific information obtained via investigations carried out by criminal detectives. Furthermore, the minister ordered police not to carry out raids at any cafe in Kuwait, as the municipality is the only state body with the authority to carry out such activity. — Al-Anbaa

Official files for retirement

KUWAIT: The Interior Ministry's Assistant Undersecretary for Borders Security Affairs Major General Anwar Al-Yassine has submitted his papers for retirement, a local daily reported yesterday quoting sources. Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Sabah had referred Yassine to the ministry's general diwan for administrative investigations pertaining with his alleged relationship with a case pending in court, Al-Rai reported. — Al-Rai

Subbiya unit back to service

KUWAIT: The steam unit number 20 at Subbiya Power Plant re-launched last Wednesday night following a twoyear suspension due to a fire. The unit returned to service after all damages caused by a fire that happened on January 20, 2014 were successfully repaired, said Fuad Al-Oun, the Assistant Undersecretary for Operations and Maintenance at the Ministry of Electricity and Water (MEW). The unit's total production capacity reaches 220 megawatts per day, Oun added. — Al-Qabas

Crime

Report

Student in Jordan shot during fight

KUWAIT: A Kuwaiti student studying pharmacology in Jordan was injured when he was shot after he fought with three Jordanians over parking rights, said security sources, noting that the shooters fled the scene. The student's father told security sources that during the fight with the three suspects, one of them drew a gun and fired six shots, and one of them hit his son's foot. The father added that his son was rushed to hospital where the bullet was removed, while investigations are in progress to identify and arrest the culprits.

Fatal accident

A 21-year-old female citizen was killed when she lost control over an all-terrain vehicle (ATV) outside her family's camp and it rolled over, said security sources, noting that the girl was rushed to hospital in a critical condition but she died soon afterwards. Separately, Ahmadi detectives inspected a number of camps and confiscated 45 ATVs.

Police kill 'agitated' cow

A cow created panic in Rehab when it ran in the streets in an agitated manner, which called for police intervention, said security sources. Policemen shot 12 bullets at the cow but it still resisted, so they finally had to run it over with a patrol vehicle, the sources noted.

Bloodstains

Capital detectives were alerted on receiving a report about a vehicle with bloodstains on its exterior parked at the Friday Market. Checking on the owner, detectives found that he was a citizen wanted for various cases. The vehicle was impounded pending further investigations.

Driving under the influence

A female citizen wanted for financial claims was arrested while driving her vehicle under the influence of alcohol in Hawally, said security sources. Case papers indicate that a police patrol noticed that a vehicle was being driven erratically and on stopping it, the driver reeked of alcohol and had three bottles of whiskey. On checking her ID, detectives found that she was wanted. A case was filed and the suspect was referred to relevant authorities. Separately, Jahra detectives arrested four people under the influence of drugs with illicit pills at an Abdaly farm, said security sources.

Bad storage

Doha Port customs inspectors seized a shipment of inedible foodstuff from Iran, said security sources, noting that the shipment of potatoes and truffles arrived onboard three boats. On examining it, the foodstuff had already gone foul due to bad storage conditions.

Security campaigns

In the last raid before the interior minister issued a decision banning raiding private residences or cafes without a search warrant from the public prosecution, Ahmadi detectives stormed a Mangaf apartment that had been reportedly used for vice activities, said security sources. In a separate incident, Ahmadi detectives also inspected an illegal marketplace in Mahboula where 64 peddlers, 10 wanted expats and four others with expired residency visas were arrested, said security sources, noting that Ahmadi security director Brig Abdullah Saffah submitted a memo to Mol undersecretary demanding deporting the 64

Company sentenced

The court of appeal sentenced a local company to compensate its previous operations manager by KD 50,600 for dismissing him without due reason and not paying his indemnity and other allowances.

Witchcraft

Ahmadi detectives arrested an Asian man with some witchcraft items, said security sources. He was taken to the proper authorities to face legal action.

Fugitive caught

A citizen, who had been wanted for a KD 36,000 financial claim, was arrested in Ahmadi, said security sources. He was taken to the proper authorities for further action.

Drug possession

Police at a routine checkpoint in Dhaher suspected three juveniles and on searching them, detectives found meth with their possession. The trio were taken to the proper authorities to face charges.

Bank account hacked

A citizen reported that an unidentified person had made a KD 454 purchase that was deducted from his account, said security sources. A case was filed. — Al-Rai, Al-Anbaa

WINTER TIMINGS AT **ENTERTAINMENT CITY**

KUWAIT: The Entertainment City welcomes visitors on winter timings starting from today following the end of the spring break timings, the Touristic Enterprises Company (TEC) announced. The facility is open from 4:00 pm to 12:00 am on weekdays and from 10:00 am to 10:00 pm on weekends, Operations and Maintenance Manager Yousuf Al-Humoud said. The winter working hours will continue until February's end, he added.

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SUNDAY, JANUARY 24, 2016

SAUDI-IRANIAN PROXY WAR SPREADS TO DAVOS

Conservatives launch Trump

broadside

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Page 9

'SNOWZILLA' BLIZZARD PUMMELS US

AT LEAST NINE KILLED IN STORM-RELATED DEATHS

NEW YORK/WASHINGTON: A monster blizzard that has paralyzed the US East Coast intensified yesterday afternoon as it barreled into New York City, prompting a travel ban on area highways as high winds whipped up recordsetting tides in New Jersey and Delaware. After dumping nearly two feet (60 cm) of snow on the suburbs of Washington, DC, overnight, the storm unexpectedly gathered strength as it slammed into the New York metropolitan area, and forecasters bumped up snowfall predictions to up to 30 inches (76 cm) by today.

New York Governor Andrew Cuomo announced a ban on all travel on New York City area roads, including on Long Island, except for emergency vehicles, as of 2:30 pm (1930 GMT). All bridges and tunnels into the city will also close, he said. Subways running above ground and trains operated by the Long Island Railroad and Metro North will stop service at 4 pm because snow falling at a rate of 3 inches per hour proved too much for plows on roads and railways, Cuomo said.

Broadway theaters canceled matinee and evening performances at the urging of New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio, who warned that the storm may rank among the top five blizzards ever to hit the nation's largest city. "We're loving it. We definitely want to come back," said Michelle Jones, 46, a mortgage company controller who had tickets to see "The Phantom of Opera" with her daughter. "We love the snow because we don't get this in Atlanta," she said, about an hour before the Broadway shutdown was announced.

Heavy snow bands were moving across Long Island, New York City and northeast New Jersey, with wind gusts of up to 80 kph, the National Weather Service said. New York City buses operated by the Metropolitan Transportation Authority were suspended at noon. New Jersey Transit, earlier on Saturday, suspended all bus, rail and light rail service. The Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority took the rare step of suspending operations through Sunday.

More than 4,300 US flights were canceled, including virtually all travel into New York City airports, according to the FlightAware.com tracking website and transportation officials. Cuomo declared a state of emergency in New York yesterday, becoming the 11th state to take the step. "Our message, and we need the public to listen, is to stay home and to stay off the streets. That includes people who are attempting to drive, but it also includes people who are walking," said Washington Mayor Muriel Bowser.

However, some residents said they just could not resist seeing famous monuments frosted with snow. "We haven't made snow angels yet, but we're looking forward to doing that in front of the White House," said Robert Bella Hernandez, 38. "We're just going to walk around, see some snow covered D.C. landmarks. And then when it's unsafe, maybe go back in for a minute."

Higher Tides than During Sandy

High winds battered the entire region, reaching 70 mph in Wallops Island, Virginia, late on Friday, and whipping up the tides, said meteorologist Greg Gallina of the National Weather Service. Tides higher than those caused by Superstorm Sandy three years ago caused major flooding along the Jersey Shore and Delaware coast and set records in Cape May, New Jersey, and Lewes, Delaware, said NWS meteorologist Patrick O'Hara.

A high tide of 8.98 feet (2.74 m) was recorded at 7:51 am yesterday at Cape May - slightly higher than the record of 8.9 feet previously set by Sandy on Oct 29, 2012. A high tide of 9.27 feet was recorded at Lewes, higher than the 9.2 high tide recorded in March 1962. "All the factors that affect the tides, it's all happening at once," O'Hara said. Even so, there were no reports of evacuations along the New Jersey Shore, where thousands of residents had to abandon their homes during the devastat-

The barrier islands in Atlantic County were experiencing significant tidal flooding, said Linda Gilmore, the county's public information officer, affecting Atlantic City and at least four other towns. While the county typically sees flooding during nor'easter storms, the current situation more dangerous than usual. Gilmore said the risk would grow more severe with each high tide through today morning, but at present it was too early to draw any comparisons with Sandy.

At least eight people were killed in car crashes due to icy roads in North Carolina, Kentucky, Tennessee and Virginia, and a ninth person died of a heart attack while



WASHINGTON: A pedestrian walks in the center of a snow-covered residential street yesterday. — AFP

shoveling snow in Maryland. The Pennsylvania National Guard was called in to help stranded motorists along I-78 in the western part of the state, local media reported.

The worst appeared to be over for Washington, although moderate snow was expected to keep falling until late Saturday, with the deepest accumulation of 23 inches recorded in Poolesville, Maryland, north of the nation's capital. Snowfall measured 13 inches near the White House and 3.5 inches near the National Mall yesterday morning, the NWS reported.

"Records are getting close - we're getting into the top

five storms," Gallina said. The record high of 28 inches of snow in the nation's capital was set in 1922 and the deepest recent snowfall was 17.8 inches in 2010. The storm developed along the Gulf Coast, dropping snow over Arkansas, Tennessee and Kentucky on Friday. On the East Coast, warm, moist air from the Atlantic Ocean collided with cold air to form the massive winter system, meteorologists said. The storm was forecast to move offshore in southern New England early next week. Philadelphia and New York were expected to get up to 18 inches of snow before the storm abated. — Reuters

ISRAELI GUARD KILLS PALESTINIAN GIRL

settlement in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, Israeli police said yesterday. It was the latest fatality in an almost fourmonth-long surge of violence that has raised concern of wider escalation, a decade after the last Palestinian uprising subsided, and it followed two stabbings this week inside settlements carried out by Palestinian teenagers, according to Israeli authorities. Police spokeswoman Luba Samri said initial investigations showed the teenager "had fought with her family and left her home with a knife and intending to die".

the entrance to Anatot settlement and he opened fire at

JERUSALEM: A 13-year-old Palestinian girl was shot dead her, Samri said. Her father arrived at the scene shortly after security camera footage published on Israeli Channel Two News's website showed the armed guard running through the settlement gate and a young woman running after him with an object, possibly a knife, in her hand.

The family of the teenager, Rugayya Abu Eid, confirmed her death. Her mother, Reeda Abu Eid, said there had been no trouble before her daughter left the family home, a tent in the Palestinian village Anata. "Her father works in a farm and Ruqayya used to go to him. I didn't see her when she left so I expected she had gone to her father," she said. "Ruqayya is a small girl, how could she stab someone?" — Reuters

by an Israeli security guard she allegedly tried to stab at a the incident and was arrested, she added. Eight seconds of

Holding a knife, she ran toward the security guard at

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UGANDA BANS MAIDS FROM SAUDI ARABIA

KAMPALA: The government of Uganda said on Friday it will stop sending housemaids to Saudi Arabia, eclipsing a deal between the two nations to ship workers to the wealthy Gulf nation amid complaints of poor conditions and mistreatment. The ban will remain until working conditions in Saudi Arabia are "deemed fitting," the Ugandan government said.

The two nations had signed a deal in July for the deployment of university graduates to work in oilrich Saudi Arabia. It was seen as a way of addressing high unemployment rates among young people in Uganda. But the Ugandan government has gotten complaints of workers being treated inhumanely by their employers in Saudi Arabia, according to the Ministry of Gender, Labor and Social Welfare.

The ban also comes after an audio recording was widely circulated this week on social media of Ugandans in Saudi Arabia who said they were being tortured and imprisoned. According to official Ugandan figures, some 500 housemaids have shipped to the wealthy Arab nation since the deal took effect. However, an immigration official at Entebbe Airport, speaking on condition of anonymity, said about 100 Ugandans on average leave each day to seek work in Saudi Arabia. — Reuters



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ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN BATTLE DOESN'T END AT DEATH

NABLUS: After weeks of waiting for the funeral, Bassim Salah's family still couldn't bury his body when it was returned by the Israeli authorities too frozen and contorted to fit in the grave. The 38-year-old Palestinian was killed in November while trying to stab an Israeli border guard near an entrance to Jerusalem's Old City, according to the police. His body, like those of dozens of other Palestinians since a wave of attacks began in October, is the subject of a macabre dispute between the Israeli authorities and families seeking to

His brother Saad flicks through disturbing images of the corpse, after it was handed over by the Israelis to the Palestinian Red Crescent. Before they could lay him to rest, his family in the West Bank city of Nablus was forced to watch the body slowly thaw after its return from storage in a freezer in an Israeli morgue. "We only wanted the body to bury him in an honorable way," Saad said. According to Islamic tradition, burial should take place as soon as pos-

sible after death.

The Israeli government announced on Oct 14 that it would not return the bodies of assailants as part of a range of measures designed to curb the spate of attacks. Many funerals have been delayed, sometimes for more than three months.

'No Respect'

A total of 156 Palestinians and 24 Israelis have been killed in three months of violence. Most of the Palestinians killed were carrying out attacks. At the height of confiscations, Israel held 56 bodies, according to the Palestinians. But the majority have been released in recent weeks, with only 10 still being held. Mazen Hassan Arabeh, 37, was killed on Dec 3 while carrying out an attack at a checkpoint, according to the Israeli authorities.

The director of Abu Dis Medical Centre said it took 20 people to carry the body when it was returned because it was "completely frozen". "It seems that they are tossing them in the refrigerator

after their deaths without any regard for their shape," Abdullah Abu Hilal said. "The occupation does not respect them even when they put their bodies in a fridge."

Rights groups have criticized the policy of withholding bodies, saying it increases tensions. And much of the Israeli establishment agrees. The issue has divided the Israeli military - which supports returning the bodies - and Public Security Minister Gilad Erdan, who wants to avoid funerals becoming political rallies. The army has returned all the bodies from the West Bank, for which it is responsible.

But those from annexed east Jerusalem, under Erdan's ministry, have been withheld. "Until now, the bodies were held as every funeral turned into disruptions of order and a show of support for terror," said a spokesman for Erdan. However, Defence Minister Moshe Yaalon has argued for their return to ease tensions, according to Israeli media reports. "Past experience has taught us that holding bodies brings



NABLUS: The mother of Bassim Salah sits next to his portrait at their family home in this city in the Israeli occupied West Bank on Jan 3, 2016. — AFP

more harm than benefit," an Israeli official told AFP.

Numerous marches have been organized in Palestinian communities to

demand the return of the bodies. When it does hand them over, Israel imposes conditions such as that funerals take



TUNIS: Tunisian Prime Minister Habib Essid leads an emergency cabinet meeting yesterday. — AFP

TUNISIA PREMIER URGES PATIENCE AFTER UNREST

TUNIS: Tunisian Prime Minister Habib Essid pleaded yesterday for people to be "patient" after a wave of protests against poverty and unemployment in the worst social unrest since the 2011 revolution. He spoke after chairing an emergency cabinet meeting as authorities said a night-time nationwide curfew would be indefinite. The measure was imposed Friday after the spread of unrest from the central town of Kasserine, where an unemployed man died of electrocution during a protest, to the rest of the country.

Anger at the Jan 16 death of Ridha Yahyaoui after he climbed a power pole also hit the capital where shops were burnt and looted in one suburb. It was the worst social unrest since the revolution five years ago that ousted longtime dictator Zine El Abidine Ben Ali. Tunisia "is in danger despite the positive things which we have accomplished, particularly the transition toward democracy", said Essid, urging people to "understand that there are difficulties". "Solutions exist but some patience and optimism are needed," said Essid.

The premier, who met the defence and interior ministers before the cabinet meeting, did not announce any firm measures to tackle unemployment and corruption which have plagued the country. On Friday he said he had "no magic wand" to solve unemployment which is more than 15 percent nationwide and 32 percent among university graduates. In a televised address on Friday, President Beji Caid Essebsi expressed understanding for the frustration vented in impoverished regions of central Tunisia. But he also warned against "ill-intentioned hands" exploiting the legitimate grievances of demonstrators.

Calm returned to Kasserine yesterday morning after a day of clashes, but in the nearby town of Sidi Bouzid-the cradle of the revolution - teenagers set tyres alight, AFP journalists said. "Security-wise, it has started to stabilise," interior ministry spokesman Walid Louguini told AFP. Nevertheless authorities said the 8:00 pm to 5:00 am curfew would stay. There have been 261 arrests over the unrest and 84 for curfew violations on Friday, the interior ministry said.

'Honest Leaders' Needed

Analyst Selim Kharrat called the unrest "the most serious social crisis since 2011", and expressed disappointment at the cabinet's failure to announce solutions to resolve the situation. The government "missed the opportunity to give a positive signal", he said. The government "could have taken inexpensive measures" to battle corruption but has "a limited margin for manoeuvre", Kharrat said. "The demonstrations are demanding not only jobs but also honest leaders," he added.

Yesterday's cabinet session comes after Essid earlier this month replaced his foreign and interior ministers in the first reshuffle since Essebsi took office in late 2014. The unrest echoed the public anger that erupted after the death of young fruit seller Mohammed Bouazizi in December 2011 in protest at unemployment and police harassment. Bouazizi set himself on fire in Sidi Bouzid, sparking the uprising that toppled Ben Ali - whose rule was tainted by graft accusations - and inspired the Arab Spring revolts.

Othman Yahyaoui on Friday said his electrocuted son was "a victim of corruption, marginalisation and unkept promises". Mehrez, a brother, said impoverished youths were being driven towards "drug trafficking and terrorism", in reference to the thousands of young Tunisians who have joined jihadist organisations such as the Islamic State (IS) group.— AFP

SAUDI-IRANIAN PROXY WAR SPREADS TO DAVOS

Zarif, Turki exchange barbs in closed-door meeting

DAVOS: Senior Saudi and Iranian figures clashed behind closed doors at a private meeting convened by the World Economic Forum in Davos this week to try to promote peace in Syria, participants said. The barbed exchange between Saudi Prince Turki Al-Faisal and Iranian Foreign Minister Javad Zarif at an invitation-only meeting on Wednesday underlined the hostility between the two Gulf rivals, who are waging proxy wars in Syria, Yemen and Iraq.

Riyadh broke off diplomatic relations and cut off trade and transport ties with Tehran two weeks ago after protesters stormed the Saudi embassy in Iran. The protests erupted following the Saudi execution of a leading Shi'ite cleric that outraged predominantly Shiite Iranians. The standoff highlights some of the reasons US-Russian-backed peace talks on Syria may not open as planned in Geneva next week. There is no agreement on who should represent opponents of the Syrian government, and Riyadhbacked rebels are demanding that Russia first stop air strikes in Syria.

An official photographer snapped Faisal and Zarif shaking hands outside the room. The picture was not distributed and any warmth evaporated when they sat around the table with UN and other senior officials. "It was a dialogue of the deaf," said one participant, who asked not to be identified because of the confidentiality of the session. Zarif denied any secret meeting with Prince Turki, a former head of Saudi intelligence and ambassador to the United States. Asked at a news conference the same day whether he would meet any Saudi officials in Davos, he said: "There won't be any secret meeting."

Prince Turki confirmed to Reuters that he had attended the session with Zarif and others but declined comment on what was said, citing the

off-the-record ground rules of the meeting. UN special envoy on Syria Staffan de Mistura, former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, former Arab League Secretary-General Amr Moussa of Egypt, the foreign ministers of Italy and Austria and officials from Turkey and several other Western nations were also around the table.

Sectarian Strife

De Mistura opened the meeting by saying the time was ripe for the Geneva peace talks because outside powers all wanted a political solution to the five-year-old civil war in Syria, the participants said. However, several speakers questioned Russia's motives for intervening in the conflict since September with air strikes in support of President Bashar al-Assad. They cast doubt on whether Moscow and Tehran wanted any deal that would involve Assad's eventual departure.

Zarif said Iran supported a political solution and had set out a four-point peace plan when it was finally invited to join international diplomacy on Syria last year. It had been excluded for years at US and Saudi insistence. Without naming any country, he took a veiled swipe at Riyadh by condemning those, he said, who fanned and exploited sectarian differences between Sunni and Shi'ite Muslims across the region.

At his news conference, Zarif accused Saudi Arabia of having spent millions of dollars to lobby the US Congress against an international deal on Iran's nuclear programme. An agreement with Iran led to the lifting of UN sanctions on the country this week. He said Riyadh had panicked after the embassy attack and the Saudis needed to "come to their senses". Prince Turki hit back in the closed session, blasting Iran's role in the Syria conflict, the participants said. Quoting an Arabic saying, he told Zarif: "I really like what you say

but when I look at what you do, I wonder."

Prince Turki, the 70-year-old youngest son of the late King Faisal, accused Iran of having 10,000 fighters on the ground in Syria supporting Assad, participants said. He described the Syrian leader as a "terrorist killing his own people" who was directly kept in power by Tehran, the participants said. One participant said the prince's remarks were sharper than expected and shocked some of those attending the meet-

While declining to comment on the exchange, Prince Turki told Reuters the commander of the Iranian Revolutionary Guards had boasted publicly that Iran had 120,000 fighters in Arab countries. Iran has acknowledged that officers of its Revolutionary Guards have been killed in Syria, but it denies having a large military presence in the country or participating directly in combat operations.

Officials close to Damascus and familiar with military developments have said that hundreds of Iranian fighters have joined the ground war in Syria since Russia began its air strikes last September, many of them deployed near Aleppo. A Middle East diplomat said the Iranian presence was closer to 2,000 Revolutionary Guards, but they were augmented by several thousand Shiite volunteers from countries such as Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iraq who had received military training in Iran.

Zarif did not respond to Prince Turki's attack in the meeting and the rest of the session was inconclusive. UN envoy de Mistura lamented that "this is the third year we are talking about Syria and not getting anywhere", one participant said. He said the Europeans at the table only talked about the humanitarian situation and the refugee crisis and how to stop refugees reaching Europe. —Reuters



ISTANBUL: US Vice President Joe Biden (left) poses for photographers with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan prior to their meeting at the Yildiz Mabeyn Palace yesterday. — AP

BIDEN SLAMS PKK, HAILS TURKEY HELP

'Russian raids' kill civilians

BEIRUT: Suspected Russian raids killed 33 civilians in war-ravaged eastern Syria on Saturday, amid reports US forces are building up an air base to bolster their fight against jihadists further north. Meanwhile, senior diplomats scrambled to resolve the key question of who will represent Syria's opposition at crucial talks next week aimed at ending the nearly-five year war. In eastern Syria, the 33 civilians were killed in air strikes suspected to have been carried out by Russian warplanes on a jihadist-held village.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said nine children and two women were among the dead in Khasham, which is controlled by the Islamic State group. The village is in Syria's oil-rich Deir Ezzor province, where IS has sought to advance in recent days despite a barrage of Russian and Syrian government air strikes. The week-long IS offensive on the provincial capital has left nearly 500 people dead and sparked fears of mass killings among the 200,000 people still living there.

IS declared a self-styled "caliphate" in 2014 across swathes of Syria and Iraq, imposing its ultra-conservative interpretation of Islamic law there. In Syria, it is under fire by the government and Damascus's

long-time ally Russia, as well as a US-led coalition also battling the jihadists in Iraq. To bolster their fight against the group, US special forces deployed in Syria are building up an airbase in the northeast, sources told AFP on Saturday.

'US Strengthening Airfield'

A Syrian military source said nearly 100 "American experts" and Syrian Kurdish militia were nearly done outfitting Rmeilan airfield in Hasakeh province. "The airbase will be used for helicopters and cargo planes. Its strip is now 2,700 metres long and is ready to be used by planes that will transport equipment and ammunition," the source added. A security source in northeast Syria said "American special forces and advisers are using the Rmeilan airport as a base, from where helicopters are taking off towards the fronts".

The Pentagon said the US had "not taken control" of any airfield in Syria. "There has been no change to the size of mission of the US presence in Syria," said US Central Command spokesman Colonel Pat Ryder. "That being said, US forces in Syria are consistently looking at ways to increase efficiency for logistics and personnel recovery support," he said. —AFP

ISTANBUL: US Vice President Joe Biden yesterday condemned the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) as a "terror group plain and simple" and a threat to Turkey like the Islamic State group, while hailing Ankara's cooperation in the fight against jihadists. After talks with Turkish Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu in Istanbul, Biden pleased his hosts with a ringing denunciation of

the "outrageous" attacks by the PKK, which the

Turkish military is seeking to cripple in a relent-

He praised much closer cooperation in the

less but controversial campaign.

battle against IS between Washington and Ankara, which had been accused in the past of turning a blind eye to the jihadist extremists. He also spoke of the possibility of a "military operation" in Syria should peace talks fail, but the White House later made clear he was only referring to current coalition military operations against IS. The PKK, listed as a terror group by Washington and the European Union, has killed dozens of members of the Turkish security

forces in attacks since a truce collapsed in July.

Turkey however has expressed concern that
Washington was seeking to woo the PKK as an
ally in the anti-IS fight and vehemently opposed
any move to delist it as a terror group. Ankara is

also concerned about the extent of US cooperation in Syria with the People's Protection Units (YPG), which Turkey sees as a branch of the PKK. The IS group "is not the only existential threat to the people of Turkey, the PKK is equally a threat and we are aware of that... it is a terror group plain and simple and what they continue to do is absolutely outrageous," Biden said.

"We do agree with you that in terms of their actions Daesh (IS), PKK and (Al-Qaeda's Syria affiliate) Al-Nusra... are simply terrorist groups," said Biden. Davutoglu emphasised Ankara saw no difference between those groups and the extreme-left DHKP-C. "We were pleased to have seen in the talks our approach is shared," he said. He also reaffirmed Turkey's opposition to the YPG, which he accused of carrying out ethnic cleansing in northern Syria and being "part of the PKK and receiving open support from the PKK". Biden later held over two-and-a-half hours of talks with President Recep Tayyip Erdogan but no statement was made after the discussions.

'Shared Mission'

The US vice president praised Turkey for taking "very important steps to improve the securi-

ty of its border" from IS militants who until recently controlled much of the frontier region in Syria. Biden said Turkey and the United States were coordinating ever more precisely on what is a "shared mission on the extermination of IS". "We do believe our plans together have gotten more contoured and more coordinated," he said. "We are increasingly making progress and that progress will be sped up as a result of our meeting today."

He said the two sides also discussed bolstering support for Sunni Arab groups inside Syria to cut off any remaining access that IS has to the border region. "That is a priority for both our nations so we can prevent new fighters and equipment from reaching IS fighters," he added. Biden said work was continuing on finding a political solution to Syria's almost five-year civil war, saying: "We are neither optimistic nor pessimistic. We are determined." He added: "But we are prepared if that is not possible to having a military solution to this operation and taking out Daesh (IS)," he said. A US official emphasized that Biden's comments did not herald any change in US policy in Syria, saying he was referring to the simultaneous pursuit of a political solution alongside the fight against IS.—AFP

FOUR KILLED IN CANADA SCHOOL SHOOTING

WINNIPEG/VANCOUVER: The gunman suspected of killing four people and injuring several others in Canada's worst school violence in a decade first shot his two brothers at home before opening fire at the remote community high school, a family friend and the town's acting mayor said on Friday. Police said a suspect was arrested after the shooting in La Loche, Saskatchewan, an impoverished community about 600 km north of the city of Saskatoon.

The town's acting mayor, Kevin Janvier, told AP that his 23-year-old daughter Marie, a teacher, was shot to death. He also said police told him that the gunman first shot two of his siblings at home and then made his way to the school. Officials have not given a motivation for the shooting or named the suspect or victims. Mass shootings are rare in Canada, which has stricter gun laws than the United States. In the country's worst school shooting, 14 college students were killed at Montreal's Ecole Polytechnique in 1989. A shooting in 1992 at Concordia University in Montreal killed four.

A family friend said the teenaged suspect shot his two younger brothers before going to the school and shooting a teacher and an assistant. "After he shot his two brothers, he walked back to school and he shot ... a teacher and a girl. They're both dead. Four of them died," said Joe Lemaigre, a family friend who lives on the outskirts of La Loche. "I know the family. Their mother worked in Fort McMurray and his grandfather went to Meadow Lake to do some shopping. That's when he shot

Multiple Shots

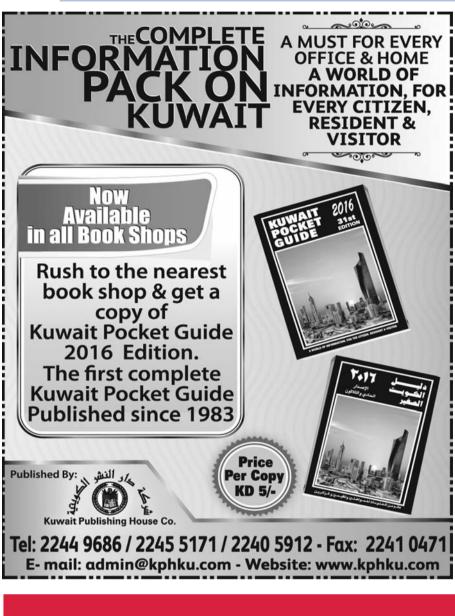
The shooting occurred in the high school and a second location, Canadian police said, adding they took the suspect into custody outside the school and seized a gun. Chief Bobby Cameron of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations, which represents more than 70 of the province's Indian bands, said a few students were in surgery Friday evening in Saskatoon, the province's largest city. "Everyone is still in shock and disbelief," Cameron said. "It's a very, very horribly tragic event."

La Loche student Noel Desjarlais told the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation that he heard multiple shots fired at the school, which has about 900 students. "I ran outside the school," Desjarlais said. "There was lots of screaming, there was about six, seven shots before I got outside. I believe there was more shots by the time I did get out." A cellphone video taken by one resident and broadcast by the CBC showed students walking away from the school across the snow-covered ground and emergency personnel moving in.

"Obviously this is every parent's worst nightmare," said Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, who initially reported five people were killed. He was in Davos, Switzerland, for the annual World Economic Forum. Among Canada's provinces, Saskatchewan had the highest rate of policereported family violence in 2014, double the national rate of 243 incidents per 100,000 people, according to a Statistics Canada report on

Extra doctors and nurses were sent to treat patients in Keewatin Yatthe Regional Health Authority's 16-bed hospital, said spokesman Dale West. He declined to say how many people had been injured. "It's really sad in La Loche today, very depressing," said Tenisha Lemaigre, who lives in the town of less than 3,000 people and said she knew many students. Unemployment runs above 20 percent in the area but three-quarters of working-age people are classified as retired or not looking for work, according to 2011 government figures. Residents say the real unemployment rate is above 50 percent.

In 2014, a teacher expressed concern about violence at the La Loche school, noting that a student who had tried to stab her was put back in her classroom after serving his sentence, and another attacked her at her home. "That student got 10 months," Janice Wilson told the CBC of the student who tried to stab her in class. "And when he was released he was returned to the school and was put in my classroom." — Reuters



US CONSERVATIVES LAUNCH TRUMP **BROADSIDE**

WASHINGTON: US conservatives shaken by the rise of Donald Trump called on fellow Republicans Friday to reject his presidential candidacy, triggering a fiery squabble over the party's controversial frontrunner just days before the nomination contest kicks off. "Against Trump," declared the cover of the venerable National Review magazine, for decades a leading voice of the American right founded by the late commentator William F Buckley. "Trump is a philosophically unmoored political opportunist who would trash the broad conservative ideological consensus within the GOP in favor of a free-floating populism with strong-man overtones," it said in a biting lead

The publication followed up with essays by 22 conservative figures who took turns denouncing Trump, who leads all rivals in the race for the Republican presidential nomination. Calling him "astoundingly ignorant," a "charlatan," a "glib egomaniac" and plain "crazy," the conservatives expressed revulsion at the prospect of a President Trump - and what he might do to the nation and to the Republican brand. With just over a week to go before the first presidential nominating vote in lowa, their views also reflected the panic that Trump has set off within a Republican establishment deeply at odds with the celebrity billionaire's angry, populist message.

But the magazine's broadside nonetheless triggered an angry response from the Republican National Committee, which disinvited the National Review from being a partner of the party's candidate debate on Feb 25. "Debate partners can't have a predisposition towards or against any candidate," RNC spokesman Sean Spicer said. Review publisher Jack Fowler appeared to take the move in stride. "We expected this was coming. Small price to pay for speaking the truth about The Donald," he wrote Friday in a blog post. Former Florida governor Jeb Bush, who trails Trump considerably in the polls, warned the RNC was wrong to punish such a "cherished conservative mouthpiece" as the Review. — AFP

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GERMAN IRE OVER COLOGNE ASSAULTS TARGETS NORTH AFRICANS

DUSSELDORF: Even 73-year-old retiree Edris says he has not been spared suspicious questions from Germans after a rash of sex assaults in Cologne blamed on North Africans. "If there is a criminal Moroccan, it boomerangs back to all of us," said Edris, who moved to Germany from Morocco 47 years ago, adding that criminal Arabs are "pigs". Germany's Maghreb community has come under a harsh spotlight after hundreds of women were groped and robbed by mainly North African suspects on New Year's Eve outside the Cologne's main train station. Only one suspect-an Algerian asylum seeker-has been arrested so far over the sex crimes and 25 Moroccans and Algerians count among the 30 suspects under investigation, police said.

"Over the last three weeks, the Maghreb community has been stigmatized like the enemy," Samy Charchira, a social worker in the western city of Duesseldorf, which is also home to the biggest number of Algerians and Moroccans in Germany. "That has had serious consequences with people subject to verbal or physical attacks. It's very worrying," said Charchira, who is also a Germany now regard Moroccans and

Islam. Even before the full scale of the Cologne rampage emerged, Berlin had already been watching with concern at a sudden jump in the number of Moroccan and Algerian asylum seekers in December.

German authorities recorded 847

Algerian asylum seekers in June, but six months later, that figure reached 2,296. For Moroccans, the number had jumped from 368 in June to 2,896. The Cologne violence has only added impetus to the authorities' plans to bring down the numbers. Chancellor Angela Merkel wants the North African countries to be added to a list of nations of "safe origin", meaning that their nationals would have little chance of winning asylum. Berlin is also pressing Algiers and Rabat to take back their nationals who have failed to win asylum, so as to free up resources to deal with bona fide refugees among the nearly 1.1 million migrants who arrived in Germany in 2015.

'Known troublemakers'

Social workers lament that many in

government advisor on issues relating to Algerians as criminals in the wake of the Cologne melee, even though the majority are upstanding citizens who have lived and worked alongside other communities in peace in Germany for decades. The first North African migrants arrived in the 1960s to keep Germany's factories running or to take on the dirty and tough job of coal mining. Since the end of the 1980s, their profiles have changed, and many who have arrived are students.

Members of the North African community are quick to distance themselves from a handful of petty criminals who they say are sullying their reputation. "We are unsettled," said Mohammed Aljannayi, who heads the Moroccan community association in the Cologne district of Kalk."Many women don't trust us anymore in this district because of these people, who have acted so unconscionably that I am at a loss for words," he told Stern magazine.

Charchira said that "in Duesseldorf, it's a group of 40 to 50 young men who are known" trouble-makers giving the community a bad name. "Some are street kids in their home countries," he said, adding that "others came from Spain, Italy or



SPIJKENISSE: Dutch populist far-right Party for Freedom (PVV) leader Geert Wilders (center) distributes a color spray for women which they can use to prevent sexual assault, saying it was needed to protect Dutch women after the New Year's Eve assaults in Cologne, Germany.— AFP

France where they have resided illegally". A 38-year-old hairdresser of Moroccan origin who declined to give his name said "these youth who have come to Germany have no future". "Our district was normal but many things have

changed now," said the man, who was born and bred in Duesseldorf. "I don't go to certain areas because I am afraid of gangs there," he said, adding that the New Year's Eve chaos has "destroyed our reputation".— AFP



OUAGADOUGOU: A view of the Splendid Hotel, destroyed earlier this month by jihadists during an attack, in Ouagadougou.— AFP

West African Hotels Heighten SECURITY AFTER BURKINA ATTACK

RECENT ATTACKS EXPOSE THREAT TO TRAVELERS

DAKAR: West African hotels from Dakar to N'Djamena are strengthening security, adding armed guards and increasing cooperation with local authorities as a pair of high-profile attacks have exposed a growing Islamist threat to foreign travelers. Al-Qaeda fighters killed 30 people on Friday at a hotel and restaurant in Ouagadougou, the capital of Burkina Faso. The assault, the country's first militant attack on such a scale, came just two months after Islamist militants killed 20 people at a Radisson hotel in Mali's capital Bamako.

In both instances the attacks targeted establishments popular with Westerners, dozens of whom were taken hostage. Witnesses to the Ouagadougou attack spoke of gunmen singling out white foreigners for execution. High-end hotels in major cities across the region have been quick to react in the wake of the violence, which diplomats and analysts warn likely marks a new strategy by al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb and its allies.

Abidjan and Dakar, the largest cities in Ivory Coast and Dakar, are viewed as particularly attractive to Islamist militants due to their large Western expatriate populations and steady flow of tourists and business travelers. "If you strike the capital, you are seen to be striking harder and the threat is there for other cities like Dakar and Abidjan," Cynthia Ohayon, West Africa analyst at International Crisis Group, said by phone from Ouagadougu. But diplomats said they had no information on specific threats in either city.

At the Sofitel Hotel Ivoire, one of Ivory Coast's most luxurious hotels, uniformed police officers were posted around the grounds. The use of metal detectors and body searches was being ramped up. Guard dogs were used to help patrol the lobby. The 358-room luxury hotel is regularly fully booked as Ivory Coast's booming economy draws investors and business people from around the world. It also plays host to large international meetings at its adjoining conference centre. "Since the beginning of the week, the security measures have been reinforced," said Alfred Kouassi, a hotel employee working in the lobby. "The police often come to speak to us

In Senegal, gendarmes have been deployed at roundabouts and on major streets in neighborhoods popular with Westerners. Dakar's Radisson Blu, the sister hotel of the establishment attacked in Bamako in November, installed additional cameras inside and outside, ordered vehicle barriers and had increased security personnel well before the Ouagadougou attacks. "Of course, there is always a risk, but I can assure you that we have in place all the precautions to control the building in the most professional way," said Jorgen Jorgensen, the hotel's general manager. In Chad's capital N'Djamena, which was hit by deadly attacks by Islamists in June and July, the government has called upon hotels to carry out car and body searches as well as increase their collaboration with local authori-

Tourism threatened

While tourism to the region has long been hobbled by poor infrastructure and expensive air travel, it had recently seemed that change was in the air. Low-budget airlines have launched or expanded in the continent. West Africa had 13,500 hotel rooms in development in 2014, a third of the continent's total. Senegal one of three countries in the region, along with Nigeria and Ghana, that had surpassed 1 million international arrivals - aims to triple tourists by 2025. Ivory Coast had the third-largest growth of visitor arrivals in Africa in 2014, according to the African Development Bank.

But suddenly the outlook looks much less rosy. Even in Senegal, long considered to be a bulwark of stability, France has urged citizens to avoid public locations including nightclubs and stadiums. At the Hotel du Phare, a budget hotel in Dakar that hosts weekly parties popular among twenty-something expatriates, bag checks and security guards for their soirees had increased and secondary doors had been closed. Penelope Theodosis, who manages the hotel along with her husband, said she had a guard stationed outside at night, but added that she was walking a fine line between making her guests feel safe and frightening them. "We only have nine rooms ... A guardian inside the hotel would cause more fear than reassurance."—Reuters

UN COUNCIL, AU MEET FOR BURUNDIAN CRISIS TALKS

ADDIS ABABA: UN Security Council ambassadors and African Union leaders met yesterday for crisis talks on Burundi, after the government refused a proposed AU force to stem violence in the troubled country. The meeting, in the AU headquarters in Ethiopia, comes a day after the UN envoys met with President Pierre Nkurunziza in Burundi, where they appealed for him to take urgent action to stop the violence sparked by his re-election.

UN council envoys have pushed for the government to hold talks with the opposition and agree to the presence of international troops-such as a proposed 5,000-strong African Union force-to restore stability. AU Peace and Security Council chief Smail Chergui said yesterday it was crucial the international community "remain united on Burundi", which has been gripped by violence since April.

Chergui said there was a "strong convergence of views" between AU and UN envoys on the "urgent need for inclusive political dialogue" to resolve the crisis. Street protests, a failed coup and now a simmering rebellion began when Nkurunziza announced his intention to run for a controversial third term, which he went on to win in July elections. United States Ambassador Samantha Power, speaking after meeting Nkurunziza late on Friday, said the envoys "didn't achieve as much, frankly, as I think we would have liked". "There is a 'cri de coeur' from many, many people in Burundi for outside help and for urgent, urgent mediation to get a solution," Power added.

More than 400 people have died since then and at least 230,000 have fled the country, but Burundi's government insists there is no need for foreign troops and has branded AU peacekeepers an "invasion force". Nkurunziza took a hard line during the meeting at his hilltop residence in Gitega, some two hours outside of Bujumbura, where he rejected calls for inclusive dialogue, renewed mediation efforts and an international intervention force. "I can guarantee that there will not be a genocide in Burundi," Nkurunziza said, adding that Burundi is "99 percent secure". Nkurunziza's refusal to compromise has raised the prospect of tougher measures ahead to stop almost nightly outbreaks of violence.

'Stop this bloodletting'

The proposed force is expected to be a key element of talks at an AU summit in Ethiopia on January 30-31. It was the second time the UN ambassadors have travelled to the Burundi in less than a year, amid fears of the risk of renewed civil war. Burundi is still recovering from its ethnically-charged 13-year civil war between majority Hutus and minority Tutsis, which cost an estimated 300,000 lives. On Thursday, two former Burundian presidents appealed to the council ambassadors to take action and pleaded for an AU force to be sent. 'We really need that force," said Domitien Ndayizeye, who led the landlocked nation from 2003-2005. Jean-Baptiste Bagaza, in power from 1976 to 1987, urged the council envoys to "stop this bloodletting that is making our young people disappear". Bagaza warned that without urgent international action, Burundi could "become another Rwanda", referring to the neighboring country's 1994 genocide. UN envoys wrap up their visit later.—AFP

AUSTRIA GIVES GREECE SCHENGEN WARNING

BERLIN: Greece faced fresh pressure yesterday on its handling of the migrant crisis after Austrian Interior Minister Johanna Mikl-Leitner warned that Athens faced "temporary exclusion" from the EU's passport-free Schengen zone. In midweek, Greece's top migration official slammed a report in the Financial Times alleging several European ministers and senior EU officials believe threatening suspension from Schengen could persuade Greece to protect its borders more effectively.

Junior interior minister for migration Yiannis Mouzalas said the report contained "falsehoods and distortions" but Mikl-Leitner said temporary exclusion was a real possibility. "If the Athens government does not finally do more to secure the (EU's) external borders then one must openly discuss Greece's temporary exclusion from the Schengen zone," Mikl-Leitner said in an interview with German daily Die Welt. "It is a myth that the Greco-Turkish border cannot be controlled," Mikl-Leitner insisted.

"When a Schengen signatory does not permanently fulfill its obligations and only hesitatingly accepts aid then we should not rule out that possibility," she added. "The patience of many Europeans has reached its limit ... We have talked a lot, now we must act. It is about protecting

stability, order and security in Europe," she

International Monetary Fund chief Christine Lagarde added her voice to Schengen concerns when she said the refugee crisis had pushed Europe to a "make or break" point. "The refugee crisis is a bit of a make or break, from my personal perspective," Lagarde said at the World Economic Forum in the Swiss ski resort of Davos. Asked if it endangered Schengen, she said: "Yes, I think so." Cashstrapped Greece has for months come in for criticism from its EU partners on its attempts to manage the largest flow of migrants in decades as hundreds of thousands flee war and repression.

Many of the migrants have reached Greek islands from nearby Turkey after perilous sea voyages before streaming further north, with many targeting a new life in Germany, Europe's economic powerhouse. The EU last month ruled out excluding Greece from Schengen, with Luxembourg's Minister of Immigration Jean Asselborn observing that "it is not legally possible to exclude a state from the Schengen zone." But the issue came to the fore once again with Wednesday's FT report. But a spokesman for Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras denied the EU made any threat to that effect.—AFP

NEW EUROPE POLICE CENTRE 'WILL HELP ANTI-TERROR COORDINATION

DAVOS: A new European counter-terrorism centre opening this month will improve information-sharing among national police forces whose performance is under scrutiny after the jihadist attacks in Paris in November, the director of Europol has said. "It establishes for the first time in Europe a dedicated operation centre," Britain's Rob Wainwright said in an interview at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, on Friday.

"It will provide French and Belgian police services and their counterparts around Europe with the platform they need to share information more quickly and to crack down on the terrorist groups that are active." Although the creation of the centre was announced seven months before the Paris attacks, the coordinated shootings and suicide bombings in the French capital by a team mainly based in neighboring Belgium have given the 28country project new impetus.

"We will be working to improve intelligence sharing and to maximize our capability to track terrorist financing," Wainwright said. The centre at Europol's headquarters in the Hague will also monitor the way in which Islamic State (IS) and other extremist groups "are abusing the Internet and social media, in particular for their propaganda and recruitment purposes," he added. French investigators believe the attacks that killed 130 in Paris were planned by a Belgian national, Abdelhamid Abaaoud, who was widely thought to have been in Syria fighting with IS forces.

The apparent ease in which Abaaoud slipped back into Europe and moved around the continent has thrown into question the intelligence-sharing capabilities of EU police forces. Wainwright said the attacks had already acted as a catalyst. "In the context of what happened after the attacks in Paris, France and Belgium have established an extremely close working relationship involving Europol," he said. "What I have seen over the last few years but particularly in the last year, in the face of the worst terrorist attacks we have seen in Europe for over a decade, is intensified cooperation."

'Significant growth in fake ID'

Wainwright said he was deeply concerned about the "significant growth" in the faking of ID documents for use by extremists. Investigators believe at least two of the Paris suicide bombers entered Europe through Greece, posing as migrants and using Syrian passports that were not theirs. Their true identity remains unknown. The Europol chief said national police forces needed to have better access to a database compiled by its international counterpart, Interpol, of stolen and fake documents. "There are many criminal actors that have become more active, more sophisticated and also the quality of the faked documents they are providing (has improved), and they responded to the opportunities that the migration crisis in 2015 gave us," he said. "So we need to make sure that our border guard officials are alive to that threat, that they are better trained, of course, and to make sure that there is access to the right databases, including the dedicated database that Interpol has on lost and stolen documents."—AFP



DAVOS: The Alpine resort of Davos is seen under show during the World Economic Forum annual meeting yesterday. — AFP

INTERNATIONAL



MIDDLETOWN: Buildings at St George's School rest on top of a hill in Middletown, RI. The exclusive New England boarding school, whose alumni include Astors, Vanderbilts and Bushes, has been rocked by a sex abuse scandal.—AP

THE BATTLE OVER ITALY GAY CIVIL UNIONS HEADS FOR THE STREETS

ROME: Italy's battle over legalizing same-sex civil unions is about to get heated, with supporters and opponents ready to take to the streets as lawmakers address the deeply divisive issue. Italy is the only major Western European country not to have enacted legislation allowing gay couples to have their relationships legally recognized and protected. A bill, which the Senate will start examining on Thursday, is the first to get to parliament.

The draft legislation will enable same-sex couples to commit themselves to one another before a state official, to take each other's names and, in certain circumstances, adopt each other's children and inherit each other's residual pension rights. "It is the bare minimum," said Marilena Grassadonia, chair of the Rainbow Families (Famiglie Arcobaleno) group. Gabriele Piazzoni, the national secretary of Italy's biggest gay rights group, Arcigay, calls it a first step towards Italy catching up with its neighbours and ending a situation "that does our country no credit whatsoever".

Under the slogan "Wake Up Italy! It is time to be civil", supporters of the reform are due to hold demonstrations in 90 towns and cities across the country on Saturday. "We are not trying to make a big impression, it is more about going out and meeting people," Grassadonia said. Opponents of the bill, in contrast, are planning a show of strength at a demonstration scheduled for January 30 in Rome's Circus Maximus. Hundreds of thousands are expected to attend the self-styled "Family Day," organized by mainly Catholic

groups under the battle cry of "Defend our Children".

Massimo Gandolfini, the neurosurgeon who is coordinating the planned rally, says the proposed law will undermine marriage. "It is unacceptable to think of our children, our grandchildren, being taught that there are different models of families," he said. In Gandolfini's view, Italy cannot afford to extend the pension inheritance rights currently enjoyed by the married to gay couples who sign civil unions "when we have 1.4 million families living under the poverty threshold."

'Grave and irresponsible'

Above all it is the draft legislation's provision on adoption which provokes the ire of its opponents with the Catholic Church unwilling to accept the principle that, in the eyes of the law, a child can have two fathers or two mothers. Angelo Bagnasco, the chair of the Italian conference of bishops, has denounced the whole debate as a "grave and irresponsible distraction from the real problems of the country".

In the world of politics, dividing lines cut across party loyalties. A minority faction within the ruling Democratic Party supports junior coalition partner the New Centre Right (NCD) in opposing a reform championed by Prime Minister Matteo Renzi. Renzi, who has allowed his allies a free vote on the "issue of conscience", can however count on backing from most of the opposition Five Star movement, left-wing fringe parties and even sections of Silvio Berlusconi's Forza Italia. —AFP

SEX ABUSE SCANDAL ROCKS EXCLUSIVE US PREP SCHOOL

DOZENS OF FORMER STUDENTS 'RAPED OR MOLESTED'

MIDDLETOWN: For more than a century, St George's School has been part of the pedigree of some of America's richest and most influential families. Astors, Vanderbilts and Bushes have attended the exclusive boarding school, where students can go sailing, play on world-class squash courts or simply enjoy a sweeping view of the sea from the hill-top campus. But since at least the 1970s, leaders at St George's kept a secret. Dozens of former students have come forward to say they were raped or molested by employees and schoolmates over the past four decades.

St George's acknowledged in a report it issued shortly before Christmas that it repeatedly failed to notify police and child welfare authorities as required by law. The school's current leadership has characterized the abuse as a problem of the past and said it discovered the extent of the misconduct only recently. But many accusers have disputed that, and much of their anger has fallen on Eric Peterson, headmaster since 2004. Peterson was told in 2004, 2006, 2011, 2012 and 2015 about numerous allegations of abuse, according to interviews with alumni and documents obtained by The Associated

Arrogant exceptionalism

Many alumni are calling on Peterson to step down. Some want the entire board swept clean. "It's like a charade of arrogant exceptionalism that is endemic in the school, in the leadership of the school," said Hawk Cramer, an alumnus who says he was molested by the choir director in the 1980s and told Peterson about it in 2004. Some alumni have charged that the school's leaders hushed up the abuse to protect the reputation of St George's, which was founded in 1896 and counts among its graduates the poet Ogden Nash, the late Sen Claiborne Pell and Fox News commentator Tucker Carlson. The \$56,000-a-year Episcopal institution just outside Newport has about 400 high school-age students and a rich endowment of more than \$140 million.

A spokeswoman for both the school and Peterson declined to comment on specific allegations, citing an independent investigation underway. St George's previously issued a statement apologiz-

ing "for the harm done to alumni by former employees and former students." "We also apologize that the way in which the school addressed these incidents has served to compound this harm," the statement said. Separately, Rhode Island state police are looking into possible sex-crime charges and other offenses, including failure to report abuse. There is no statute of limitations on rape in Rhode Island.

In-house report

The problems at St George's burst into view in mid-December, about a week before the in-house report was issued, when The Boston Globe reported the story of Anne Scott, who said she was repeatedly raped by athletic

duct "many years ago" and asking graduates to report anything they knew. In November, the school reported allegations of abuse to the Rhode Island state police for the first time.

MacLeish, a St George's alumnus and a lead lawyer in the Boston Catholic Church sex abuse lawsuits, said he is aware of at least 40 people who say they were abused at the school and 12 alleged abusers, either employees or students. The most recent misconduct alleged dates to 2004. The school did take some action over the years, firing or forcing out three teachers in the 1970s and '80s, according to its December report. They were: Gibbs, who was fired in 1980 and died in 1996. The school acknowledged he raped or

behavior. The school said it did not notify child welfare authorities on the advice of its legal counsel. MacLeish said he has now spoken to six of Coleman's alleged victims. Coleman did not return messages seeking comment. Neither White nor Coleman has ever been charged. Both went on to other schools around the US before retiring

molestation and other inappropriate

been charged. Both went on to other schools around the US before retiring several years ago. One graduate said he was molested by Coleman in 1987 during an overnight trip to Boston. The man told the AP that he reported it to the school the following year, after he learned Coleman had asked another boy to sleep in his bed during a choir tour of England. The man said he spoke with Peterson's predecessor as headmaster, Charles Hamblet, and met with Peterson in 2006 to discuss the abuse. Both Hamblet and Peterson offered to pay for therapy, which he accepted, he said.

"This offer is an attempt to right a

wrong," Peterson wrote to the man in a 2006 letter obtained by the AP. He added that the school's willingness to pay for therapy was "in no way an admission of responsibility." Dan Brewster, a 1974 graduate, went on to serve on the board of trustees in the early 1990s. He said that then-headmaster Hamblet and Howard Dean, a former board chairman and father of the 2004 Democratic presidential candidate, told him that in some past cases of teachers accused of abuse, the school would quietly let the educator go with a lump-sum payment, a nondisclosure clause and an agreement barring the faculty member from taking a job at another boarding school.

Brewster said that when he asked why the school didn't notify parents and the authorities, the two men replied that teenagers might be dragged in to testify and that their parents might also bring an "avalanche of lawsuits" against the school. Hamblet and Dean are now dead. "I do believe they were honestly wrestling and did care about an obviously difficult issue. I also felt they came to the wrong conclusion," Brewster said. "It was because the prestige and the fundraising capacity of the school was more important than any one kid."—AP



MIDDLETOWN: A sign rests at an entrance to St George's School in Middletown, RI. —AP

trainer Al Gibbs as a 15-year-old in the 1970s. She sued the school as "Jane Doe" in 1988. St George's tried and failed to reveal her identity publicly and aggressively fought the case, even though her lawyer, Eric MacLeish, says evidence emerged during the lawsuit that Gibbs had assaulted four other girls. Scott dropped the case the following year, receiving nothing, and agreed to a gag order preventing her from speaking about it.

More such allegations quietly piled up in the years that followed. It was not until last spring that St George's sent a letter informing the entire school community about possible sexual miscon-

otherwise abused at least 17 students. It did not report any misconduct to child welfare authorities until 1989, in the course of Scott's lawsuit. The agency said it had no authority to act because the alleged victims were over 18.

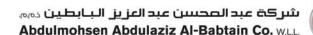
Inappropriate sexual conduct

The Rev Howard "Howdy" White, who abruptly left in 1974 after a parent accused him of inappropriate sexual conduct with a student. The school said White abused at least three students. White refused to comment when reached by the AP. Franklin Coleman, the choir director, who was fired in 1988 after student complaints of











CHINA HIT BY EYE-WATERING COLD SNAP



BEIJING: A group of visitors take a photo of themselves in Tiananmen Square in Beijing, yesterday. According to state media, temperatures in Beijing are expected to hit a 30-year low of -17 C (1 F) as an unusually strong cold snap has brought plummeting temperatures and snow to parts of China. —AP

BEIJING: Much of China shivered yesterday as a teeth-chattering cold snap broke decades-old records and snow fell in some parts for the first time in years, cancelling flights and forcing many indoors. An orange alert was issued across the country as forecasts predicted eye-watering lows of -41 Celsius (-42 Fahrenheit) in some parts, the National Meteorological Center (NMC) said.

Orange is the second most severe cold weather warning on China's four-tier scale, and forecasters said 30-year records were on course to be shattered in several parts of the country over the weekend, with two-thirds of the country facing temperatures below -12 C. The north braced for the worst, with the temperatures predicted to plummet to -41 C in Genhe in Inner Mongolia. Neighboring Mohe in Heilongjiang province didn't fare much better with the mercury expected to dip to

The NMC said temperatures would not peak above the freezing mark in most parts of the country, with the exception of a few spots in the south, and state-run CCTV television urged people to stay inside to avoid the frigid weather. More than 100 flights were cancelled and nearly 200 delayed in the southeast metropolis of Chongqing as snow blanketed the city for the first time in 20 years, airport authorities said. Snow dumped down in several other regions where the white stuff is scarcely seen, according to CCTV citing weather

Bright sunshine bathed the capital Beijing where skies were clear blue, but the bright conditions brought little respite as thermometers dipped to -17 C in the morning. In the mountainous areas on the outskirts of the city, temperatures plummeted to an eye-watering -29.8 C. Even the normally tropical beaches on the southern island of Hainan were not spared, with temperatures clocking in at a cool 13 C, according to state-run CRI radio. Yesterday afternoon the temperature had dropped to 6 C in the island province's capital Haikou, 13 degrees below the seasonal average according to CRI. Conditions are expected to return to slightly warmer seasonal norms from Tuesday in the north and by the end of next week in the south, CCTV said. —AFP

Warring factions in South SUDAN MISS KEY DEADLINE

REBELS REJECT NEW STATES

NAIROBI: Warring rivals in South Sudan missed a key deadline yesterday to forge a unity government, with rebels rejecting President Salva Kiir's creation of new regional states as fighting continues. The rivals were supposed to form a government by January 22, but rebels say Kiir's near tripling of the number of regional states in December undermines a fundamental pillar of an August power-sharing deal to end two years of civil war. Rebel spokesman Mabior Garang criticized "anti-peace hardliners within the government" and said they would base negotiations on the old system of 10 states and not the current 28. Garang however said rebels are "fully committed to peace and shall not entertain a return to war."

Key international backers-the so-called Troika, made up of key donors Britain, Norway and United States, as well as the European Union-this week said the talks were "deadlocked". Amid mounting frustration, they cut payment of hotel bills for rebel delegates in Juba. During previous peace talks mostly held in Ethiopia, delegates have run up vast hotel and bar bills as they agreed-and then swiftly broke-a string of ceasefire deals. Civil war began in December 2013 when Kiir accused his former deputy Riek Machar of planning a coup, setting off a cycle of retaliatory killings that have split the poverty-stricken country along ethnic lines.

UN lists horrific abuses

Despite the August agreement fighting continues, with the conflict now involving multiple militia forces who pay little heed to paper peace deals and are driven by local agendas or revenge attacks. Heavy fighting was reported this week in the southwestern Western Equatoria region, including street battles in the state capital of Yambio on Thursday, close to the border with

Democratic Republic of Congo, aid workers said. The clashes were between soldiers and a local militia known as the Arrow Boys, reportedly aligned with Machar's rebels. United Nations rights monitors this week added more details to a long list of horrific abuses in the more than two-year war. The report detailed "gross violations" of human rights including "gang-rape, sexual slavery and forced abortion", in a joint report by the UN peacekeeping mission, UNMISS, and the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).

Earlier this week the United Nations said over 200,000 South Sudanese civilians are sheltering inside peacekeepers' camps from civil war, a bleak barometer of ongoing conflict. To add to its woes, South Sudan's economy is in ruins. Its government budget depends almost entirely on oil revenues, but it is currently effectively paying to export its oil, due to falling world prices, combined with a fixed fee for the use of export pipelines to neighbor Sudan. The pipeline fee is now more than that earned for the oil itself. —AFP



OHIO: Small American flags have been placed in the trees in front of the Warmbier family home, in Wyoming, Ohio. North Korea on Friday announced the arrest of Otto Warmbier, a university student from Ohio, for what it called a 'hostile act' orchestrated by the American government to undermine the authoritarian nation. —AP

AUSCHWITZ SURVIVOR TRIUMPHS IN SELL-OUT DANCE DUET AT AGE 90

BUDAPEST: "It's never too late," smiles Eva Fahidi, a Hungarian Holocaust survivor who, at the age of 90, is currently starring in a sold-out the Nazi death camps. duet production with a much younger dancer. "First I felt only my ance, which incorporates both dance limits, what I can't do," the handsome and speech, looks at how an elderly white-haired Fahidi said during a woman with a traumatic past and a

designated Holocaust memorial day marking the 1945 liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest of

The 100-minute long performrehearsal in a Budapest studio. "Then younger person communicate with

'Gesture of death'

Fahidi was an 18-year-old schoolgirl when she was put on a train and deported from Debrecen in eastern Hungary to Auschwitz-one of nearly 440,000 Hungarian Jews sent to death camps between May and July in 1944. Some 49 of her relatives perished in the Holocaust, including

BUDAPEST: Hungarian holocaust survivor of Auschwitz-Birkenau extermination camp, Eva Fahidi, 90, performs on stage at the Vigszinhaz theater in Budapest. —AFP

slowly, as I learned to warm up, it was wonderful how my old body wanted to do something again," she added. after gracefully completing a stretch on the floor. Her show, called "Sea Lavender or The Euphoria of Being", has played to full houses eight times in Budapest's prestigious Vigszinhaz Theatre since its October launch.

It now premieres in Berlin on January 24, three days before a UN-

each other. Director Reka Szabo said she got the idea for the show last year when she heard Fahidi speak at a presentation of her memoir. "She talks about her life and the Holocaust in a way that makes you feel like she is not a victim but a human being trying to deal with her past, to be able to live a full life," said Szabo who runs the Symptoms dance-theatre company.

her parents and 11-year-old sister. She last saw her mother and vounger sibling on a sorting ramp after arriving at Birkenau. Fahidi recalls how one insignificant gesture decided their fate.

"A small movement of the finger from (camp doctor) Josef Mengele meant life or death, whether you go right to work or left to the gas chambers. I went right," she said. After the

camp's liberation, it took Fahidi nearly six decades before she was ready to open up about her trauma. A 2003 visit to the camp exactly 59 years after her first journey there prompted her to write her memoir. "It dawned on me that this was my vocation, to tell as many people as I could about Auschwitz, it's the least I can do," she said. Her book-"The Soul of Things"-was published in German in 2004 and later translated by Fahidi into Hungarian. English and Finnish editions are also planned.

Audience moved to tears

These days, dance is Fahidi's chosen tool of expression. "Gestures and movements can be freer than words and say more about a person," she said, in reference to her duet with 36-year-old dancer Emese Cuhorka. Even her own grandchild who had previously balked at reading or hearing about the Holocaust was "amazed" by the show, Fahidi adds. One of the most powerful moments occurs when Cuhorka lifts Fahidi like a baby, according to the show's director. "People often cry when watching that scene, although it has nothing to do directly with the Holocaust," Szabo noted.

The show's name, she explains, was inspired by a plant able to grow in poor soil, a symbol of Fahidi's tough life. Last April, Fahidi came once again face to face with her past when she appeared as a plaintiff at the closely covered trial of Oskar Groening, known as the "Bookkeeper of Auschwitz". Groening was sentenced to four years in jail as an accessory to murder in 300,000 cases.

The pain does not fade but you learn to live with it, Fahidi says. "Not a day goes past when I don't think of Auschwitz," she observed. "But I discovered that hatred is just a burden. What happened, but I am still alive-a happy person who enjoys

AMERICAN STUDENT DETAINED IN N KOREA 'OVER HOTEL INCIDENT'

SEOUL: Otto Warmbier, the American university student being held by North Korea, was detained before boarding his flight to China over an unspecified incident that had taken place earlier in the trip at his hotel, his travel company said yesterday. North Korea's official KCNA news agency said on Friday that Warmbier "was caught committing a hostile act against the state", which it said was "tolerated and manipulated by the US government".

Charlotte Guttridge, a tour leader at Young Pioneer Tours and the only outside witness to Warmbier's detention, said the 21-year-old University of Virginia student was not with other tourists when the events that appear to have prompted his arrest occurred. "What happened, happened at the hotel and my belief is that Otto kept it to himself out of hope it might go unnoticed," Guttridge said. Guttridge and colleagues at Young Pioneer Tours declined to share further details of exactly what had taken place, citing the safety of their client.

Warmbier had been staying at the Yanggakdo International Hotel when the incident that led to his arrest occurred. The Yanggakdo is a towering structure on an island in the middle of the Taedong river, which cuts through central Pyongyang. China-based Young Pioneer Tours is a North Korea travel specialist that describes itself on its website as "an adventure tour operator that provides 'budget tours to destinations your mother would rather you stayed away from".

During his five-day New Year's tour of North Korea, staff at Young Pioneer Tours said Warmbier had acted normally, and was keen to see daily life in one of the world's most isolated countries, which is visited by around 6,000 Western tourists a year. Ten other US citizens were on the tour. "Throughout the trip, Otto behaved as a typical tourist - taking pictures, enjoying himself. We had no indication that anything untoward had happened until the airport," Guttridge said.

Delayed at immigration

When Warmbier's group reached the airport, he appeared to have been purposefully delayed at immigration, Troy Collings, director of Young Pioneer Tours said. As the tourists checked-in at the gleaming, recently-renovated terminal, Warmbier was taken aside by two airport officials and escorted into a small immigration room behind a wooden door to one side of the check-in area. "He was not dragged away and he wasn't yelled at," Guttridge said.

As Guttridge waited for Warmbier to come out of the room, she instructed the rest of her tour group to board the North Korean Air Koryo flight bound for Beijing. "When it became clear that he wasn't coming, I had to board the flight before it departed," said Guttridge, who still had colleagues in Pyongyang with another group of tourists. "I was the last to board the flight." As the Russian-made Tupolev airliner prepared to leave the terminal, an airport official boarded the plane and told Guttridge that Warmbier had been "taken to hospital".

Soon after, a North Korean contact passed on a message concerning Warmbier's detention to Young Pioneer Tours founder Gareth Johnson, who was in Pyongyang with a separate group due to catch a train to the Chinese border. "I stayed back when I heard Otto had been detained," Johnson told Reuters. "It was an automatic response. I wanted to try and work out what the situation was and it was my hope that I would at least be able to speak with him." Johnson said his company was in contact with Warmbier's family, US officials and the Swedish Embassy in Pyongyang, which represents US interests in North Korea.

Staff at the tour operator said as far as they knew Warmbier had not been in possession of any religious or political literature. Foreign visitors have been detained in the past for attempting to distribute religious literature in the country. The US and Canadian governments advise against travel there. The US State Department, in a statement, said it was aware of reports that a US citizen had been detained in North Korea but gave no further details, citing privacy concerns. Calls to the Warmbier family home in Cincinnati, Ohio, were not immediately answered on Friday and nobody answered when a Reuters reporter knocked on the door of the house. —Reuters

CHINESE NANNY GETS 20 YEARS FOR CHOPPING UP EMPLOYERS

PARIS: A Paris court on Friday handed a 20-year jail term to a Chinese nanny for murdering and chopping up her employers after their twomonth-old baby died in her care. The woman, 34-year-old Hui Zhang, had admitted killing the couple, Ying Wang and Liangsi Xui, during a violent row at her home after they learned the little boy had died. The judge followed the prosecutor's recommendation of 20 years behind bars for Hui, who had claimed she acted in self-defense as the furious

her and her boyfriend Te Lu, also 34, with a butcher's knife.

Te, who was a co-defendant in the macabre case, was acquitted. In his closing arguments, Julien Eyraud had told the court: "When I learned of this case I was overcome by the horror of what happened, imagining the smell of blood, this butchery in the bathroom, this violence." As the trial opened on Tuesday, Hui confessed to the killing, saying: "It's true, I killed them, and I will regret it for the rest

offer the child's parents money to try to get them not to report the boy's

Electric saw

They invited the parents to their home, but said their plans quickly went awry faced with the fury of the grieving couple. Te testified Tuesday that he fell unconscious during the fight and remained so while Hui chopped up the two bodies in the bathroom with an electric saw, using

parents of the dead child attacked of my life." She and Te had decided to the washing machine to cover the noise. "I was sucked into a whirlwind of nightmares but I am innocent," Te told the court. Hui then wrapped the body parts in rubbish bags and scrubbed her apartment clean. Te later helped her get rid of the remains, transporting them "by foot or public transport" to the forest of Vincennes

east of Paris, a policeman said. Eyraud cast doubt on Hui's claim of self-defense and said there was no proof Te had taken part in the murders. The case first came to light in

June 2012 after two joggers came upon a leg, cut off at the ankle, in Vincennes forest. Several days later, a guide dog found a human torso in the same area, but the hunt for further remains was fruitless. Before the bodies could be identified, Hui and Te turned themselves in. They then directed police to the locations of more body parts around the forest. However, they did not find the baby's body, which Hui said she had thrown in rubbish bins along with some of the other remains. —AFP





An Iranian student of a climbing school uses ice-axes to scale a frozen waterfall on Friday in the village of Meygoon, 60 km northeast of the capital Tehran in the Alborz mountain range. — AFP

KERRY REASSURES GULF ALLIES

Continued from Page 1

Kerry has long sought to calm concerns among his Gulf allies about the overtures to Iran, the world's leading Shiite power whose relations with Sunni rival Saudi Arabia have worsened this month. Saudi Arabia and some of its allies cut diplomatic ties with Iran after protesters there burned Riyadh's embassy in Tehran and a consulate in Mashhad

sident Saudi Shiite cleric Nimr Al-Nimr, a driving force behind anti-government protests. Nimr was one of four Shiites put to death on Jan 2 alongside 43 Sunnis. All were convicted of "terrorism". Jubeir told reporters that he did not see a "coming together" of the US and Iran. "Overall I think the United States is very aware of the danger of Iran's mischief and nefarious activities... I don't believe the United States is under any illusion as to what type of government Iran is," Jubeir added, while Kerry appeared defensive and less at ease than usual.

A senior State Department official earlier told journalists the US understands Saudi anger over the embassy attack but that "lessening tensions is an important objective". Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei on Wednesday said violence against the Saudi embassy was wrong, and

Kerry later met with King Salman and the monarch's son, Deputy Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, who is also the defense minister. He also held talks with Riad Hijab, Riyadh-based general coordinator of Syria's largest opposition coalition. UN-brokered peace talks are targeted for Monday in Geneva but there is disagreement, including from Moscow, over opposition representation. "We are confident that with good initiative in the next day or so those talks can get going," Kerry said.

Yesterday, he and his Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov discussed by telephone the makeup of the opposition team. "Particular attention was given to the need to form a genuinely representative opposition delegation," a Russian oreign ministry statement said. Kerry told reporters the Syria Support Group will meet "very shortly" after the first round of Syria talks "because we want to keep the process

The group has devised a plan for a political transition aimed at ending the nearly five-year war in Syria that has cost more than 260,000 lives and displaced millions. It includes Saudi Arabia, the United States and other countries who say President Bashar Al-Assad can have no role in Svria's future, and Assad's allies Iran and Moscow. Kerry spoke of the "urgency" of ending the conflict but said there are still "obstacles" to finding a political settlement. "We know it's tough," he said.

Saudi Arabia and Iran back opposite sides in the Syria and Yemen wars. A Saudi-led military coalition since March has been supporting local forces and the internationally recognised government of Yemen against Iran-backed Houthi Shiite rebels. "We have made it clear that we stand with our friends in Saudi Arabia" on Yemen and the threat from violent Sunni extremism, said Kerry, who travels today to Laos in Southeast Asia. — AFP

IRAN, CHINA VOW TIGHTER TIES

Continued from Page 1

Beijing is Tehran's top customer for oil exports, which in recent years were hit by US and EU sanctions over Tehran's nuclear program.

Trade between the two countries was worth \$52 billion in 2014. They did not elaborate on their goal of developing relations worth \$600 billion over the next decade. According to Iranian media, more than a third of Iran's foreign trade is with China. The two presidents issued a joint statement outlining a long-term "comprehensive strategic partnership". The two countries agreed to enhance cooperation including in fossil and renewable energy, transportation, railways, ports, industry, commerce and services, said the statement published by Mehr news agency.

In the statement Iran welcomed China's commercial "belt" and the "21st century Silk Seaway" projects, pledging to help the initiative. China has committed to "invest and finance upstream and downstream energy projects in Iran", it said. China "acknowledges Iran's constructive role in the fight against terrorism and maintaining peace and stability in the region", it added, while supporting Tehran's increased regional and international role.

China, along with the United States, Britain, France, Germany and Russia, was among the countries that agreed with Iran in July to curtail its nuclear activities in exchange for ending international sanctions. Xi was accompanied by three deputy premiers, six ministers

and a large business delegation. Late yesterday, he met supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who said Tehran "would never forget" Beijing's cooperation during the years of international sanctions against Iran.

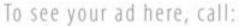
"The Islamic Republic of Iran has always sought relations with reliable and independent states like China," Khamenei's website quoted him as saying. That is why the agreement on long-term strategic relations is "very wise and prompt", and must be "seriously followed up" until it becomes operational, he said. "Westerners have never been able to gain the trust of the Iranian nation," he added.

Xi was guoted as saying that "the economies of Iran and China complete one another". Countries on the Silk Road route can "protect their interests against the American pattern of disrupting the regional economic balance by boosting cooperation," Xi added. "Some superpowers seek the rule of monopoly... but the development of emerging economies has taken the power of monopoly from them." Xi's tour, his first of the Middle East as China's president, has also taken him to Saudi Arabia and Egypt.

Rivadh and a number of its Sunni Arab allies broke diplomatic ties with Tehran this month after protesters angered by the execution of a prominent Shiite cleric ransacked Saudi diplomatic missions in Iran. In Cairo, Xi offered \$55 billion in loans and investments to the Middle East, a region where China wants to strengthen its economic presence. — AFP



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Focus

POLAND CLOUDS NATO'S NUANCED RUSSIA PLAN

By Robin Emmott and Wiktor Szary

oland is putting its own spin on a nuanced NATO plan to deter Moscow in eastern Europe without stationing permanent troops on Russia's borders, prompting disquiet from allies including Britain, which needs Warsaw's help in EU reform negotiations. Poland's defence minister on Thursday seized on Britain's announcement that it is sending troops for exercises in the country, telling local radio that London would station 1,000 military personnel in Poland from next year.

Britain's defence ministry declined to comment, but alliance diplomats say there are no such plans. Britain is providing nearly 1,000 troops for two NATO exercises later this year, as well as 1,000 personnel in four years' time, when Poland will lead the new NATO rapid-reaction spearhead force. But the subtlety of the language used to promote the new NATO deterrent policy in the east is an opportunity for Poland's new conservative government. Warsaw, which is hosting the NATO summit in July, has called for a permanent NATO troop presence in the past and the new government has intensified those demands.

NATO's current compromise aims to have a "persistent" - rather than "permanent" - military in the east, based on a new network of eight small NATO outposts, more war games, and, if needed, a rapid response force, including air, maritime and special operations components of up to 40,000 personnel. "Some people say 'permanent', others use 'persistent', other people use 'rotation'. In fact we are talking about the same thing," General Petr Pavel, chairman of NATO's military committee, told a news conference on Thursday.

The idea is to reassure the ex-Soviet countries in NATO that they are protected from the kind of annexation Russia orchestrated in February in 2014 in Crimea, while avoiding a return to the Cold War, when the United States had some 300,000 service personnel stationed in Europe. NATO also wants to keep a 1997 promise to Moscow not to permanently station forces on the Russian border, thereby avoiding antagonizing a newlyassertive Russia and reach a peace settlement in eastern Ukraine, where NATO says Russia supports the rebels with weapons and troops.

Russia responded on Friday by saying it will form four new military divisions this year to strengthen its western and central regions because of the stepped-up exercises, which NATO set out in a calendar published on Thursday. That is exactly the kind of reaction NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg wants to avoid, saying last year that he will not be "dragged into an arms

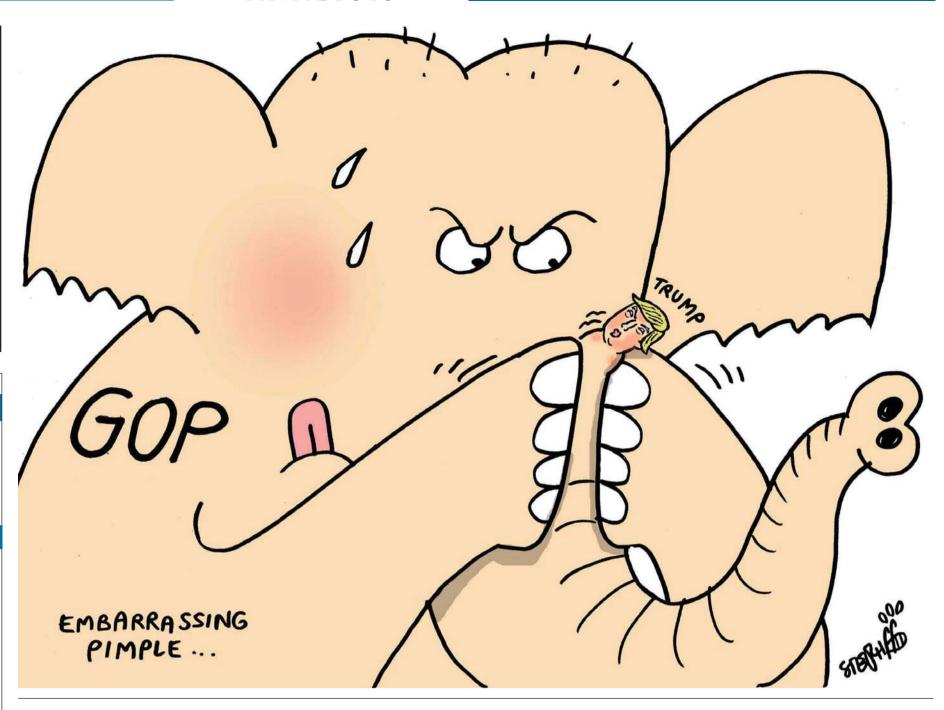
Brexit Link

Publicising NATO's message is a sensitive task, because eastern and Baltic NATO allies hope that a persistent NATO military presence in the east may one day become permanent, whereas NATO wants to avoid giving that impression. Poland and the Baltic states prepared a joint position in May last year to lobby NATO for the permanent stationing of a brigade. All three former Soviet republics have Russian minorities and fear Kremlin moves to inflame tensions there after the pro-Russian insurrection in eastern Ukraine.

Polish President Andrzej Duda said last week at NATO he wanted any NATO troop presence to be "permanent to the greatest extent possible". NATO allies such as Germany and Britain are against stationing forces permanently in the east. But Britain is also wary of publicly criticizing the Polish government as London seeks its support in negotiations aimed at keeping Britain in the European Union ahead of a referendum on "Brexit" expected in June.

Poland is understood to be open to compromise over British demands to limit the rights of EU migrants if London helps build up NATO's presence in central Europe. NATO's main focus is on a 5,000-strong "spearhead" force, part of which can move within 48 hours. But Poland's Foreign Minister Witold Waszczykowski said that was not enough. "A few years ago, it was assumed that (the eastern flank's security) could be guaranteed through a support mechanism, a spearhead," he said on Thursday at a joint news conference with German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier in Warsaw. "Today, this position is evolving and is starting to head in the direction of security guarantees being fulfilled through ... a presence of allied troops." —Reuters

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Washington Watch

IOWA WILL BE IMPORTANT

By Dr James J Zogby

or both Democrats and Republicans, this year's presidential contest is another "Armageddon election", the outcome of which will decide critically important domestic and foreign policy concerns. Despite its significance, we are just days away from the "first in the nation" lowa caucuses and the direction of this election is still very much "up in the air" and about as confusing as any in recent memory. lowa, therefore, will be important.

On the Republican side, Donald Trump remains atop the field holding a commanding lead. The prospect of a Trump victory is panicking the party's leadership who don't trust his commitment to conservative principles and fear the damage he may do to the party's chances to win the White House and keep control of Congress.

The establishment's concerns are compounded by two key factors. They must be careful that in attacking Trump they don't alienate his supporters - since Republicans will need them to win in November. And there is no logical establishment alternative to Trump. The pretenders to that throne have all run rather lackluster campaigns and have drawn considerable blood attacking each other. A recent poll demonstrates the GOP's problem. In that poll, 20 percent of Republican voters said they will not vote for any candidate in November other than Trump, with another 20 percent saying they will not vote for Trump if he is the party's nominee - a conundrum, indeed.

Dynamics

In fact, at this point, Trump's only real competition is coming from another anti-establishment candidate, Ted Cruz. While the GOP leadership fears Trump,

they truly dislike Cruz. Iowa is important. If Trump wins lowa and goes on to win in New Hampshire, he would be positioned to win the Republican nomination. However, if Cruz, a favorite among Evangelical Christians, wins in Iowa, it could knock Trump off his pedestal creating a very different dynamic for the contests in New Hampshire and beyond. The problems of no clear establishment favorite and what to do about Trump's supporters will remain, but it will be a very different election for the GOP.

On the Democratic side, the once inevitable Clinton candidacy has shown signs of fading in the face of a surprisingly strong challenge by Bernie Sanders. Sanders' candidacy has been powered by his authenticity and principled progressive politics. Recent polls show Sanders in a virtual tie with Clinton in Iowa and beating her rather decisively in New Hampshire.

Once again, lowa is important. If Sanders loses lowa, his insurgent campaign will no doubt continue, but without the same energy. If, however, Sanders wins both Iowa and New Hampshire, it will change the entire dynamic of this contest energizing his supporters while at the same time exposing Clinton's weaknesses as a candidate. It will not, however, be decisive because the Democratic party establishment has many of the same concerns about Sanders as the GOP has about Trump.

Another concern shared by many Democrats is that while they want to keep the White House and win control of the Senate, they fear the polarized partisanship that has long paralyzed Washington politics. With either Sanders or Clinton as the party standard-bearer, they are concerned that we will see only more rancorous rhetoric from the GOP and more

Outcomes Should Sanders win both Iowa and New Hampshire, two outcomes are possible. One is that, the Clinton-Sanders contest will get more heated and will continue until one emerges bloodied but victorious at the end of a drawn out fight. Another possibility is that Joe Biden may be pressed to reconsider his decision to enter the race. While Biden has, in fact, missed the filing dates to compete in a number of states, there are enough major states (which account for well over one-quarter of all the party's delegates) in which he could still qualify to appear on the ballot states Biden may not win outright, but in which he may win enough delegates to ensure a "brokered convention" that will have to vote on the eventual nominee.

In such a scenario, the contest would pit Sanders and Clinton against Biden, with Biden rightly claiming to be both the heir of the Obama coalition and legacy, and the one Democrat who can expand that coalition and work to end the partisan divide. With many Democrats nervous about the ability of Sanders and Clinton to change Washington's poisonous atmosphere, Biden could emerge as an interesting choice. While some Democrats might dread a wide-open convention, such a truly democratic exercise might actually create a very positive dynamic that could help energize the party faithful for the November contest.

The bottom line is that we are just days away from the lowa caucuses and only two things are clear: The stakes are high and the shape of this contest is still uncertain. lowa will be important.

NOTE: Dr James J Zogby is the President of the Arab American Institute

RUSSIA'S TONE FAMILIAR AFTER POISON REPORT

By Jim Heintz

resident Vladimir Putin has made no public comment on the sensational report by a British judge that concluded the Kremlin leader probably approved a 2006 plan to kill a Russian dissident in London. Instead, his subordinates went before reporters and portrayed it as a groundless accusation concocted by a relentlessly hostile West. Moscow apparently believes that Western leaders' eagerness to stem the tide of Syrian refugees will make them hesitant to push Russia too strongly in the murder case, fearful of hindering peace talks on Syria that are scheduled to begin next week.

Russia's reaction to Thursday's report on the poisoning death of Alexander Litvinenko - a former security operative who became a fierce Kremlin critic - is a familiar one in the Putin era: a denial of any wrongdoing amid aggrieved contentions that foreign puppeteers are aiming to push Putin from power and weaken Russia. In recent years, Russia has denied claims that it sent troops into eastern Ukraine to fight with rebels, that it supplied a missile that shot down a Malaysian airliner over Ukraine, and that its warplanes were bombing Syrian civilians and supporting the troops of Syrian President Bashar Assad.

The tactic works well at home, feeding Russians' strong appetite for perceiving their nation as everbesieged. This kind of appeal has helped keep Putin's personal approval ratings high even as the economy deteriorated sharply in the past two years. In the West, it only reinforces Russia's image as truculent and obstructive. A series of sanctions were imposed on Russia over its actions in Ukraine, and Moscow's relations with Washington and many European countries are at best strongly troubled.

But Russia also has wedges it can employ with the Western world, particularly regarding Syria. Assad is Moscow's longtime ally, and Russia can wield more influence with him than the countries that overtly seek his ouster. Despite occasional signs that Russia is less than fully comfortable with Assad, it firmly resists making regime change a mandatory condition for ending the civil war. Russia also is a key factor on the Syrian battlefield, launching thousands of airstrikes since late September. Although claims differ sharply on how hard those airstrikes are hurting the Islamic State group and other extremists, the sheer demonstration of military might means the

West cannot afford to alienate Russia. Moscow, in turn, would not want to push disagreements with the West too far; it needs a resolution in Syria, both with regard to retaining its only military base in the Middle East, as well as suppressing the Islamist militants that Moscow fears have their eyes on Russia. In that light, it appears that the British's judge's allegations in the Litvinenko case may have little - if any - blowback. "If US and British political circles remain interested in joint efforts with Russia in the struggle against international terrorism, the Litvinenko case will soon be forgotten," Andrei Kilmov, deputy head of the foreign affairs committee of Russia's upper house of parliament, told the state news agency Tass on Friday.

Even as Prime Minister David Cameron said Britain would toughen its stance with Russia in the wake of the Litvinenko findings, he acknowledged that London needs Moscow. "Do we at some level have to go on having some sort of relationship with them because we need a solution to the Syria crisis? Yes we do - but we do it with clear eyes and a very cold

heart," he said. One analyst cast doubt on that strategy. "That may not be sensible because the UK's influence on what Russia does in Syria is minimal," said Keir Giles, a Russian analyst at Britain's Chatham

No Retaliation

After the report by Judge Robert Owen came out, Putin's spokesman Dmitry Peskov said it could "further poison the atmosphere of our bilateral relations". But Russia has not announced any retaliatory measures. "I am sad to say relations have already been frigid for a long time," said Viktor Ivanov, a Putin ally who heads Russia's anti-narcotics agency. Litvinenko's claim of Ivanov's ties to organized crime was mentioned in the report as a possible reason Moscow may have wanted the dissident eliminated.

Russia has another interest in preventing relations with the West from worsening: The conflict in Ukraine. Although fighting there has diminished notably in recent months, the tensions between Ukrainian forces and Russia-backed rebels remain unresolved. In addition, Western sanctions connected to the conflict are still in force, and those are contributing factors in Russia's economic troubles.

Moscow recently has shown heightened interest in bringing about a resolution, appointing influential Putin ally Boris Gryzlov as an envoy to the group trying to implement a solution. Russian officials indicate the strategy for dealing with the Litvinenko allegations will be to hew tightly to denials and hope the controversy will go away. "I want to say that this is not news that is discussed widely in Russia," Deputy Prime Minister Yuri Trutnev told AP on Friday at the international economic forum in Davos, Switzerland. —AP

WORLD CUP LEADER SVINDAL CRASHES OUT OF KITZBUHEL

BERLIN: World Cup leader Aksel Lund Svindal crashed out of the downhill competition in Kitzbuhel yesterday, leaving the daunting Streif course with

a bloody nose. The Norwegian pre-race favorite, who had won the men's super G on Friday, was on track to take over the lead from Italian Peter Fill when he landed badly from a jump midway down the course and slid into the protective side netting. Snowfall and strong winds had delayed the competition by about an hour with organizers shortening the start of the Streif course, arguably the most demanding on the World Cup calendar, to reduce speed amid limited visibility. Apart from Svindal, the course claimed several more skiers, including local favorites Hannes Reichelt and Georg Streitberger,

who both needed to be airlifted off the course after crashing out at the same spot as the Norwegian. "It does not seem to be as cold as before and the course may not be as icy so skis sink a bit deeper," said leader Fill. "It is a dangerous course. Very demanding."— Reuters

REAL COACH ZIDANE BACKS **OUT-OF-SORTS RODRIGUEZ**

MADRID: Real Madrid playmaker James Rodriguez is working hard to get back to top form and remains a key member of the team, coach Zinedine Zidane said yesterday. Rodriguez was sidelined by a thigh injury while on duty with Colombia in September and has struggled for form and fitness since his return to action at the end of October. The 24-year-old, who joined Real from Monaco for around 80 million euros (\$86.3 million) after dazzling at the 2014 World Cup finals, has made only seven starts this season in La Liga and one each in the Champions League and King's Cup. Zidane will take charge of his third game at Real Betis today since taking over from the sacked Rafa Benitez and said Rodriguez was ready to play if selected. The Colombian's chances of starting have improved due to an injury to Real's Wales forward Gareth Bale, who damaged a calf muscle in last weekend's 5-1 home victory over Sporting Gijon. "You will see tomorrow but he (Rodriguez) had a very good week in training like all the players," Zidane told a news conference previewing Sunday's game in Seville. "I am very happy with what he is doing and he is working very hard," added the former Real and France midfielder. "We know what an important player he is for the team."—Reuters

ROONEY BLAST REMINDS VAN GAAL OF RIJKAARD

LONDON: Manchester United manager Louis van Gaal has praised captain Wayne Rooney for a half-time outburst that reminded him of a pivotal moment from his time with Ajax. Van Gaal revealed that Rooney upbraided his under-performing team-mates at half-time of last weekend's Premier League match at Liverpool before going on to earn his side a 1-0 victory with a 78th-minute winner. For Van Gaal it brought back memories of a similar outburst by Frank Rijkaard at halftime of Ajax's 1995 Champions League final against AC Milan, which the Dutch club went on to win 1-0. "I think the players have to take responsibility, but at the right moment, because I have seen it in my career at the wrong moment," Van Gaal said in comments published by British newspapers yesterday. "At the right moment you have to do it so I am very pleased. In the final in 1995 with Frank Rijkaard, for example. "It's always good, it always helps the manager and also the players. I'm asking already for more. I believe in the corrections of fellow players.—AFP

SCOREBOARD

SYDNEY: Scoreboard from the fifth one-day international between Australia and India at the Sydney Cricket Ground yesterday:

Australia

A. Finch Ibw I. Sharma	6
D. Warner c Jadeja b I. Sharma	122
S. Smith c R. Sharma b Bumrah	28
G. Bailey c I. Sharma b R. Dhawan	6
S. Marsh run out (Yadav)	7
M. Marsh not out	102
M. Wade c Dhoni b Yadav	36
J. Faulkner b Bumrah	1
J. Hastings not out	2
Extras (b4, lb7, w8, nb1)	20
Total (7 wickets, 50 overs)	330
Fall of wickets: 1-6 (Finch), 2-64 (Smi	ith), 3-78 (Bailey), 4-
117 (S. Marsh), 5-235 (Warner), 6-	320 (Wade), 7-323

(Faulkner) Did not bat: S. Boland, N. Lyon Bowling: I. Sharma 10-0-60-2 (1nb), Yadav 8-0-82-1

(1w), Bumrah 10-0-40-2, R. Dhawan 10-0-74-1 (4w), R. Jadeja 10-0-46-0 (1w), G. Singh 2-0-17-0

R. Sharma c Wade b Hastings	99
S. Dhawan c S. Marsh b Hastings	78
V. Kohli c Wade b Hastings	8
M. Pandey not out	104
M.S. Dhoni c Warner b M. Marsh	34
G. Singh not out	0
Extras (lb3, w,5)	8
Total (4 wickets, 49.4 overs)	331
Fall of wickets: 1-123 (S. Dhawan), 2	2-134 (Kohli), 3-23
(R. Sharma), 4-325 (Dhoni)	

Did not bat: R. Jadeja, R. Dhawan, J. Bumrah, U. Yadav, I.

Bowling: Hastings 10-1-61-3 (2w), Boland 10-0-58-0, Marsh 9.4-0-77-1 (2w),

Faulkner 10-0-54-0, Lyon 8-0-58-0 (1w), Smith 2-0-20-0.



SYDNEY: Manish Pandey of India bats during the fourth one-day international cricket match between India and Australia in Sydney yesterday. —AFP

Pandey heroics give India thrili

unbeaten 104 as India beat Australia by six wickets in a thrilling one-day international at the Sydney Cricket Ground yesterday. After Indian captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni won the toss and decided to bowl, Australia scored an imposing 330 for seven off their 50 overs thanks to centuries from David Warner (122) and Mitchell Marsh (102 not out). But after losing all four previous games in the fivematch series-despite scoring over 300 runs three times and 295 on the other-India avoid-

SYDNEY: Manish Pandey scored a brilliant ed a whitewash when they reached 331 for four with two balls remaining. Pandey, who only came into the team because of an injury to Ajinkya Rahane, was in magnificent touch as he brought up his maiden ODI century from only 81 balls.

The 26-year-old hit eight fours and one six as he teamed with Rohit Sharma (99) and Dhoni (34) to guide India to victory. The Indians had started their run chase brilliantly, with Shikhar Dhawan and Sharma having no trouble against the Australian attack. Dhawan,

who scored a century in the fourth ODI in Canberra on Wednesday, was particularly punishing, blasting his way to a rapid-fire half century and taking the Indian total past 100. He brought up his 50 from just 42 balls but on 78 he tried to hit John Hastings over midwicket and was brilliantly caught in the deep by Shaun Marsh.

The in-form Virat Kohli came and went for eight but Pandey was in superb touch from the moment he arrived at the crease. He and Sharma put on 97 before the opener got an

SUNRISE: Roberto Luongo stopped 27 shots

for his fourth shutout of the season, Aaron

Ekblad scored in his first game back from a concussion and the Florida Panthers beat the

Chicago Blackhawks 4-0 on Friday night to

stop a four-game losing streak. Reilly Smith,

Quinton Howden and former Chicago

defenseman Brian Campbell also scored for

Florida. The Panthers had lost their last eight

games against Chicago, getting outscored 25-

11 in those contests. Scott Darling stopped 28

shots for Chicago, which lost on consecutive

nights in the state of Florida. The Blackhawks

lost in Tampa on Thursday, after winning 12

straight to match the Panthers for the longest

winning streak in the league this season.

Florida has now won 13 straight games with

edge to Wade to fall one run short of an 11th ODI century. Dhoni struggled initially and Australia looked like winning until the Indian captain began to find his touch, his big six off Mitchell Marsh in the final over getting his side close enough to take the victory. "I think we've been competitive in the series," Dhoni said. "The goal was to win matches. The first four games, I thought were close, but we didn't close it down well.

"That's important in the ODI format. Every over matters especially in a high-scoring game." Earlier, the Australians cruised to one more big total on yet another lifeless wicket in a series where the lowest score was India's 295 in Melbourne last Sunday. "It's been a pretty big run-scoring feast," Australian captain Steve Smith admitted. "Tonight was a masterclass in chasing. "We missed a few opportunities in the field, but that happens in cricket, but we have to move on and improve." The two teams move onto a threematch T20 series, beginning in Adelaide on Tuesday.—AFP

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the second day in the fourth and final Test between South Africa and England

on Saturday in Centurion, South Africa.	
South Africa 1st innings (Overnight: 329-5).
S. Cook b Woakes	115
D. Elgar c Taylor b Ali	20
H. Amla b Stokes	109
A. de Villiers c Root b Broad	0
J. Duminy Ibw b Ali	16
T. Bavuma c Bairstow b Broad	35
Q. de Kock not out	129
K. Rabada Ibw b Anderson	0
K. Abbott Ibw b Stokes	16
D. Piedt c Bairstow b Stokes	19
M. Morkel Ibw b Stokes	0
Extras (b-1 lb-11 w-4)	16
Total (all out, 132 overs)	475
Fall of wickets: 1-35 D. Elgar, 2-237 H. A	mla,
238 A. de Villiers, 4-271 S. Cook, 5-273 J. D	umi
6-335 T.	

Piedt, 10-475 M. Morkel Bowling: J. Anderson 30-6-91-1 (w-1), S. Broad 28-4-91-2 (w-2), M. Ali 25-5-104-2, C. Woakes 22-3-91-1 (w-1), B. Stokes 27-3-86-4.

England 1st innings A. Cook not out 67 A. Hales c Piedt b Rabada N. Compton Ibw b Rabada J. Root not out 31 Extras (b-1 lb-4 w-1)

15

19

Total (for 2 wickets, 46 overs) 138 Fall of wickets: 1-22 A. Hales, 2-78 N. Compton To bat: J. Taylor, B. Stokes, J. Bairstow, M. Ali, C. Woakes, S. Broad, J. Anderson Bowling: K. Abbott 11-5-17-0, K. Rabada 12-2-55-2

(w-1), D. Piedt 10-1-23-0, M. Morkel 11-2-29-0, D. Elgar 2-0-9-0. Bavuma,7-336 K. Rabada,8-386 K. Abbott,9-468 D.

Ekblad in the lineup. He missed the Panthers' previous four games.

AVALANCHE 2, BLUE 1, OT Semyon Varlamov made 33 saves and then stopped all three attempts in the shootout, and Colorado beat St Louis. Nathan MacKinnon scored in the final minute of regulation to rally the Avalanche, and then Gabriel Landeskog scored the only goal in the shootout. Landeskog scored on the first shot and then Varlamov took over. He stopped Alexander Steen and then smothered a shot by Vladimir Tarasenko that held up under review. Troy Brouwer had the last try, but Varlamov made the save. Brian Elliott had 40 saves and Steen scored the only goal for St Louis. The Blues had their three-game winning streak stopped.

RANGERS 4, HURRICANES 1

Florida

JT Miller scored twice in the second period and Henrik Lundqvist made 30 saves to lead New York to a 4-1 victory over Carolina. Ryan McDonagh scored to stretch his scoring streak to four games, and Keith Yandle also had a goal for New York. Joakim Nordstrom scored for Carolina, and Eddie Lack made 28 saves. New York has won 14 of its last 15 meetings with Carolina. The game was played before a tiny crowd - many in Rangers jerseys - due in

part to several inches of wet snow that began falling in the afternoon.

RED WINGS 3, SABRES 0

Panthers blank Blackhawks 4-0

All-Star rookie Dylan Larkin had a goal and an assist and Petr Mrazek stopped 19 shots to lead Detroit to a 3-0 victory over Buffalo. Henrik Zetterberg and Luke Glendening also scored for the Red Wings, who ended a twogame losing streak. Larkin scored the winner with 7:59 remaining, circling from behind the net to collect the rebound off Glendening's shot and banking the puck off the pads of Robin Lehner. Sabres coach Dan Bylsma challenged that Larkin was offside as he carried the puck into the offensive zone, but the goal was upheld on replay. Larkin's goal came 41 seconds after the Sabres killed off a 4-minute

Atlantic Division

15 5 125 105 59

penalty on forward Marcus Foligno for highsticking.

ISLANDERS 5, SENATORS 2

Travis Hamonic and John Tavares each had a goal and an assist in the third period and New York beat Ottawa. Hamonic beat Andrew Hammond with a slap shot at 2:58 of the third to give New York a 3-2 lead and Tavares slipped a backhand past Hammond at 7:03 for some insurance. Kyle Okposo scored on a bank shot off the backside of Ottawa defenseman Jared Cowen to finish the scoring. Nick Leddy and Cal Clutterbuck also scored for the Islanders while Jaroslav Halak made 28 saves for the win. Bobby Ryan and Erik Karlsson had goals for the Senators, who were coming off a five-game, 12-day road trip. Hammond had 29 saves.—AP

Note: Overtime losses (OTL) are worth one point in the

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

COOK LEADS ENGLAND REPLY

CENTURION: England captain Alastair Cook made his first half-century of the series to keep his team in contention on the second day of the fourth and final Test against South Africa at SuperSport Park yesterday. England were 138 for two at the close of play after Quinton de Kock's maiden Test century took South Africa to a first innings total of 475. Cook, who had scored only 103 runs in six innings in the first three Tests, batted solidly to finish unbeaten on 67.

England lost Alex Hales early, when he sliced a drive against Kagiso Rabada to Dane Piedt at point after making 15. Nick Compton helped Cook add 56 for the second wicket before he fell victim to a ball from Rabada which shot through low and trapped him leg before wicket for 19. Joe Root joined Cook and the pair took England through to the close in an unbeaten partnership of 60. Root was on 31 not out. The left-handed De Kock made 129 not out off 128 balls as he and the South African tailenders frustrated the England bowlers on a hot, humid day.

Kyle Abbott helped De Kock add 50 for the eighth wicket and Piedt shared a ninth wicket stand of 82 with the South African wicketkeeper. De Kock was the third centurion in the innings and joined debutant Stephen Cook in making his first Test hundred. England once again paid the price for dropped catches. After both Cook and Hashim Amla were dropped on the way to centuries on the first day, De Kock was put down by Ben Stokes at gully off James Anderson when he was on 28, having added only three runs to his overnight score. De Kock was dropped again on 90 when he drove Moeen Ali hard to England captain Alastair Cook at short cover. Despite the blemishes it was an impressive

innings by De Kock, who hit 17 fours and two sixes. He was particularly severe on Ali, hitting 45 runs off the 28 balls he faced from the offspinner, including both his sixes and six fours. It was a disappointing effort by England who would have hoped to wrap up the innings quickly after taking two wickets early in the day for the addition of only seven runs to the overnight total of 329 for five. Stuart Broad had Temba Bavuma caught behind for 35 in the fourth over of the day, ending a sixth wicket partnership of 62 with De Kock. In the next over James Anderson trapped Kagiso Rabada leg before wicket without scoring. Stokes was England's most successful bowler, taking four for 86.— AFP

NHL Results/Standings

Detroit 3, Buffalo 0; NY Rangers 4, Carolina 1; NY Islanders 5, Ottawa 2; Florida 4, Chicago 0; Colorado 2, St.

	Wester	n Con	feren	ce			Tampa Bay	26	17	4 127	112	56
Central Division							Detroit	24	15	8 115	118	56
	W	_	OTL		GΑ	PTS	Boston	24	17	5 139	121	53
Chicago	32	15	4	145	117	68	Montreal	23	20	4 129	122	50
Dallas	30	13	5	159	129	65	_					
St. Louis	28	15	8	129	126	64	Ottawa	22	20	6 134	152	50
Minnesota	23	16	8	117	109	54	Toronto	17	20	8 111	125	42
Colorado	25	21	3	135	132	53	Buffalo	19	25	4 108	128	42
Nashville	21	18	8	121	128	50						
Winnipeg	21	23	3	120	135	45		Metropo	olitan D	Division		
							Washington	35	8	3 155	100	73
	Pacif	fic Div	ision				NIV Dava sava	26	1.0	F 126	122	- 7
Los Angeles	29	14	3	121	104	61	NY Rangers	26	16	5 136	123	57
Can loco	24	10	2	120	122	E 1	NY Islanders	25	15	6 128	114	56

Los San Jose 24 18 3 130 122 51 17 11 117 132 51 5 111 115 53 Vancouver 20 **New Jersey** 24 19 22 5 124 138 49 Arizona 19 Pittsburgh 22 17 7 114 116 51 Anaheim 18 7 91 106 47 21 Carolina 20 8 113 133 50 Calgary 21 3 122 137 45 Philadelphia 20 17 8 103 121 48 19 25 5 121 145 43 Edmonton Columbus 17 27 4 121 156 38 **Eastern Conference**





MUSIC STOPS FOR POLARIZING KYRGIOS

MELBOURNE: Flashy Australian youngster Nick Kyrgios says he let a lot of people down and expected more from himself after his polarising exit from the Australian Open. The hyperactive Kyrgios crashed and burned in Friday's third round of his home Grand Slam to ice-cool Czech Tomas Berdych, ending another promising yet unfulfilled campaign. Kyrgios argued with the chair umpire about music coming from the stands inside Rod Laver Arena and was easily distracted by interactions with the crowd, slamming the match as a

Meanwhile Berdych, a two-time semi-final-

ist, was too calm and focused for the show-boating 20-year-old, winning 6-3, 6-4, 1-6, 6-4 in the rowdy night match. Kyrgios, a magnet for controversy in his career so far, said he was disappointed to miss out on his big opportunity to repeat his quarter-final appearance last year. "I'm so disappointed, like I put so much work in, and I just feel like I let a lot of people down," he told reporters. "I was expecting a bit more out of myself. I was expecting like another real deep run. I put a lot of work in. It's pretty heartbreaking."

Krygios has a reputation for his on-court behavior and last year he was handed a 28day suspended sentence, which expires on February 24, for making a sexual reference to Stan Wawrinka's girlfriend. He was hit with a US\$3,000 fine for an audible obscenity in his first round win over Pablo Carreno Busta, and turned up for his match against Pablo Cuevas wearing the wrong shorts, which he had to change mid-match. As he left the court after his match with Berdych, Kyrgios shook the hand of the chair umpire and was overheard saying: "You are a terrible referee."

'I should have won'

As online debate raged about his antics, kept momentum, the crowd started getting

Kyrgios said he had learned from his experience of playing Berdych, the world number six and an established top-10 player. "It was tough. I knew I would have to play some of my best tennis to win. I knew I wasn't the favorite, but I definitely felt like I should have won," he said. "I just put a lot of pressure on myself. It's a good experience as well. I know what I have to do now to get better." Kyrgios, ranked 30th in the world, said Berdych's ability to play the big points was a lesson he had to absorb.

"I thought he just steadied the ship in the fourth set. The third set, I got an early break, kept momentum, the crowd started getting

into it," Kyrgios said. "That's why he's a top player, he steadies the ship, he gets back to it and takes his time, starts serving at a high level again and starts making clutch shots at crucial times.

"I guess I have to get fitter and stronger to beat guys like that." Kyrgios, who upset then world number one Rafael Nadal on the way to making the quarter-finals at his first Wimbledon in 2014, said he was content not to have a coach. "I haven't really thought too much about it. I'm not really looking. I am but I'm not. I think I'm pretty content at the moment," he said.—AFP



MELBOURNE: China's Zhang Shuai serves during her women's singles match against Varvara Lepchenko of the US on day six of the 2016 Australian Open tennis tournament in Melbourne yesterday. —AFP

ZHANG KEEPS CHINA ALIVE

MELBOURNE: Qualifier Zhang Shuai thinks she can become China's second grand slam winner after easing into the last 16 of the Australian Open with an emphatic 6-1 6-3 victory over American Varvara Lepchenko yesterday. With China's first grand slam champion Li Na having retired and her fellow trailblazer Zheng Jie looking set to follow, expectations of success were low in the world's most populous nation coming into 2016.

Zhang, who had never won a grand slam match in 14 attempts before Tuesday, continued to confound that pessimism when she extended her remarkable run at Margaret Court Arena yesterday. Picking up where she left off in her stunning upset of world number two Simona Halep in her opener and the two-set victory over France's Alize Cornet in round two, she dominated Lepchenko to win the first set in less than half an hour. Another crunching

forehand winner saw Zhang break the Uzbekistan-born world number 51 early in the second set and before too long she was serving for the match at 5-2.

Perhaps overawed by the position she found herself in, the 27-year-old Chinese was broken herself but she stormed back in the following game to seal victory on her second match point when an overwhelmed Lepchenko netted. "I just wanted to show the best of Zhang Shuai in this match," she told reporters. "I tried to treat this like it was the last match of my life. I think I did a great job." Zhang will next face another American in Madison Keys, a semifinalist last year, in her seventh match at Melbourne Park over the last couple of weeks for a place in the quarter-finals. Asked whether she could conceivably win the tournament on Sunday week, Zhang did not demur. "Before, no," she said. "After today, yes."— Reuters

MEDICAL DRAMA ROCKS IVANOVIC AND MURRAY

Third seed Muguruza dumped out of tournament

MELBOURNE: The Australian Open tennis championships were rocked late yesterday when Andy Murray's father-in-law Nigel Sears collapsed during a match at Rod Laver Arena, overshadowing the world number two's advance to the fourth round. Sears, the coach of former French Open champion Ana Ivanovic, collapsed while watching the Serb's third-round clash against Madison Keys, prompting medical staff to rush to the 58-year-old's aid. Adding to the surreal atmosphere at Melbourne Park, Briton Murray was oblivious to the unfolding drama as he battled Portugal's Joao Sousa in the neighboring Margaret Court Arena.

Play was suspended for an hour at Rod Laver Arena, as Sears received treatment before being fitted with breathing apparatus and carried from the stadium on a stretcher. He was taken to hospital for further treatment and was being examined by a cardiologist, organizers said. A tearyeyed Ivanovic was eventually led back to centre court to continue her match against Keys and although the Serb fought hard she fell 4-6 6-4 6-4. "Obviously it was a tough match," Ivanovic said in a statement after declining post-match media commitments.

"I really wanted to win and have a chance to come back... Obviously a little bit disappointed." Murray, whose wife Kim Sears is due to give birth to their first child next month, completed a 6-2 3-6 6-2 6-2 win over 32nd seed Sousa and was led straight from the court by an official rather than conduct the usual courtside interview. In an unnerving coincidence, Ivanovic's second round match was also suspended after a spectator fell down the stairs at the same show court on Thursday. Murray also skipped the postmatch media conference and the Scot's only comment was confined to his match. "It was tricky. I didn't feel great," he said in a statement. "It was good to get through that one."

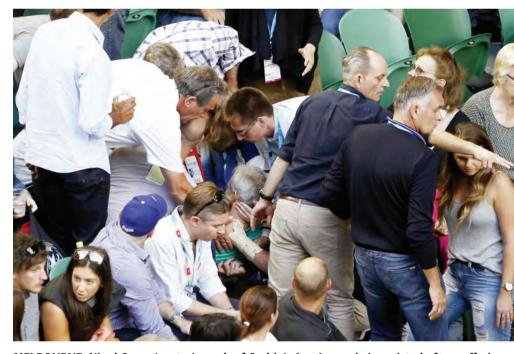
Medical emergency

The medical emergency overshadowed the action on day six which saw Spanish third seed Garbine Muguruza dumped out of the tournament and Victoria Azarenka given a huge boost in her bid to win a third title at Melbourne Park. The 2014 champion Stan Wawrinka also reached the last 16, staying on track for a blockbuster semi-final against Murray. Muguruza, rated one of the few women capable of threatening champion Serena Williams, slumped out at the hands of unseeded Czech Barbora Strycova, her 6-3 6-2 loss punching a hole in the draw. With Romanian world number two Simona Halep sent packing in the opening round, seventh seed Angelique Kerber remains the top woman in the draw's lower half.

But the path to a dream final against Williams seems laid out for 14th seed Azarenka. A succession of injuries over the past two years and a bout of depression have slowed the Belarusian, who clinched back-to-back titles at Melbourne Park in 2012-13. But her 6-1 6-1 humiliation of Japanese qualifier Naomi Osaka was her eighth win in succession and further evidence the sleeping giant has awakened. "I had a lot of changes and emotions from last year that I still didn't know how to handle," the 26-year-old told reporters. "It changed my life... Starting to be happy and organized and disciplined off the court, it changed my life on the court, definitely."

Wawrinka advances

Following Roger Federer's 300th victory in



MELBOURNE: Nigel Sears (center) coach of Serbia's Ana Ivanovic is assisted after suffering a medical emergency on Rod Laver Arena. — AP

grand slams on day five and Maria Sharapova's 600th on tour, Wawrinka notched his 400th career win with a triumph over Czech Lukas Rosol 6-2 6-3 7-6(3). The Swiss fourth seed has been battling a cold at Melbourne Park but his game was in rude health as he smashed 18 aces and 45 winners in the late afternoon sunshine at Rod Laver Arena. "As long as I'm feeling good on the court, that's the most important thing," a raspy-voiced Wawrinka said. The 30-year-old Swiss must next weather the serving storm of Canadian dark horse Milos Raonic, who despatched Serb Viktor Troicki 6-2 6-3 6-4 at the Margaret Court Arena. A quarter-finalist last year,

13th seed Raonic dedicated his win to victims of a school shooting in the remote Canadian town of La Loche, where four people were killed and a number injured on Friday.

"Stuff like this doesn't happen much back home," he told reporters. "I'm sure not just in that small community but throughout Canada it was a lot of people that were sort of heartbroken over it." With a number of high seeds falling by the wayside, doors opened for lesser lights to shine. Among them, Australia-born Johanna Konta defeated Czech Denisa Allertova 6-2 6-2 to become the first British woman into the last 16 at Melbourne Park in nearly 30 years. —Reuters

EMOTIONAL RAONIC MOURNS CANADA SHOOTING VICTIMS

MELBOURNE: An emotional Milos Raonic dedicated his Australian Open win to the victims of a high school shooting in Canada as he paid tribute to his adopted homeland yesterday. Montenegro-born Raonic, 25, was close to tears after his 6-2, 6-3, 6-4 third-round win over Serbia's Viktor Troicki, as he mourned the tragedy in a remote community that left four dead. "I want to take a moment and give thoughts to that community, the families, the students and the school affected and we wish you all the best," he told the crowd. "Today's victory was for that community and a quick recovery. All of Canada, and I'm sure the world, is behind you," Raonic said, before quickly departing the court.

Later, Raonic explained that the emotions caused by the rare Canadian school shooting had fired him to play with huge intensity." Maybe to me today's match really sort of mattered heavily, and I would do everything I can to find a way to win," he told reporters. "But at the end of the day, to be in that situation-there is five (four) people that will never go back to school again. "That's just far bigger than whatever thing I could have

done on court today. It's especially difficult, when it's such a small community and it's a tragedy that's from within a certain group of people, most likely."

people, most likely."

He added: "Canada has been phenomenal to myself, my brother, my sister, their kids, my parents. I'm here because I moved to Canada and because my parents took me there (from Montenegro) in '94."The Canadian power-server, seeded 13, overwhelmed Troicki with his only trouble coming in the final set, where he fought back from an early break. Raonic, coached by former world number one Carlos Moya, has not dropped a set going into the last 16 but he now faces a far stiffer test in the shape of 2014 winner Stan Wawrinka, the reigning French Open champion. "He's played solid through what I have seen of his first three matches. I have it within myself to be able to find the solution." Raonic said

able to find the solution," Raonic said.

"The question is will I step up and do it?
Hopefully I'm able to put the pieces together."
The Canadian rolled through the opening two sets for the loss of five games but struck some resistance early in the final set when he was broken in the second game. —AFP

Turnover: Lebron drops another coach as Cavs fire Blatt

INDEPENDENCE: There's no debating James and Blatt would grow together LeBron James' greatness. That's a slam dunk. He's won two NBA titles, a pair of Olympic gold medals, four NBA MVP awards, universal respect of his peers, and the adulation of millions of basketball fans worldwide. At 31, and at the peak of his career, James has earned it all. And, something else - a reputation as a coach killer. James' calculating image wasn't helped when the Cleveland Cavaliers stunningly fired David Blatt on Friday, despite Blatt leading the team to the NBA Finals last season and an Eastern Conference-best 30-11 record this season

James has played for three coaches during his two stints in Cleveland, with Tyronn Lue, the team's top assistant promoted by general manager David Griffin to take over his talented squad, the fourth Cavaliers coach to work with him. Unlike his predecessors, Lue is already on solid footing with James, who respects the 38-year-old former point guard. Blatt, on the other hand, seemed doomed from the start. It was no secret that James and Blatt weren't always in sync. Their relationship was analyzed from the moment James decided to leave Miami and return to Cleveland.

Blatt was plucked from Europe last year by owner Dan Gilbert, who hoped when in fact they were a bad match from the outset. James referred to his coach as simply "Blatt" during much of last season, and any interaction between them seemed forced and insincere. During timeouts, James often spoke to Lue without making eye contact with Blatt. There was the moment in Phoenix when James put his hands on Blatt and re-directed him off the floor. And, of course, James famously said he changed a play Blatt drew up during the closing seconds of a playoff game against Chicago before hitting a buzzer-beating

Blatt learned that coaching one of the planet's best players has its drawbacks. 'He had the most scrutinized job that you could possibly have," Los Angeles Clippers coach Doc Rivers said. "I think the reward for coaching LeBron is you get scrutinized. It really is, it's hard. They have a great record, the best in the East, and you get fired for it." Griffin was quick to defend James, saying any notion the 12-time All-Star pulled the strings was wrong. "LeBron doesn't run this organization," Griffin said. "LeBron is about this organization.

This narrative that somehow we're taking direction from him, it's just not fair. It's not fair to him, in particular, but frankly, it's kind of not fair to me and our group anymore. I know what something that's not right looks like." A source close to James told the Associated Press that the star didn't have any inkling that Blatt would be fired until he and his teammates met with Griffin, who said he made the move because he sensed this title-chasing team was disconnected.

"There's a lack of spirit and connectedness that I just couldn't accept," Griffin said. "And frankly, halfway through the season, I think we have the time to right the ship. "I know that sounds crazy when we're sitting with a 30-11 record. I understand that. But we were 30-11 with a schedule that was reasonably easy. And I'm judging a lot more than wins and losses." Blatt's firing stunned his coaching colleagues, including Dallas' Rick Carlisle, president of the National Basketball Coaches Association. "I'm embarrassed for our league that something like this could happen," Carlisle said. "It's just bizarre. It just leaves you with a bit of an empty feeling. Because Blatt's a great guy and he did a great job

Coincidentally, Blatt was fired the same day Golden State coach Steve Kerr, his counterpart in last season's Finals, returned to the Warriors after a long leave of absence following complica-



PHILADELPHIA: Cleveland Cavaliers coach David Blatt pats LeBron James on the chest at the end of an NBA basketball game against the Philadelphia 76ers in Philadelphia. — AP

tions from two back surgeries. Before he was hired by Cleveland, Blatt interviewed to be on Kerr's staff. Kerr was disappointed by Blatt's ouster. "It's a tough business when you go 30-11 and you

get fired, you get to the Finals the year before," Kerr said. "It's a shame. He'll land on his feet. He's a great coach. He'll have plenty of success ahead of him." And James behind him.— AP



ABU DHABI: Rory McIlroy (left) of Northern Ireland looks for his ball in a bush near the ninth fairway during round three of the fog-delayed Abu Dhabi Golf Championship yesterday. — AP

LATE BIRDIES BOOST WORLD NO MCILROY

McIlroy turned around his disappointing outing in the space of two holes and finished \$2.7 million Abu Dhabi HSBC Golf Championship yesterday. Early-morning fog on Friday at Abu Dhabi Golf Club had forced suspension of play that caused the second round to be completed yesterday. The start was once again delayed, this time by two hours and 50 minutes.

McIlroy, playing alongside world number one Jordan Spieth and number six Rickie Fowler, came back to complete his remaining five holes, and was still without any birdie and one-over for the round when he stepped on the 17th tee. "I said, let's finish 3-3 and I was able to that," said McIlroy, who made a birdie on the par-4 17th and then smashed a laser-guided five-wood second shot that almost holed out for an albatross.

ABU DHABI: World number three Rory The Northern Irishman tapped in for an eagle to finish on two-under par 70. "I knew I needed something and I knew I wanted to the weather-interrupted second round just finish well and I knew 18 was a chance and two shots behind leader Andy Sullivan in the 17 playing downwind, I would have a wedge in there. So I knew I had a couple of good chances. "But I didn't quite expect to do it on 18 there. That was a nice way to finish," said McIlroy, who finished tied for second place alongside first-round leader, American amateur Bryson DeChambeau (72). "It was an average round to be fair but that's the thing, even when you're not really at your best, to be able to come away with a 70 and still keep within it up of the leaders, I'm really happy with that." Spieth (73) parred his last five holes to remain at threeunder par, while Fowler (68) started with a bogey on the 14th hole, but added a couple of birdies on the 16th and 18th to be tied 11th at six-under par. The cut was applied at one-under par 143.— AFP

CHAMPIONSHIP GAME FEATURES TWO OF NFL BEST CORNERBACKS

TEMPE: Cornerbacks might have the toughest job in the NFL. They are expected to shadow a receiver, who knows where he's going while the defender doesn't, and the rules are stacked against them. Few truly excel at the job. This season, Arizona's Patrick Peterson and Carolina's Josh Norman might have been the best, and they will be plying their trade in the biggest game of their careers in Sunday's NFC championship game. Both made the AP's All-Pro team, and they are "very" similar," Cardinals coach Bruce Arians said. "They're different styles of defenses," he said, "but they're long, they're fast, they're athletic and they're tough."

Norman has the edge in statistics, but Peterson's are misleading. He's shut down some of the best receivers in the league in one-on-one coverage, and quarterbacks simply stopped throwing in his direction. Peterson has allowed two touchdowns this season - one on broken coverage at Chicago and the other, famously, on Aaron Rodgers' Hail Mary to Jeff Janis at the end of regulation in Saturday's overtime victory over Green Bay. Peterson and Carolina's Cam Newton go back to their SEC days, when Peterson played at LSU and Newton at Auburn.

"You ask yourself what can't he do," Newton said. "He's fast, he's physical and when the ball is in the air, he's not thinking to bat it down, he's thinking that's his ball, and you just have to have respect for a guy like that." Arizona quarterback Carson Palmer was equally complimentary of Norman. "He's got that build that I think everybody's looking for," Palmer said, "really long, gets a good extension with his arms, plays with his hands really, really well. He's got top-end speed. He doesn't go for a deflection; he goes for the football and gets a deflection out of it, or an interception. He comes up in the run game and makes plays. If anybody reminds you of

Richard Sherman, I think it's him." Norman had 55 tackles, three forced fumbles, two fumble recoveries and four interceptions. All four came in the first four games of the season, and he returned two of them for touchdowns, "Josh Norman is a premier cornerback," the Cardinals' Larry Fitzgerald said. "There's a reason he's going to be the highest-paid free agent come this offseason. Whatever team he goes to, I hope it's in the AFC, so we don't have to deal with him. ... You watch him on tape, there's nothing that you say, oh he struggles with this or he's deficient at this. There's nothing that shows you that."

Peterson, who had a 100-yard interception return negated by a penalty last weekend, has made the Pro Bowl each of his five NFL seasons. But he had a subpar 2014, when he was a bit overweight and was diagnosed with diabetes. This year, he's noticeably slimmer and faster. "Last year definitely wasn't my best year, and this year it's just getting back to Patrick Peterson, for the most part," he said. "I've been All-Pro before. I've been recognized as one of the best cornerbacks before, been to five Pro Bowls, so it's not a shock or surprise that I'm getting my recognition back." Just what their exact roles will be on Sunday is something of a mystery. Peterson usually goes against the opponent's best receiver. That would be tight end Greg Olsen, and that seems an unlikely matchup, given Arizona's 3-4 defensive scheme and the way the Cardinals have defended tight ends all sea-

And don't expect Norman to go against Fitzgerald. Norman rarely defends a player who lines up in the slot, where Fitzgerald usually is. "We're going to do things according to situational football and we'll see how it plays out," Carolina coach Ron Rivera said. But there will be plenty of work for Norman. The Arizona offense features a trio of talented receivers and Arians loves to have his team throw long. "I'm licking my chops," Norman said. "I have my ears pinned back and ready to run. I'm anticipating it.—AP

WARRIORS WELCOME **COACH WITH A WIN**

OAKLAND: Stephen Curry banked in a shot from midcourt with a hand in his face at the halftime buzzer and finished with 39 points to help coach Steve Kerr win his season debut in the Golden State Warriors' 122-110 victory over the Indiana Pacers on Friday. Kerr returned from a leave of absence dating to Oct 1 for complications following two back surgeries, and defending champion Golden State delivered for him by winning its 38th straight home game at Oracle Arena to match the 1985-86 Celtics for thirdlongest home winning streak all-time. The Warriors are 20-0 at home this season. Curry added 12 assists and 10 rebounds for his second triple-double of the season and seventh of his career. He also became the first player in NBA history to make 200 3-pointers in four straight seasons.

Myles Turner scored a career-high 31 points and grabbed eight rebounds for the Pacers.

SPURS 108, LAKERS 95

Manu Ginobili scored a season-high 20 points, Kawhi Leonard added 18 and the San Antonio Spurs beat the Los Angeles Lakers for their 13th consecutive victory. Kobe Bryant scored five points on the 10th anniversary of his 81-point game against Toronto, still the second-highest scoring performance in NBA history. While the Lakers honored Bryant during the game with highlights of his 2006 effort. Ginobili was the one putting on a throwback performance. The Argentine veteran, who is nearly 13 months older than the 37-year-old Bryant, went 9 for 10 with four rebounds and four assists while the Spurs rolled to their 20th win in 21 games overall. D'Angelo Russell scored 18 points for the Lakers, who have lost five straight and nine of 10.

RAPTORS 101, HEAT 81

Newly elected All-Star Kyle Lowry kissed a fan on the forehead after accidentally falling on her, then gave the Toronto Raptors a boost in a victory over the Miami Heat. Lowry was trying to save a loose ball early in the first quarter and toppled out of bounds. He landed on top of the woman, who was sitting in the first row and didn't appear to be hurt. Lowry then gave her a kiss, and she smiled as he returned to the court. He finished with 15 points and six assists as Toronto won its season-high seventh in a row. DeMar DeRozan scored 33 for the Raptors. Chris Bosh had 26 and Dwyane Wade 22 points for Miami.

HORNETS 120, MAGIC 116, OT

Kemba Walker had 40 points and nine assists, and Spencer Hawes made a go-ahead 3-pointer with 17 seconds left in overtime to rally the Charlotte Hornets past the Orlando Magic. Victor Oladipo scored 29 points for the Magic, who have lost five straight and nine of 10. Tobias Harris added 22 points, and Nik Vucevic had 15 points and 12 rebounds. In breaking a 10-game road losing streak, the injury-riddled Hornets overcame an 18-point deficit in the fourth quarter by outscoring the Magic 22-3 over a sevenminute stretch. Oladipo then hit a tying 3-pointer

JAZZ 108, NETS 86

Gordon Hayward had 21 points, nine assists and four rebounds, Rodney Hood scored 16 points, and the Utah Jazz cruised past the Brooklyn Nets. Trevor Booker added 13 points and 10 rebounds for the Jazz, who pulled away in the third quarter by shooting 16 for 22 from the field and outscoring Brooklyn 37-17. Bojan Bogdanovic had 14 points and Willie Reed had 12 for the Nets, who have lost five consecutive games, and 10 of their last 11. Brooklyn also remained winless (0-4) against Northwest Division opponents this sea-

CELTICS 110, BULLS 101

Isaiah Thomas scored 22 points and the Boston Celtics held off a furious rally in the fourth quarter to beat the Chicago Bulls. Avery Bradley added 21 points, and Jared Sullinger finished with 18 points and 12 rebounds as the Celtics ended a two-game losing skid. The victory also gives Boston a 2-1 win in the season series with the Bulls. The Celtics were up by 15 points at the half before seeing their lead drop all the way to a point in the fourth quarter. Jimmy Butler led Chicago with 28 points and 14 rebounds. Derrick Rose added 27 points, and Pau Gasol finished with 18 points and 11 rebounds. The Bulls have lost six of their last eight.

CLIPPERS 116, KNICKS 88

DeAndre Jordan scored 20 points on 7-for-7 shooting, Chris Paul had 16 points, 13 assists and six rebounds, and the Los Angeles Clippers routed the



OAKLAND: Joe Young #1 of the Indiana Pacers looks to pass around Shaun Livingston #34 and Festus Ezeli #31 of the Golden State Warriors at ORACLE Arena on January 22, 2016.—AFP

New York Knicks. The duo hooked up on a few alleyoops during the game as Jordan didn't have to work hard to improve his NBA-leading field-goal percentage to 72.1 percent. Paul Pierce finished with 13 points as the Clippers rebounded from Thursday's 115-102 loss in Cleveland to win for the 12th time in 14 games. Los Angeles shot 56.6 percent from the field. Carmelo Anthony scored 16 points, but shot just 4 for 12 for the Knicks (22-23), who were trying for a third straight win that would have moved them over .500. Kristaps Porzingis shot even worse, going 4 for 17 while finishing with 13 points and eight rebounds.

ROCKETS 102, BUCKS 98

James Harden scored 30 points and the Houston Rockets ended a two-game skid with a win over the Milwaukee Bucks. The Rockets closed the third quarter with a 14-2 run to turn a one-point game into a double-digit lead entering the fourth. They were up by 12 when the Bucks went on a 14-4 run, that started with consecutive dunks by Giannis Antetokounmpo and Michael Carter-Williams and ended with a 3pointer by Khris Middleton, to cut the lead to 100-98

with 6.9 seconds left. But Trevor Ariza made a pair of free throws after that to secure the victory. Middleton and Greg Monroe scored 21 points each for the Bucks, whose three-game winning streak ended. Ariza added 19 points for the Rockets, who were playing without Dwight Howard, who sat out after spraining his left ankle Wednesday night.

THUNDER 109, MAVERICKS 106

Kevin Durant scored 24 points in the former Texas star's first game in Dallas in almost two years, and the Oklahoma City Thunder extended their winning streak to a season-best seven games by holding on against the Mavericks. Russell Westbrook had 16 points, eight rebounds and seven assists for the Thunder, who almost blew a 17-point lead in the fourth quarter before improving to 13-2 since a Christmas Day loss to Chicago. Chandler Parsons led Dallas with 26 points and nearly extended an NBArecord streak of four straight overtime home games. His desperation 3-pointer bounced off the rim just before the buzzer. It was the last of three potential tying 3s in the final 35 seconds for Dallas.— AP

NBA results/standings

Charlotte 120, Orlando 116 (OT); Boston 110, Chicago 101; Utah 108, Brooklyn 86; LA Clippers 116, NY Knicks 88; Toronto 101, Miami 81; Houston 102, Milwaukee 98; Oklahoma City 109, Dallas 106; Golden State 122, Indiana 110; San Antonio 108, La Lakers 95.

	Eastern Conf	ference	!	Western Conference						
	Atlantic Div	vision			Northwest Division					
	W	L	PCT	GB	Oklahoma City	33	12	.733	-	
Toronto	28	15	.651	-	Utah	19	24	.442	13	
Boston	23	21	.523	5.5	Portland	19	26	.422	14	
NY Knicks	22	23	.489	7	Denver	16	27	.372	16	
Brooklyn	11	33	.250	17.5	Minnesota	13	31	.295	19.5	
Philadelphia	6	38	.136	22.5		Pacific Div	/ision			
	Central Div	ision/			Golden State	40	4	.909	_	
Cleveland	30	11	.732	-	LA Clippers	28	15	.651	11.5	
Chicago	24	18	.571	6.5	Sacramento	19	23	.452	20	
Indiana	23	20	.535	8	Phoenix	13	31	.432	27	
Detroit	23	20	.535	8						
Milwaukee	19	26	.422	13	LA Lakers	9	36	.200	31.5	
	Southeast D	ivision				Southwest [
Atlanta	26	18	.591	-	San Antonio	38	6	.864	-	
Miami	23	21	.523	3	Memphis	25	19	.568	13	
Washington	20	21	.488	4.5	Dallas	25	20	.556	13.5	
Orlando	20	22	.476	5	Houston	23	22	.511	15.5	
Charlotte	20	23	.465	5.5	New Orleans	15	27	.357	22	

Kuwait Times SUNDAY, JANUARY 24, 2016





HERTHA MISS CHANCE TO CLOSE DORTMUND'S GAP

BERLIN: Hertha Berlin missed their chance to close the gap behind Borussia Dortmund in the Bundesliga table yesterday as their goalless draw at home to Augsburg saw them stay third. Hertha failed to take their chances in an error-strewn clash at Berlin's Olympic Stadium in wintry conditions against mid-table Augsburg as forwards Vedad Ibisevic and Ivory Coast striker Salomon Kalou squandered six chances between them. With leaders Bayern Munich having opened a 11-point lead at the top of the table with a 2-1 win at Hamburg on Friday thanks to Robert Lewandowski's two goals, second-placed Dortmund are under pressure to close the resurgent Borussia Moenchengladbach, who are fourth.

Dortmund routed Gladbach 4-0 at the start of the season, but the visitors have climbed from bottom of the table to fourth under new coach Andre Schubert and have lost just once in their last 12 league games. At the other end of the table, veteran Portugal striker Hugo Almeida marked his debut for relegationthreatened Hanover 96 with a goal. But he was unable to prevent their 2-1 defeat at home to Darmstadt as Sandro Wagner scored both of the visitors' goals. The defeat left Hanover bottom as ex-Bremen coach Thomas Schaaf took charge of his first game since replacing Michael Frontzeck over the winter break while Darmstadt are 12th.

Stuttgart pulled themselves away from the relegation places with a 3-1 win at Cologne to move up to 14th as Jurgen Kramny picked up his second straight win having been given the head coach role full-time. Stuttgart finished 2015 with a shock win over Wolfsburg and backed it up by bouncing back despite Anthony Modeste converting an early penalty for Cologne, who were wearing speciallydesigned shirts to celebrate the carnival season in the Rhineland city. Stuttgart, who gave a debut to Germany defender Kevin Grosskreutz after a brief, unhappy spell in Istanbul with Galatasaray, roared back with goals from Daniel Didavi, Timo Werner and Christian Gentner.

Bayer Leverkusen stay fifth after their 1-1 draw at Hoffenheim as Jiloan Hamad's goal for the hosts was cancelled out by Leverkusen captain Omer Toprak's late strike to rescue a point for the visitors as the hosts climbed off the bottom. Ingolstadt, who are in their first season in Germany's top flight, earned a 1-0 win at home to Mainz through a Moritz Hartmann penalty to go tenth in the table. Champions League side Wolfsburg, who have drawn Ghent in the last 16, are at Eintracht Frankfurt today, while Schalke are at home in the evening against strugglers Werder Bremen.— AFP



BERLIN: Berlin's Vedad Ibisevic (left) and Augsburg's Hong Jeong-ho head for the ball during the German Bundesliga soccer match between Hertha BSC and FC Augsburg at the Olympic stadium yesterday. — AP

MALAGA: Barcelona's Turkish midfielder Arda Turan (left) vies with Malaga's Argentinean defender Marcos Alberto Angeleri during the Spanish league football match Malaga CF vs FC Barcelona yesterday. — AFP

BARCELONA BACK ON TOP AFTER MESSI STUNNER MADRID: Lionel Messi scored a spectacwere only saved by some wasteful play

ular winner as Barcelona moved to the top of La Liga with a hard-fought 2-1 win at Malaga yesterday. The European champions were handed the perfect start when Munir El Haddadi tapped home the opener after just 64 seconds, but were far from their best and Malaga deservedly levelled through Juanpi either minutes before the break. Messi had been struggling with a slight hamstring strain in the past week, but the five-time World Player of the Year made the difference once more as he volleyed home his 20th goal of the season to move Barca a point clear of Atletico Madrid in top spot.

Atletico and Real Madrid - who now trail Barca by five points - are both in action on Sunday when they face Sevilla and Real Betis respectively. Barcelona were without the injured Neymar and suspended Gerard Pique, but did have the luxury of welcoming back Messi and Luis Suarez after they missed the 2-1 win Copa del Rey win at Athletic Bilbao in midweek. And Suarez made a telling impact after just a minute as he wriggled clear inside the area and although his low shot was kept out by Carlos Kameni, the ball fell invitingly for El Haddadi to tap home his fourth goal in three games. Despite a great start, though, Barca were completely outplayed by Malaga in the first-half and competitions.—AFP

by the hosts in the final third.

Charles headed just wide before Chory Castro's effort was turned onto the post by Claudio Bravo. Thomas Vermaelen was standing in for Pique, but had to be bailed out by a brilliant saving challenge from his central defensive partner Javier Mascherano as his slip allowed Charles to bear down on goal before the Argentine intercepted with a last-ditch challenge. Malaga finally got on level terms as Barca again gave the ball away needlessly inside their own half and Charles teed up Juanpi, whose effort deflected in off Mascherano.

However, Barca could still have been ahead at the break as Kameni made a fine low save to deny El Haddadi his second and Miguel Torres produced a brilliant block to prevent Messi rolling home the rebound into an empty net. Barca boss Luis Enrique replaced the poor Vermaelen with Jeremy Mathieu at the break and the visitors were at least more solid if not spectacular after the break. One moment of Messi inspiration was enough to seal a vital three points, though, as he acrobatically met Adraino's cross on the volley six minutes into the second period. Bravo had to make another smart save to deny Ignacio Camacho, but Barca held out to register a sixth successive win in all

Scottish Premiership table

GLASGOW: Scottish Premiership table after yesterday's matches (played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, goals against, points):

Celtic	23	17	4	2	63	19	55	Dundee	23	7	8	8	35	39 29)
Aberdeen	23	15	4	4	38	22	49	Partick	22	6	7	9	21	28 25	,
Hearts	22	11	7	4	42	24	40	Motherwell	22	7	4	11	24	36 25	,
Ross County	24	10	3	11	40	37	33	Hamilton	23	6	6	11	29	45 24	ŀ
St Johnstone	22	9	5	8	36	34	32	Kilmarnock	24	6	6	12	27	47 24	ŀ
Inverness CT	23	7	8	8	30	32	29	Dundee Utd	23	3	4	16	24	46 13	}

SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE ROUNDUP

CELTIC RESTORE 6-POINT ADVANTAGE AT THE TOP

MACKAY-STEVEN'S DOUBLE LIFTS CELTIC

GLASGOW: Gary Mackay-Steven grabbed a double as Celtic restored their six-point advantage at the top of the Scottish Premiership with a 3-1 defeat of St Johnstone at Parkhead. Aberdeen's 1-0 win over Dundee on Friday night had temporarily reduced the gap but the Hoops showed no signs of any pressure as Mackay-Steven grabbed his first goal of the season to open the scoring in the ninth minute. Steven MacLean scored a surprise equalizer for St Johnstone, without a goal since December 5, three minutes later, but Stuart Armstrong restored Celtic's advantage with a superb volley in the 43rd minute.

Mackay-Steven slotted home his second of the match in the 55th minute to seal the win which means Celtic will hold a six-point lead over Aberdeen ahead of their top of the table clash on February 3. Celtic had made two changes from the 8-1 thrashing of Hamilton with Stefan Johansen replacing the injured Tom Rogic while Kieran Tierney was favoured ahead of Emilio Izaguirre. The goals had poured in for Celtic on Tuesday night and the signs looked ominous for St Johnstone when Mackay-Steven fired Celtic in front. Tom Scobbie took the sting out of a Leigh Griffiths strike but the ball fell to Mackay-Steven in the box and he took a touch before drilling a shot past Alan Mannus.

However, St Johnstone grabbed a surprise equalizer in the 12th minute. Rangers target Michael O'Halloran's pace caused the Celtic defense problems and his cross from the by-line picked out MacLean who tapped the ball past Craig Gordon from a couple of yards out. Nir Bitton, scorer of a spectacular strike on Tuesday, then stung the palms of Mannus with a vicious long-range shot before the keeper had to stretch to keep out a shot on the turn from Callum McGregor.

However, Mannus could do nothing to keep out Armstrong's volley just before the break. Mackay-Steven fed Lustig down the left wing and his cut-back from the left was met by Armstrong who fired an unstoppable volley into the net from 12 yards out. Celtic made it 3-1 in the 55th minute through Mackay-Steven. With St Johnstone appealing for a foul on captain Brian Easton, Johansen raced forward and threaded a pass to the Celtic winger who controlled the ball before sending an angled shot beyond Mannus.

The Hoops pushed forward in search of a fourth with McGregor firing over before Mannus saved efforts from Griffiths and Armstrong. St Johnstone came close to reducing the deficit on the hour mark but Celtic keeper Gordon made a point-blank save to deny Liam Craig after O'Halloran used his pace to get behind the Celtic defense again and pick the St Johnstone substitute out in the six-yard box. Elsewhere, Dundee United showed they have the stomach for a relegation battle as the basement club thrashed second bottom Kilmarnock 5-1 to reduce the gap at the bottom to 11 points.—AFP

JUVENTUS COACH PLAYS DOWN CHELSEA LINKS

MILAN: Juventus coach Massimiliano Allegri has played down reports he could become Chelsea's next full-time manager, following the sacking of Jose Mourinho earlier this season. Allegri, who steered Juve to a league and Cup double last season, as well as the Champions League final, was linked to the struggling Premier League giants in tabloid reports yesterday. The Sun newspaper said Chelsea have already made contact with the Juve coach and his representatives and that he is keen to join.

Speaking to the media a day ahead of his side's Serie A clash at home to Roma, Allegri said: "My thoughts are on the championship, the Italian Cup and the Champions League. I have a contract with the club until 2017 and I feel good here." Asked what it felt like to be linked to the Chelsea job currently held by caretaker coach Guus Hiddink, he said: "Its feels normal. When you coach a team like Juventus, that's the way it is. "But I'm fine here and it's only normal that my focus is on what I have to do here."

Allegri, however, is known to be curious about a move to the Premier League and he has been learning English in recent years. Despite being considered an unpopular choice when he was appointed successor to Antonio Conte ahead of last season, the 48-year-old soon won over his detractors. In his first season in charge Allegri took a different approach to Conte, whose main focus during a successful three-year tenure was on record-setting championship wins and making progress in the Champions League. Under Allegri, Juve have spread their efforts over the league and Cup, as well as in Europe, leading to the club's first league and Cup double in 20 years last season.

While Conte failed to get Juve past the quarter-final stages in Europe, Allegri ended the club's 12-year wait to appear in the Champions League final when they ousted Real Madrid in the semi-finals. Juve were outclassed 3-1 by Barcelona in the title encounter, but the fans were won over. Juve had a disastrous start to their title defense this season but have since secured 10 consecutive wins to sit just two points behind leaders Napoli ahead of the weekend matches.— AFP



Juventus' coach Massimiliano Allegri

EMBATTLED ROMA CAN STUN JUVE, SAYS SALAH

MILAN: Egyptian winger Mohamed Salah believes Roma can relaunch their wilting title campaign and upset the formbook by beating Juventus today. Salah has fond memories of playing against the Italian champions having hit a brace for Fiorentina in a Cup semi-final win last year before moving to the capital. And despite Roma looking for their first win in four league games the 23-year-old, who has hit five league goals in 13 appearances for the Giallorossi so far, believes Roma will come out on top."I think we'll win 2-1," Salah told La Stampa newspaper.

"Juventus are a really strong side, but so are we. It's our duty to aim for the best result." Beating Juventus in their current form looks a tall order, even without Roma's troubles. Juventus have consigned their poor start to the campaign to distant memory with a run of 10 consecutive league wins that has moved the champions up to second place, just two points behind leaders Napoli.

Roma are battling to adapt to the tactical changes introduced by Luciano Spalletti, who has returned for a second spell at the club after replacing sacked Frenchman Rudi Garcia 10 days ago. They have drawn their last three games, including a week ago when still winless basement side Verona grabbed a point at the Stadio Olimpico, and slipped to fifth at nine points behind Napoli. Midfielder Radja Nainggolan is among the players to have switched position, Spalletti moving the Belgian international to a more advanced role as he imposes

his own style of play on the team.

Focus on defense

Whether Roma can settle in time for Sunday remains to be seen. Nainggolan admitted Spalletti's changes have been a challenge and hinted Roma might be heading to Turin looking to limit the damage rather than aiming to win. "We have a new playing style and I hope it will lead to some changes-we want to have our say in this league," Nainggolan told www.asroma.it "Spalletti is very clear about the kind of game he wants to see and we're working hard to do that as best as we can." He added: "It's not easy to catch onto his ideas straight away, but we are trying to do it as best as we can. Right now, we're focusing a lot on our defensive game and counting on individual moves up front for our goals."

Juve coach Massimiliano Allegri, reported to have caught the eye of Chelsea, refused to dismiss Roma's title hopes but believes he has a stronger squad, meaning more options to come off the bench and turn a game if needed. One such example is on-loan Chelsea forward Juan Cuadrado. "Roma are one of five candidates for the league title, they're still in contention and tomorrow they'll have their best team out on the pitch," Allegri said yesterday. "I have players who can change the outcome of the match in the last half hour, including Cuadrado; he has come on a lot and has qualities that can be helpful to me, but I have to make choices."—AFP

DEBUTANT AUSTIN PUNISHES DESPERATE MAN UNITED



MANCHESTER: Debutant Charlie Austin's late goal earned Southampton a 1-0 victory at Manchester United yesterday that put the pressure back on beaten manager Louis van Gaal. Austin joined Southampton for £4 million (\$5.7 million, 5.2 million euros) from Queens Park Rangers last week and made a spectacular debut as a substitute at Old Trafford. The striker, a prolific scorer for QPR, Burnley and Swindon Town, had been on the pitch for only seven minutes when he powered home a header from James Ward-Prowse's 87th-minute free-kick. His goal handed United a fifth defeat in 10 games, leaving them five points off the top four, and despite a five-match unbeaten run before this, Van Gaal's side have won just three of their last 13 games.

That record, and the bland style of football that has contributed to it, is doing nothing for Van Gaal's job security and while the Dutchman has been unhappy with speculation about his position, it will only intensify after this latest dismal defeat. United have failed to score at home in seven matches this season and their chances of finishing in the top four to secure Champions League football next season are diminishing fast. Having gone 17 years without an away win over United, Southampton won at Old Trafford for the second season in a row. United's first-half showing was as bad as anything they have served up in a dreary campaign, with the home supporters showing their displeasure before the break.

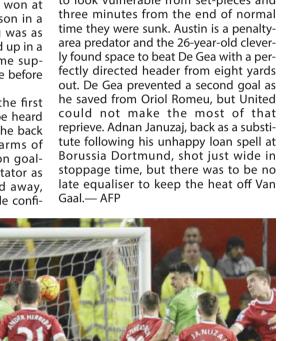
It took just 35 minutes for the first boos and chants of 'Attack!' to be heard after another aimless ball from the back dropped harmlessly into the arms of Fraser Forster. The Southampton goalkeeper had been a virtual spectator as United's promising start faded away, along with their seemingly fragile confi-

dence. Looking to score for the fifth successive game for the first time since 2010, Wayne Rooney tried his luck with a couple of efforts, but they never looked likely to bring him a goal. Wideman Jesse Lingard, whose focus was more on defending than supporting United's attacks, saw a tame shot go wide from a rare foray forward.

Januzaj return

Indeed, it was Southampton who had the best chance to take the lead in the first half. Nine minutes before half-time Dusan Tadic released Sadio Mane with a perfect pass that the forward failed to turn into a serious effort on goal with just David de Gea to beat. The introduction of Juan Mata at half-time in place of Marouane Fellaini lifted the crowd and United's tempo as they finally started to stretch the Southampton defense. Mata and Rooney combined to almost find a way through, but the Saints remained dangerous on the break and it took a brave defensive header from Matteo Darmian to prevent Shane Long from reaching Mane's cross. Darmian was injured in the incident and went off, to be replaced by Paddy McNair. It was a further source of concern for Van Gaal, who has already indicated his desire to try and sign another full-back after losing Ashley Young, Marcos Rojo, Luke Shaw and Antonio Valencia to injury.

McNair replaced Darmian in what was virtually a five-man United defense, and which was almost undone from successive corners as Long and Victor Wanyama both headed wide. United did not heed that warning, though, as they continued to look vulnerable from set-pieces and three minutes from the end of normal time they were sunk. Austin is a penaltyout. De Gea prevented a second goal as tute following his unhappy loan spell at





MANCHESTER: Southampton's English striker Charlie Austin (2nd left) heads the ball to score the opening goal during the English Premier League football match between Manchester United and Southampton yesterday. —AFP

Spurs shatter Palace



LONDON: Dele Alli produced a contender for goal of the season as Tottenham cemented their position in the Premier League's top four with a 3-1 win against Crystal Palace yesterday. Alli has emerged one of the brightest young stars in the topflight this season and the teenage midfielder's meteoric rise gathered pace at Selhurst Park with a moment of magic that put Tottenham on course for a crucial victory. The 19-year-old's sixth club goal of the season was a breathtaking combination of sublime skill and lethal finishing.

And with England manager Roy Hodgson watching from the stands, Alli's stunning strike provided a compelling case for his inclusion in the Euro 2016 squad after he scored on his debut against France last year. More importantly for Mauricio Pochettino's side, they left south London having consolidated fourth place in the race to qualify for the Champions League, while also remaining only five points behind leaders Leicester. Jan Vertonghen's first half own goal had put Palace ahead, but Harry Kane equalized after the interval with his 12th goal in his last 14 league matches and 16th of the season in all competitions.

Alli put Tottenham ahead in the closing stages before Nacer Chadli netted from long-range to give the visitors their fifth win from their last seven league games. After an impressive first half of the season, Palace's momentum has come to a crashing halt during a run of six league games without a win and now a fourth successive defeat. Palace goalkeeper Wayne Hennessey endured heavy criticism for some costly recent errors, but his confidence seemed unshaken when he reacted sharply to tip over Kieran Trippier's miscued cross. The Eagles, without a goal in their previous five matches, gratefully accepted a gift from Tottenham in the 30th minute.

Thunderous

Palace winger Wilfried Zaha found space from a cross and when Vertonghen tried to clear, the Belgium defender only managed to poke the ball into his own net at the near post. Stung by allowing Palace's first league goal for 482 minutes, Tottenham almost bagged an immediate equalizer when Toby Alderweireld's angled shot drifted wide before a thunderous Danny Rose volley produced a good stop from Hennessey.

The much-maligned Hennessey made a pair of good saves to deny Kane early in the second half, but the England international wasn't going to be denied for much longer. In the 63rd minute, Tottenham's pressure finally paid off when substitute Chadli clipped a cross towards Kane and he powered a header past Hennessey from closerange. Palace responded well and Hugo Lloris kept Tottenham on level terms with a diving one-handed save to push away Zaha's curling effort.

Adding to Tottenham's fraying nerves, Vertonghen limped off with what looked like a knee injury in the closing stages. Alan Pardew's side had the momentum and they nearly had the lead when Scott Dann headed against the bar before the ball fell to Mile Jedinak, whose shot also rattled the woodwork. But Tottenham steadied themselves to snatch the points thanks to Alli's gem. With just six minutes left, the teenager received possession with his back to goal and took a delicate touch to flick the ball over his head before turning sharply to drive a low strike past Hennessey from 25 yards. Not to be outdone, Chadli produced a superb goal from 30 yards deep into stoppage-time to put the seal on the visitors' blistering finish. — AFP



SUNDERLAND: Sunderland's Fabio Borini (right) vies for the ball with Bournemouth's Adam Smith during the English Premier League soccer match between Sunderland and Bournemouth yesterday. —AP

A GOAL NOT ENOUGH FOR STRUGGLING SUNDERLAND



SUNDERLAND: Second-bottom Sunderland squandered a chance to close in on Premier League safety as Patrick van Aanholt's strike earned them a 1-1 draw at home to Bournemouth yesterday. The Dutch left-back struck in first-half injury time after January signing Benik Afobe had put Bournemouth ahead with a 13th-minute header that embarrassed recalled Sunderland goalkeeper Vito Mannone. Van Aanholt's goal inched Sunderland to within three points of safety, but with games against United to follow, it was a missed opportunity for Sam Allardyce's side.

Eddie Howe's Bournemouth, beaten only once in six league games on the road, remain 15th, four points clear of third-bottom Newcastle United. Jordan Pickford, 21, had kept goal for Sunderland in their two previous games, but Mannone returned to the starting XI against Bournemouth and was at fault for the first goal. Afobe met Junior Stanislas's bouncing cross from the right with a diving header and although he made decent contact, Mannone got a strong hand to the ball and should have kept it out.

Bournemouth looked to build on their early momentum, with Stanislas unable to turn the ball in after Mannone missed a cross from Marc Pugh, Andrew Surman shooting just wide and Mannone parrying from Stanislas and Afobe. But Sunderland belatedly gained a foothold and after Artur Boruc had saved a header from John

Manchester City, Liverpool and Manchester O'Shea and a deflected Fabio Borini shot, they equalized in first-half stoppage time. Borini, returning to the side in place of Danny Graham, picked out Van Aanholt's run from left-back with a pass between centre-back and full-back and the Dutchman rifled home his second goal in

> It was a goal that will have completely changed the tenor of the half-time team-talks and Sunderland were a different team after the interval. Former Bournemouth striker Jermain Defoe almost caught Boruc out with a dipping shot that sailed inches wide, while Billy Jones headed straight at Boruc from Adam Johnson's right-wing cross. Yann M'Vila also tested Boruc, but the game's momentum tilted again in the latter stages. Matt Ritchie saw a deflected shot trickle narrowly wide and then created a glorious chance for substitute Lewis Grabban, who somehow contrived to shoot wide from five yards.— AFP

BASEMENT CLUB ASTON VILLA BATTLE FOR BAGGIES' POINT



WEST BROMWICH: Aston Villa's modest recovery continued with a goalless draw away to Midlands rivals West Bromwich Albion yesterday. The point extended Villa's unbeaten run to five matches across all competitions, but they remained bottom of the Premier League, six points adrift of second-bottom Sunderland. Villa were unhappy at being denied a first-half penalty when Jordan Ayew was brought down by Jonas Olsson. For the fourth time this season the

Baggies failed to register an attempt on target. Not even forward Saido Berahino, the match-winner in the reverse fixture, could rouse the Baggies in what may prove to be his final league game for the club if he makes a January transfer window move.

Goalkeeper Ben Foster made his first Premier League start since March following a knee injury and he made an important first-half save to deny Ayew. Later, Ayew was somewhat less than convinced he deserved a penalty, despite Olsson's poor challenge. With the match heading towards a stalemate, both managers made changes, with Baggies boss Tony Pulis calling Berahino off the bench and Villa's Remi Garde bringing on Rudy Gestede with 26 minutes left. Gestede's afternoon lasted just 17 minutes because of a hamstring strain as Garde's wait for a first away win in English football continued.—AFP

Matches on TV (Local Timings)

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

Everton v Swansea City 16:30 beIN SPORTS Arsenal v Chelsea 19:00 beIN SPORTS

SPANISH LEAGUE Athletic de Bilbao v Eibar 14:00

beIN SPORTS Atletico v Sevilla 18:00 beIN SPORTS **Deportivo v Valencia** 20:15 beIN SPORTS Real Betis v Real Madrid 22:30 beIN SPORTS

ITALIAN LEAGUE 14:30

Fiorentina v Torino beIN SPORTS Lazio v Chievo Verona 17:00 beIN SPORTS Hellas Verona v Genoa 17:00 beIN SPORTS Sampdoria v SSC Napoli beIN SPORTS Citta v Udinese Calcio 17:00 beIN SPORTS Sassuolo Calcio v Bologna 17:00 beIN SPORTS Inter v Carpi 17:00 beIN SPORTS **Juventus v AS Roma** 22:45 beIN SPORTS

GERMAN LEAGUE

Eintracht v Wolfsburg 17:30 beIN SPORTS Schalke v Werder Bremen 19:30 beIN SPORTS

FRENCH LEAGUE

AS Monaco v Toulouse 16:00 beIN SPORTS **Reims v Saint Etienne** 19:00 beIN SPORTS Lyonnais v Marseille 23:00 beIN SPORTS

IGHALO LIFTS WATFORD TO 2-1 NEWCASTLE WIN



LONDON: Second half goals from Odion Ighalo and Craig Cathcart got Watford back to winning ways with a 2-1 success at home to injury-hit Newcastle yesterday. Ighalo claimed his seventh goal in seven league games at Vicarage Road just after the break with the Nigerian striker setting up Northern Ireland defender Cathcart for the second ten minutes later. Magpies' defender Jamaal Lascelles reduced the deficit with his 71st-minute header following a Jonjo Shelvey cross.

But the hosts held on to end their fourgame losing streak and complete an unprecedented top-flight double against Newcastle. It lifted Quique Sanchez Flores's side to their first win in six league games to sit tenth with 32 points, while Newcastle are stuck in the relegation zone on 21 points. Manager Steve McClaren had to scramble together a makeshift defense as Newcastle struggled with injuries. Lascelles was brought in with Senegalese international midfielder Henri Saivet handed his full debut, and Rolando Aarons, operating as a left wing-back, making his first league start of the season.

New Watford attacking midfielder Nordin Amrabat, who signed from Malaga this week, started on the bench, making his debut late in the game. Aarons, 20, had the first chance of the game, but his half volley went just wide of Heurelho Gomes's left post. There were few chances for either side in the first half with Cathcart failing to open the scoring after six minutes when he picked up a Ben Watson cross only to head wide. Rob Elliot kept out a Troy Deeney shot after 15 minutes, with the Newcastle goalie also clearing an Etienne Capoue goal-bound effort a minute later.

But it was after the break that the match came to life, and within the first minute Capoue sent the ball over the Newcastle defense for Ighalo to beat the offside trap with only Elliot in his way, before firing into an empty net for his 14th goal this season. Watford took control with Ighalo, 26, setting up Cathcart for the second on 58 minutes. Newcastle substitute Ayoze Perez then came on and looked set to score, but his effort from a Moussa Sissoko cross went high and wide. But Lascelles headed home Shelvey's corner with Newcastle pressing for the equaliser, but Watford held on to claim their third victory over the Magpies this season following an FA Cup success earlier this month.—AFP

Warriors welcome Kerr with win, Cavs say goodbye to Blat



Austin punishes desperate Man United 1-0



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BARCELONA BACK ON TOP AFTER MESSI'S STUNNER Page 18



LEICESTER: Leicester's Danny Simpson (left) and Stoke's Mame Biram Diouf battle for the ball during the English Premier League soccer match between Leicester City and Stoke City at the King Power Stadium yesterday. — AP

VARDY STRIKES AS LEICESTER GO TOP AGAIN



LEICESTER: Jamie Vardy rediscovered his Midas touch to extend Leicester City's fairytale season as they regained top spot in the Premier League with a 3-0 win at home to Stoke yesterday. The England striker had not scored for seven matches during which Claudio Ranieri's surprise package had managed only one win and had crashed out of the FA Cup. But Vardy slid home his 16th goal of the season from a tight angle to complete a

miserable afternoon for Stoke City, who lost skipper Ryan Shawcross to injury. Danny Drinkwater, one of the unsung heroes of Leicester's remarkable success story, had opened the scoring three minutes before the break with his first goal of the season.

Drinkwater then turned provider with the 66th minute pass which unlocked the Stoke defense and allowed Vardy to round Jack Butland and apply the finishing touch. To crown a morale-boosting victory for Ranieri's men, substitute Leonardo Ulloa stabbed home a third in the closing stages after a flash of brilliance from Riyad Mahrez. While Leicester can carry on dreaming of the title and possible Champions League football from their perch on top of the Premier League, Stoke were left to reflect on a miserable afternoon in which a recurrence of a back injury for Shawcross was a major concern.

After a fairly uneventful opening to the game, it sprung to life with chances at both ends in quick succession, although it was Leicester who were closer to breaking the deadlock. Within seconds of Jon Walters having a scent of an opportunity at one end, after latching onto Erik Pieters' pass, Vardy had an instinctive shot on the turn following Marc Albrighton's cross.

Mahrez effort

Though Stoke were able to scramble that away for a corner, Christian Fuchs' subsequent ball into the box was met with a scissor kick from Mahrez which flashed past the post. Danny Simpson's sense of awareness led to him producing a vital clearance when Mame Diouf was rose at the far post in anticipation of meeting Xherdan Shaqiri's cross with his head. Stoke were dealt a blow on the half hour when

Shawcross finally had to concede that his back problem picked a up a few minutes earlier wasn't going to allow him to continue. But it did not appear to have an unsettling effect as Marc Wilson dropped into his place, although Shinji Okazaki fired a 20-yard drive over the bar at the end of a Leicester counter attack.

However, the deadlock was broken three minutes before the break when Philipp Wollscheid could only half clear a corner and Drinkwater's low drive was deflected past Butland by Wilson. Stoke were thankful for Ibrahim Afellay's determination when he got back to make a crucial block to prevent Okazaki capitalizing on Mahrez's burst forward and pass to the frontman. They then went close to making the most of that let-off by carving out a good opportunity as Glen Johnson's cross picked out Joselu, but fortunately for Leicester, his close range header was

directed straight at Kasper Schmeichel who was able to save quite comfortably.

Leicester introduced a pair of fresh legs when Ulloa replaced the injured Okazaki and the substitute made his mark immediately with a determined run which took him past three Stoke defenders before he fired his low shot wide of the far post. But the King Power Stadium erupted moments later when Drinkwater struck a pass into the path of Vardy and he outpaced the unfortunate Wilson before waltzing around England teammate Butland and instinctively slipping his low shot into an empty net. Though Stoke rarely threatened to hit back in the closing stages of the game, Leicester put the seal on their emphatic win when Mahrez weaved his way into the box and managed to guide the ball to Ulloa, who gleefully accepted the close-range chance.— AFP

LALLANA DELIVERS LIVERPOOL



NORWICH: Adam Lallana scored a 95thminute winner as Liverpool came from behind to beat Norwich City 5-4 in an extraordinary ding-dong Premier League battle at Carrow Road yesterday. Ex-Everton man Steven Naismith helped Norwich take a 3-1 lead and although they fell 4-3 down, Sebastien Bassong slammed in a 91st-minute equalizer, only for Lallana to have the final say in a frantic finale. Naismith was making his debut after his £8.5 million (\$12.1 million, 11 million euros) move from Everton and his 41st-minute goal put Norwich 2-1 up after Dieumerci Mbokani's back-heel had cancelled out Roberto Firmino's opener.

Wes Hoolahan's 54th-minute penalty, after Alberto Moreno had fouled Naismith, made it 3-1, but goals from Firmino, Jordan Henderson and James Milner put Liverpool ahead before the stoppage-time drama unfolded. Naismith was one of four new signings in Norwich's

match-day squad, with Ivo Pinto, signed from Dinamo Zagreb, also making his debut at right-back, while Timm Klose and Matt Jarvis were on the bench. Norwich's new defenders have been bought to try and shore up the leakiest defence in the top flight, but that went to pot in the 18th minute as Liverpool went ahead.

Jordon Ibe's performance in Liverpool's 3-0 FA Cup win over Exeter in mid-week was enough to get the nod ahead of Lallana and lead the attack in partnership with Firmino. The duo combined neatly after skilful work from Moreno, before Miner slipped Firmino through to beat goalkeeper Declan Rudd with a low shot off the far post. Norwich were determined to meet fire with fire, keeping up with their pressing game, and it bore fruit in the 29th minute. Liverpool failed to clear their lines and when the ball fell to Mbokani, who had his back to goal, he cleverly defied the close marking of Mamadou Sakho to backheel past Simon Mignolet from six yards. The visitors' defensive shortcomings were exposed again 12 minutes later when Hoolahan picked out the angled run of Naismith, who arrowed a low shot across Mignolet and inside the left-hand post.

Moreno's moment of madness came eight minutes into the second half when he slid in on Naismith near the byline on the Norwich right. He got away with it, but then inexplicably had another go at

Naismith from behind and conceded the penalty. Hoolahan beat Mignolet from the spot, going straight down the middle, to net his third goal of the season. Norwich's third goal forced visiting manager Jurgen Klopp's hand and Liverpool pushed further up the pitch in response. They were rewarded a minute later when Nathaniel Clyne found space down the right flank and crossed for Firmino to flick on to captain Henderson, whose finish was emphatic. Liverpool drew level with another sweeping move in the 63rd minute, which left Norwich exposed at the back.

Henderson's cross from the left found Firmino, who drew Rudd from his line before knocking the ball over him and into the net for his fourth goal in three league games. Norwich's propensity to harm themselves continued as skipper Russell Martin gifted the ball to Milner with a needless back-pass from near the halfway line. Milner ran through unchallenged and took a step to his right before slotting past him to put Liverpool ahead. The Canaries thought they had snatched a point when Bassong thumped a low drive in from 20 yards in time added on. But four minutes later Lallana pounced on a loose ball as Norwich's back line failed to clear, driving a left-foot volley into the ground and into the net to send Klopp gambolling down the touchline. — AFP



NORWICH: Norwich City's Congolese striker Dieumerci Mbokani vies with Liverpool's French defender Mamadou Sakho (left) during the English Premier League football match between Norwich City and Liverpool yesterday. — AFP

AGUERO'S DOUBLE RESCUES VITAL POINT FOR CITY TITLE PUSH



MANCHESTER:
Sergio Aguero scored
twice to answer an
Enner Valencia double
for West Ham United
and earn Manchester
City a crucial point in
their push to regain
the Premier League
title yesterday. Not for
the first time City

were thankful to their Argentine luminary who twice struck when the 2014 champions found themselves behind to the excellent home side in a vibrant contest. The Hammers' livewire Ecuadorian Valencia had put them ahead after 53 seconds with a sharp shot but City responded within eight minutes, Aguero equalizing from the penalty spot after he had been fouled by Carl Jenkinson.

West Ham, inspired by the dazzling creativity of Dimitri Payet, took a second-half lead through a mixture of opportunism from Valencia and shocking defending by Nicolas Otamendi who dozed as the Ecuadorian nipped in to latch on to a long throw. City, though, secured a point when, nine minutes from time, a loose ball bobbled to Aguero who coolly converted his 12th league goal of the season. West Ham almost clinched the points at the last gasp when Cheikhou Kouyate headed against the bar. — Reuters

Kuwait Times SINESS

Tsipras facing the music after rollercoaster year in power

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IMF revises its global growth estimates lower

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All-New 2016 KIA Optima unveiled at Marina Mall

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Career resolutions you need to make in 2016

DAVOS: (From L) Journalist Martin Wolf, International Monetary Fund (IMF) Managing Director Christine Lagarde, British Finance Minister George Osborne, Indian Finance Minister Arun Jaitley, Governor of the Bank of Japan Haruhiko Kuroda and Ivory Coast-born French Credit Suisse CEO Tidjane Thiam attend a session of the World Economic Forum annual meeting yesterday in Davos. — AFP

NORMAL: LAGARDE

IMF CHIEF SEEKS MORE ON CHINESE CURRENCY MOVES

phe for the global economy and that the jolts hitting financial markets were "very normal".

Lagarde spoke on the last day of the World Economic Forum in the Swiss ski resort of Davos where news this week of decreasing growth in China, the world's second biggest economy, spooked attendees from the global financial elite. But Lagarde told a panel: "We are not seeing a hard landing... We are seeing an evolution, a big transition which is going to be bumpy.

"We have to get used to it and it's a very normal and proper way to actually move towards a more sustainable and a more quality growth we all hope," she said. The Chinese government announced this week that its economy grew by 6.9 percent in 2015, the slowest rate in a quarter century.

Worries of a weak Chinese economy had already sown fears across global markets with share prices plummeting since January 1, also affected by low oil prices as a supply glut destabilizes fragile energy-producing countries. "What on earth is going on is simply the worst start of any year on the record on financial markets ever, it's simple," said French banker Tidjane Thiam, the CEO of Credit Suisse.

"The market is very worried about China of

DAVOS: IMF chief Christine Lagarde yesterday said course. They fear we will fall into a global recession," would not be a particularly good idea ... Some of it percent for 2015 and feared the Chinese economy the slowdown in China would not bring catastrohe said. British finance minister George Osborne, was already used." who also faced questions about Britain notentially voting to leave the European Union, said China had overshadowed proceedings at Davos.

"The world has not been very good over previous centuries at accommodating rising powers and it has often led to unhappy outcomes," Osborne said bleakly. "I think it is massively in our interest that we bring China into the multilateral institutions of the world," he said.

Currency jitters

Financial markets need more clarity on how Chinese authorities are managing their currency, particularly the relationship of the yuan to the US dollar, Lagarde said. Sharp swings in the yuan have contributed, along with a dramatic fall in the price of oil, to global market volatility since the beginning of 2016.

Bank of Japan Governor Haruhiko Kuroda, speaking on the same panel at the WEF in Davos, said he believed China should use capital controls to stabilize its currency while keeping domestic monetary policy loose.

Asked whether she would back capital controls by China for a period, Lagarde avoided a direct reply but said: "Certainly a massive use of reserves

She said that the market needed "clarity and certainty" about China's exchange rate basket "in particular with reference to the dollar, which has always been the reference".

"That would be the right move to make," she added. Kuroda said China was right to keep monetary policy accommodative to help cushion the country's transition from a export-led industrial economy to a demand-driven consumer economy without excessive depreciation of the yuan.

"This is my personal view and may not be shared by Chinese authorities, but in this kind of contradictory situation, capital control could be useful to manage exchange rate as well as domestic monetary policy in a consistent, appropriate

He said Beijing was struggling to avoid either an excessive depreciation or an excessive appreciation of its currency. Chinese economic data signalling slowing growth in the world's second-largest economy have sent investors into a panic globally in the first three weeks of 2016, with oil prices also plung-

ing as a result of oversupply in the market. Credit Suisse CEO Tidjane Thiam told the Davos panel that many people in the markets did not necessarily believe China's official growth figure of 6.9

was facing a "hard landing". "We believe China will have a soft landing, not a hard landing. A lot in people in the market believe demand in China is

decreasing. We don't agree," he said. Part of the market slide was due to a massive distressed sales of assets by sovereign wealth funds and asset managers prompted by falling oil prices, Thiam added.

Both Lagarde and Kuroda suggested investors could trust China's official growth data.

The Chinese central bank has been generous with liquidity, pumping a net 315 billion yuan (\$48 billion) into the banking system ahead of the Lunar New Year holiday in early February.

It was the biggest weekly injection since January 2014 and analysts suspected it was larger than that warranted to avoid any hint of a cash crunch during the long holiday.

According to sources, Zhang Xiaohui, an assistant governor of the central bank, said it would not rush to cut the amount of cash banks must hold in reserves, as doing so could send a strong signal on policy easing. Yi Gang, a vice governor of the central bank, also said it would keep the yuan basically stable against a basket of currencies.

Italian Economy Minister Pier Carlo Padoan told Reuters the IMF board's decision to include China's yuan in the basket of major currencies used to calculate the Special Drawing Right in which the Fund lends to members was "an additional posit straint" on China's management of its currency. Lagarde herself was also an issue at Davos, as she quietly campaigned to win backing for a second mandate as IMF managing director. With her term coming to an end in July, the IMF formally began accepting nominations on Thursday for who will guide the global crisis lender for the next five years.

The biggest powers governing the Washingtonbased Fund, including Britain Germany and France, all gave their support to Lagarde this week.

In her first term, she was deeply involved in the decision to add the Chinese yuan to the IMF's basket of reserve currencies, a highly symbolic move appreciated by Beijing.

Her plans to run again nonetheless face a potential hurdle: she could stand trial in France over her role in a banking scandal that predates her arrival at the IMF. In December, judges placed her under formal investigation in the long-running affair of former Adidas boss Bernard Tapie, who received a large state payout for his dispute with a state bank during her time as finance minister. Lagarde has said she will fight the trial order, and the IMF executive board at the time reiterated its confidence in her. — Agencies

IRAN SET TO BE HOOKED UP TO GLOBAL BANKS IN WEEKS

LONDON: Iran is set to re-engage with the banking world within weeks as international lenders link up with their Iranian counterparts using global transaction network SWIFT, Iran's Middle East Bank and a senior central bank official told Reuters on Friday.

A nuclear deal between world powers and Iran led to the removal of the curbs on Tehran's banking, insurance and shipping sectors last weekend, as well as restrictions on oil exports.

But for Iran to resume business with the global banking world - for the first time since 2012 - its banks need to be linked to overseas lenders on SWIFT. The system, the Society for the Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunications, is used to transmit payments and letters of credit.

"We have sent almost 40 SWIFTs to different banks around the world and we have requested that now that the sanctions are lifted, we would like to exchange documents and whether they will consider a correspondent banking relationship," said Parviz Aghili, chief executive and managing director of Tehranbased Middle East Bank, "Some of them have come back and have asked for various questions, for documents they need." "My feeling is it is going to take a couple of weeks or so before we start to see proper re-engagement. It will be slowly, slowly," he said in an interview.

Aghili said other Iranian banks were in the same situation regarding SWIFT as his company, which is listed on the Tehran Stock Exchange and has total assets of around \$1 bil-

A senior official with Iran's central bank also told Reuters the transaction links would soon be restored. "Really, it is a matter of just a few weeks, less than a month. Because all of our banks, whether private or state-owned banks, have taken the necessary bureaucratic steps, regarding rejoining the SWIFT system," the official said on Friday.

SWIFT did not respond to a request for comment on the status of communication between Iranian and international banks on its system.

Adhili added: "SWIFT has been turned on - it has always been on. The main issue has been we did not have proper correspondent banking relationships with so many banks around the world and because of sanctions, our SWIFTs remained unanswered."

Middle East Bank, which is smaller than state-owned players such as Bank Melli, Bank Mellat and Bank Saderat, is owned by investors including small and medium-sized Iranian

'IRAN VERY ATTRACTIVE'

While international banks are expected to link up with their Iranian counterparts via SWIFT, Iran will also be looking to encourage foreign institutions to expand involvement in the country's financial system. But for many foreign banks, there are concerns about being caught up in ongoing US sanctions.

Many international sanctions relating to Iran's nuclear program were lifted but most

involving US measures remain in place. Non-US banks may trade with Iran without fear of punishment in the United States but US banks may not do so, directly or indirectly.

Washington's sanctions prevent US nationals, banks and insurers from trading with Iran and also prohibit any trades with Iran in US dollars from being processed via the US financial system. This is a significant complication given the dollar's role as the world's main business

European banks are also cautious - with some, including Deutsche Bank, remembering past fines from US regulators for breaking sanctions, though Commerzbank has said it is reviewing its policy of not doing business in

The Iranian central bank official said banks from European countries including Germany, France, Britain and Italy, had been in talks to open branches after the lifting of sanctions.

"God willing, soon we will witness that too. Iran is a very attractive market for business and they know that," the official said. By contrast, Aghili said he expected bigger banks to wait at least six to 12 months before they would look at doing serious business in the country.

'The smaller banks who do not have that involvement in the US market will be prepared to work with Iranian banks," Aghili said. "But even these smaller banks expect proper antimoney laundering checks and they have to check it and they will also require counter-parties to check it." — Reuters

IRAN, CHINA AGREE \$600BN TRADE DEAL AFTER SANCTIONS

DUBAI: Iran and China agreed to expand bilateral ties and increase trade to \$600 billion in the next 10 years, President Hassan Rouhani said yesterday during a visit to Tehran by Chinese President Xi

Xi is the second leader of a UN Security Council member to visit Tehran after the nuclear deal Iran struck with world powers last year. Russian President Vladimir Putin visited Tehran in November.

Iran emerged from years of economic isolation this month when the United Nations' nuclear watchdog ruled it had curbed its nuclear program, clearing the way for the lifting of UN, US, and European Union sanctions.

"Iran and China have agreed to increase trade to \$600 billion in the next 10 years," Rouhani said at a news conference with Xi broadcast live on state television.

"Iran and China have agreed on forming strategic relations (as) reflected in a 25-year comprehensive document," he said. Iran and China signed 17 accords yesterday, including on cooperation in nuclear energy and a revival of the ancient Silk Road trade route, known in China as One Belt, One

"China is still heavily dependent on Iran for its energy imports and Russia needs Iran in terms of its new security architecture vision for the Middle East," said Ellie Geranmayeh, policy fellow at the European Council on Foreign Relations.

"Iran plays quite an integral role for both China and Russia's interests within the region, much more than it does for the Europeans," Geranmayeh said.

NEW MARKETS

Xi was quoted as saying by China's Xinhua news agency: "The China-Iran friendship ... has stood the test of the vicissitudes of the international landscape."

The Chinese state-backed Global Times newspaper said in an editorial on Saturday that China hoped to improve ties with Iran as part of its sweeping plan to rebuild trade links with Europe and Asia and carve out new markets for its goods. "China is of course considering its self interest in strengthening cooperation with Iran, especially at a time when China is in the midst of expending efforts to push forward the One Belt, One Road initiative, Iran is an important fulcrum," the paper said.

Rouhani said the countries had also agreed to cooperate on "terrorism and extremism in Iraq, Syria, Afghanistan and Yemen". China signalled its support for Yemen's government, which is fighting an Iranallied militia, during Xi's visit to Saudi Arabia, Iran's rival for influence in the region, this week.

Iran has called on China to join the fight against the Islamic State militant group and play a more active role in the region. Tehran is widely credited with convincing Russia to start its military intervention in Syria and join the fight against Islamic State.

"Although China and Russia backed UN sanctions against Iran on its nuclear program, they were also heavily pushing for special waivers to continue trading with Iran," Geranmayeh said.

"Iran had a relationship both politically and economically with China and Russia for the last ten years in ways that it hasn't had with Europe. So it's quite natural to see it opening up first to these countries."

The Chinese president was to meet Iran's most powerful figure, Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, later in the day. — Reuters



CAREER RESOLUTIONS YOU NEED TO MAKE IN 2016

KUWAIT: Losing weight, exercising to determine areas where there is a more, and even making new friends are popular pledges people make at the beginning of a new year. But have you thought about improving your career? Do you have plans for your professional life in the year - and years - to come? If you're satisfied looking back at your career in 2015, you might enter 2016 on a good trajectory and be tempted to sit tight. Whether you're satisfied in your career or looking for something better, make the New Year a time for action.

Here, the career experts at Bayt.com, the Middle East's leading job site, compiled a list of the top four career resolutions that you need to make this year:

1. Know what skills are in demand Each year, Bayt.com conducts studies growing gap in the number of employees needed to fill new job openings. Based on data from the Bayt.com Middle East Job Index survey, August 2015, employers in the Middle East are looking for candidates who have good communication skills in Arabic and English (65 percent), who can work under pressure (49 percent), and are team players (48 percent). In terms of experience, candidates who have the ability to manage a team (40 percent), computer skills (31 percent), and have mid-level experience of 3 to 7 years (30 percent) are the most sought after. The same survey also projects a current and upcoming need for HR professionals (20 percent), accountants (18 percent), sales managers (15 percent), and mechanical engineers (15

BAYT.COM WEEKLY REPORT

percent). Use these sources to find out if the need for your skills is growing or shrinking, and adapt your career plans accordingly.

2. Update your CV

Keeping your CV up to date is important for several reasons. For one, if a recruiter or a friend-of-a-friend calls out of the blue with a great job opportunity, you're going to want to have it ready to go. It's also a lot easier to update your accomplishments periodically, when they're fresh in your mind. The Bayt.com poll on modern job search in the Middle East, November 2013, goes into detail on what the ideal CV looks like for employers in the Middle East region. In

terms of length, a short and concise CV that is no longer than one page is the preferred format for the majority of respondents (42.5 percent). Experience is considered to be the most important element in a CV (25 percent), followed by skills (19 percent). Less important are education at 10 percent, a career objective statement at 7 percent, and lastly, any awards, badges and endorsementsall at 6 percent.

3. Expand your network

Contrary to popular belief, the best time to network isn't when you're looking for a job-it's long before that. In fact, having a broad, diverse network already in place will make the job search that much easier. Like sales, networking comes easily to some people and is excruciating for others. The good news is that online networking sites like Bayt.com Specialties have become a common ground for keeping in touch and re-connecting with peers, colleagues and potential employers. If you're introverted and it's easier for you to network online, then use these tools to your advantage.

4. Save more money

No job is totally secure and in today's job market it makes a lot of sense not to be reckless with your spending habits. So whatever your income level, always aim to put a fraction away for a rainy day. According to the Bayt.com Salary Survey 2015, about a fifth (22 percent) of respondents received a salary raise of only 1 percent - 5 percent in 2014.

VW PROBE FINDS MANIPULATION WAS OPEN SECRET IN DEPARTMENT

Volkswagen declines comment, cites ongoing investigation

FRANKFURT: Volkswagen's development of software to cheat dieselemissions tests was an open secret in its engine development department, Germany's Sueddeutsche Zeitung newspaper said on Friday, citing results from VW's internal investigation.

Many managers and staff dealing with emissions problems in the department knew of or were involved in developing the "defeat devices", said the newspaper, which researched the matter with regional broadcasters NDR and WDR.

A culture of collective secrecy prevailed within the department, where the installation of the defeat software that would cause the carmaker's biggest ever corporate crisis was openly discussed as long ago as 2006, Sueddeutsche said.

But it said there were exceptions: a whistleblower, who was himself involved in the deception and has been giving evidence to investigators hired by Volkswagen, alerted a senior manager outside the department in 2011.

This manager, however, did not react, the newspaper said. Staff members in engine development felt pressure from the management board to find a cost effective solution to develop clean diesel

engines for the US market. Rather than telling Volkswagen's management board the rules could not be adhered to, staff members in engine development decided to push ahead with manipulation, Sueddeutsche reported.

"Within the company there was a culture of 'we can do everything', so to say something cannot be done, was not acceptable," Sueddeutsche Zeitung said, quoting the VW internal report which included testimony from a staff member who took part in the fraud.

"Instead of coming clean to the management board that it cannot be done, it was decided to commit fraud," Sueddeutsche reported in its Saturday edition. Staff in engine development took comfort from the fact that regulators would not be able to detect the fraud using conventional examination techniques, the paper further said.

Engine management software delivered by Bosch was then manipulated in Wolfsburg, where Volkswagen has its headquarters, Sueddeutsche Zeitung said. Manipulation started in November 2006, Sueddeutsche Zeitung said.

Volkswagen has said that to the best of its knowledge only a small circle of people knew about the manipulation, which Europe's biggest carmaker admitted to U.S. environmental authorities in September last year.

It has said it is not aware of any involvement by top management or supervisory board members in the affair, which toppled its chief executive last year and is likely to cost billions of dollars for recalls,

technical fixes and lawsuits.

A Volkswagen spokesman declined to comment on Friday on what he called "speculation", saying the investigation - for which Volkswagen has hired US law firm Jones Day - was continuing.

Contacted by Reuters late on Friday, Jones Day in Munich said its spokespeople had left for the day. The Sueddeutsche Zeitung said the whistleblower was being investigated by prosecutors in Braunschweig. Braunschweig prosecutors did not immediately return calls from Reuters late on Friday. Volkswagen initiated an amnesty program last year for witnesses who could shed light on the scandal, promising not to fire employees who came forward with information by Nov 30. The carmaker plans to give the first public results of its investigation at the annual shareholders' meeting in April. —

AMEX SHARES FALL AS FORECAST POINTS TO IDENTITY CRISIS

NEW YORK: American Express Co shares on Friday had their worst day in more than six years as the company's disappointing earnings forecast for the full year raised doubts about the future of its business model. AmEx shares plummeted as much as 13.6 percent to \$54.14, a day after the company reported fourth-quarter results and its outlook for 2016 and 2017.

The company, which has historically catered to upscale consumers and has attempted to woo big businesses into partnerships, has been trying to rebrand itself over the last few years.

Competitive pressure on the credit card issuer has increased and it lost long-term partnerships with Fidelity Investments and retailer Costco Wholesale Corp. "We expect management's cautious commentary around growing competitive intensity to fuel speculation around the viability of its business model," Nomura analyst Bill Carcache wrote in a note.

Kenneth Chenault, AmEx's chief executive disagreed in a conference call with analysts, citing the "underlying strength of the business model."

The company has a "great set of assets to draw upon, including a trusted brand, financial strength, an integrated business model, world class service and a history of innovation," he said in a press release. But competition

and the company's attempts to expand its customer bases eroded its profitability on multiple fronts and intensified in the past year.

To keep banks from taking its deals to issue co-branded cards with Delta Air Lines Inc, British Airways and Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide, for example, AmEx had to renegotiate contracts earlier than planned and at lower prices.

To counter the appeal to consumer of cards from banks, including Capital One Financial Corp and Citigroup Inc, offering cash back of 1.5 percent and 2 percent of purchases, AmEx has had to increase its offers.

And, to convince more small businesses to take its cards as well as Visa Inc's and MasterCard Inc's brands, AmEx launched its OptBlue program with lower costs for smaller merchants.

The OptBlue program risks "cannibalizing," or lowering, the higher profit margins it gets from other merchants, UBS analyst Matthew Howlett wrote in a note.

The company said it may take additional restructuring charges this year because of new regulations in Europe on how much it can charge merchants. AmEx's shares closed down 12.1 percent at \$55.06. The shares have lost more than 40 percent of their value since the beginning of 2015. — AP

BULGARI TARGETS CHINESE SHOPPERS WITH MAINLAND BOUTIQUES

DAVOS, Switzerland: Bulgari is buy abroad due to security fears, stricter customs checks and a devaluation of its currency. The world's third-largest watch and jewelry brand, part of luxury goods powerhouse LVMH, plans to open two boutiques in mainland China this year, Bulgari's CEO said, on top of three last year.

mainland investments," Bulgari Chief Executive Jean-Christophe Babin told Reuters at the World Economic Forum in Davos.

China's economy grew 6.9 percent last year, its slowest rate in 25 years, putting a damper on Chinese sales of everything from food to trips abroad. These foreign

KUWAIT OIL PRICE UP \$2.41 TO \$21.91PB

KUWAIT: The price of Kuwaiti oil went up \$2.41 to settle at \$21.91 per barrel compared to \$19.50 pb Friday, said Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) yesterday.

In the world market, the price of oil rose due to a surge of cold wave that hit the US and Europe, which created an increase of demand on oil for heating purposes. —KUNA

"If you see there is a potential visits have often been a launch controls on what they bring back, investing more than ever in China, swing with more mainland and pad for purchases of luxury items, Babin said, adding that watches aiming to tap in to the growing less travel proportion, it's one since they would avoid the hefty are subject to a 30 percent levy reluctance of Chinese shoppers to more reason to speed up your taxes levied in China.

> But Babin said some Chinese consumers have become nervous about traveling to Europe and other places, due to the November attacks in Paris, where 130 people were killed. "If we sell fewer watches to Chinese when they travel-Paris obviously because people are a bit scaredwe see conversely a strong increase in our business in China mainland."

The shift to domestic purchases is also being fueled by the devaluation of the Chinese currency, which makes it more expensive to buy abroad, as well as stepped-up checks by Chinese customs on purchases made abroad.

Chinese tourists returning from overseas trips are becoming subject to stricter-than-ever customs

plus a penalty that is a multiple of that for anyone caught not declaring the purchase.

"People are quite scared to buy a \$10,000 watch in Hong Kong, Zurich or Tokyo and eventually have to pay twice as much as they originally paid," Babin said.

Bulgari, with annual sales estimated between 1.5 and 2 billion euros, is No. 3 behind Richemont's Cartier and Tiffany. "More than ever it makes a lot of sense for Bulgari to invest in China," said

Chinese consumers, whether shopping at home or abroad, make up more than 30 percent of sales of Swiss watches, and are notorious lovers of luxury goods in general. Babin declined to give specific sales figures for its divisions, which also include leather goods and hotels. — Reuters



DAVOS: Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund Christine Lagarde (left) and Swiss Minister of Environment, Transport and Energy Doris Leuthard (right) speak together during a panel session on the first day of the 46th Annual Meeting of the World Economic Forum, WEF, in Davos. The overarching theme of the Meeting, which takes place from 20 to 23 January, is "Mastering the Fourth Industrial Revolution". — AP

Moroccan Dirhams

Nigerian Naira

Omani Riyal

Qatar Riyal

Saudi Riyal

Syrian Pound

Turkish Lira **UAE Dirhams**

Tunisian Dinar

Yemeni Riyal

EXCHANGE RATES

AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

	ASIAN COUNTRIES
Japanese Yen	2.560
Indian Rupees	4.501
Pakistani Rupees	2.897
Srilankan Rupees	2.118
Nepali Rupees	2.815
Singapore Dollar	214.080
Hongkong Dollar	38.980
Bangladesh Taka	3.873
Philippine Peso	6.350
Thai Baht	8.450

GCC COUNTRIES Saudi Riyal Qatari Riyal 83.551 Omani Riyal 790.021 Bahraini Dinar 807.760 **UAE Dirham** 82.811

A	RAB COUNTRIE
Egyptian Pound - Cash	38.550
Egyptian Pound - Transfe	er 38.890
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.419
Tunisian Dinar	149.170
Jordanian Dinar	428.440
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	2.027
Syrian Lira	2.168
Morocco Dirham	31.179

EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES

US Dollar Transfer	304.000
Euro	333.250
Sterling Pound	437.150
Canadian dollar	216.910
Turkish lira	101.300
Swiss Franc	302.490
Australian Dollar	215.840
US Dollar Buying	302.800

GOLD 20 Gram 225.300 115.570 10 Gram 5 Gram 58.630

UAE EXCHANGE CENTRE WLL

CURRENCIES	TELEX TRANSFER PER 1000
Australian Dollar	198.53
Canadian Dollar	211.29
Swiss Franc	308.28
Euro	336.12
US Dollar	304.30
Sterling Pound	433.24
Japanese Yen	2.64
Bangladesh Taka	3.879
Indian Rupee	4.483
Sri Lankan Rupee	2.119
Nepali Rupee	2.798
P0kistani Rupee	2.897
UAE Dirhams	0.08281
Bahraini Dinar	0.8087
Egyptian Pound	0.03876
Jordanian Dinar	0.4328
Omani Riyal	0.7902
Qatari Riyal	0.08390

DOLLARCO EXCHANGE CO. LTD

0.08111

	6 III . D .
Rate for Transfer	Selling Rate
US Dollar	304.350
Canadian Dollar	209.745
Sterling Pound	431.695
Euro	334.625
Swiss Frank	305.475
Bahrain Dinar	805.175
UAE Dirhams	83.105
Qatari Riyals	84.320

Saudi Riyal

Saudi Riyals	81.840
Jordanian Dinar	428.735
Egyptian Pound	38.757
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.119
Indian Rupees	4.475
Pakistani Rupees	2.897
Bangladesh Taka	3.871
Philippines Pesso	6.367
Cyprus pound	579.695
Japanese Yen	3.600
Syrian Pound	2.380
Nepalese Rupees	3.795
Malaysian Ringgit	70.420
Chinese Yuan Renminbi	46.605
Thai Bhat	9.365
Turkish Lira	99.960

DATIDATAL EVOLUANCE COMPANI

BAHRAIN E	XCHANGE C	OMPANY
CURRENCY	BUY Europe	SELL
British Pound	0.428174	0.437174
Czech Korune	0.004219	0.016219
Danish Krone	0.040217	0.045217
Euro	0.323777	0.331777
Norwegian Krone	0.030823	0.036023
Romanian Leu	0.087205	0.087205
Slovakia	0.009081	0.019081
Swedish Krona	0.031566	0.036566
Swiss Franc	0.293260	0.303460
Turkish Lira	0.095638	0.105938
	Australasia	
Australian Dollar	0.205220	0.216720
New Zealand Dollar	0.191600	0.201100
	America	
Canadian Dollar	0.209802	0.218302
US Dollars	0.299900	0.304400

US Dollars Mint 0.300400 0.304400 Bangladesh Taka 0.003519 0.004119 0.044805 0.048305 Chinese Yuan 0.037123 0.039873 Hong Kong Dolla Indian Rupee 0.004219 0.004609 0.000023 Indonesian Rupiał 0.000017 0.002681 0.002501 Japanese Yen Kenyan Shilling 0.003159 0.003159 0.000259 0.000244 Korean Won 0.066864 Malaysian Ringgi 0.072864 Nepalese Rupee 0.002882 0.003052 0.002886 Pakistan Rupee 0.002606 0.006275 0.006555 Philippine Peso 0.000067 0.000073 Sierra Leone Singapore Dollar 0.209842 0.215842 South African Rand 0.012505 0.021005 Sri Lankan Rupee 0.001763 0.002343 0.008927 Taiwan Thai Baht 0.008138 0.008688 Arab Bahraini Dinar 0.799476 0.807476 **Egyptian Pound** 0.035418 0.039754 Iranian Riyal 0.000084 0.000085 Iraqi Dinar 0.000200 0.000260 Jordanian Dinar 0.424776 0.432276 Kuwaiti Dinar 1.000000 1.000000 Lebanese Pound 0.000152 0.000252

0.021514

0.001256 0.001891

0.783190 0.788870

0.082790 0.084003

0.080180 0.081130

0.001289 0.001509 0.145708 0.153708

0.095638 0.105938

0.081787 0.082936

0.001374 0.001454

0.045514

STOCK MARKET TUMBLE COULD KEEP PENSION FUNDS BEHIND

NEW YORK: The slide on Wall Street could damage public employee pension funds around the country, most of which haven't even recovered from the Great Recession, and the burden could end up falling on tax-

Stocks have been tumbling in the first weeks of 2016, with the Dow Jones industrial average and the S&P 500 down nearly 9 percent since the start of the year.

If there's a quick rebound, the slump won't make much difference. If the tumble continues, it could be bad news for pensions. Somewhere down the line, states may have to either cut benefits - which can be legally or politically difficult - or pump more tax dollars into their pension funds to make sure retirees get what they were promised. Pension funds for government employees in many places are already struggling to bring in enough money to cover future payouts. Data compiled by the Pew Charitable Trusts found that only four states - Oklahoma, Rhode Island, South Dakota and Wisconsin - had amassed funding for a bigger portion of their pension liabilities in 2013 than in 2007, a year before stocks fell dramatically.

The average state-run plan went from being 86 percent funded before the Great Recession to 72 percent in 2013, the last year for which data was available. Despite strong returns on Wall Street from 2009 through mid-2015, most states saw funding declines for a variety of reasons, including higher payouts because of longer lifespans and generous benefits that were promised during flush times.

Fluctuations

States such as California, Illinois, Kentucky and New Jersey didn't come close to making the taxpayer contributions they are required to make to their pension funds.

Pension fund officials in states as varied as California and West Virginia said they are not worried about short-term market fluctuations because they are diversified, longterm investors.

"For the most part, we are in it for the long haul," said Christine Radogno, the Republican state Senate leader in Illinois, which faces the nation's largest unfunded pension liability, at more than \$100 billion,

and is in a tough spot because the courts cal studies at the Rockefeller Institute of have ruled that employees' benefits can't be cut. "We look at 30-year returns, and the market is always up and down."

Keith Brainard, research director at the National Association of State Budget Administrators, noted that market drops can be a good opportunity to buy low on stocks that will rise in value before long. These funds measure themselves in terms of their performance over decades rather than months, days and years," he said.

But some people who track government finance say even short-term returns are important. "They can say they're longterm investors, but they have fixed payments that they must meet come hell or high water," said Don Boyd, director of fisGovernment, part of the State University of New York. "Illinois is very different than, say, a rich family creating a trust fund for a wayward son." While the family could reduce the son's payout when returns are low, there's little wiggle room for states to shrink payments to growing numbers of retirees, he said. Boyd issued a report this week that found that from July through September of 2015, stock market losses led to a \$268 billion increase in pension fund debt across the country, bringing the total to \$1.7 trillion. He said he believes a strong end of the year on the stock market canceled out those losses, but the past few weeks erased the gains and then



DAVOS: (From left) Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund Christine Lagarde, left, shakes hands with Indian's Finance Minister Arun Jaitley (second right) as Britain's Chancellor of the Exchequer George Osborne (second left) and Governor of the Bank of Japan Haruhiko Kuroda stand next to them after a panel "The Global Economic Outlook" at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland yesterday. —AP

ECONOMIC CRISIS RATTLES BRAZIL AS OLYMPIC YEAR STARTS

SAO PAULO: Brazil hoped to start 2016 making itself pretty for its turn on the world stage when its hosts the summer Olympics. Instead attention has turned to its deepening economic crisis. The world's seventh largest economy tipped into recession last year-official figures show that 1.5 million jobs were destroyed.

The downturn is due to last throughout this year, the International Monetary Fund says. That would be the first two-year recession since the 1930s in Latin America's economic powerhouse.

'This year started with very bad news," said Manuel Enriquez, an economist at Sao Paulo University. "The economic outlook for Brazil is very bad for 2016 and also for the

The IMF said it expected Brazil's economy to contract 3.5 percent this year and remain stagnant in 2017. It shrank by 3.8 percent in 2015, according to the fund.

A finance scandal that sparked impeachment proceedings against leftist President Dilma Rousseff has aggravated the crisis.

"There is no confidence in the government. Businesses are mistrustful and people are afraid of losing their jobs," said Enriquez. "The banks are afraid that loans won't be paid back. All this is creating a negative atmosphere in which there is no way to stimulate demand"

Ratings agencies Fitch and Standard & Poor's have downgraded Brazil, criticizing its failure to clean up its public finances.

Aside from the political chaos swirling around the president, state oil firm Petrobras was engulfed in a corruption scandal last year. That and the plunging oil price battered the giant company, which has dragged down the Sao Paulo stock market. "Petrobras shares are cheaper than a cup of coffee," said Enriquez.

shined for a decade as an emerging star. The glow however faded last year as the price of oil and other raw materials that Brazil exports plunged.

WASHINGTON: The world's central banks

are under pressure to do something about

slumping economies and panicky stock mar-

kets. The question is, can - or will - they do

signaled this week that there's "no limit" to

how far the ECB would go to restore the

health of the continent's fragile economy.

The Bank of Japan is considering expanding

its easy-money policies as soon as next week

to fight feeble growth and dangerously low

inflation. And, in the view of many econo-

mists, the Federal Reserve may have to

rethink its plans to slowly but steadily raise

Fed official Joseph Gagnon, senior fellow at

the Peterson Institute for International

"Everything is going South," says former

US interest rates. The Fed meets next week.

The head of the European Central Bank

much that would help?

Foreign investors have pulled out of the country, and over 2015 the real currency lost a third of its value against the dollar. On Thursday the real hit its weakest point ever at 4.166 reals to the dollar, after Brazil's central bank held off from raising interest rates.

Inflation is running at more than 10 percent, which had raised expectations of a rate rise to rein it in. The conflicting pressures of inflation and high interest rates put the gov ernment and central bankers in a bind.

Analysts said the government feared a rate hike would squeeze the domestic economy at a painful time. During the bank's deliberations the IMF released its dire economic forecast and the bank soon after held off on raising rates. "By setting the market to follow through, the Central Bank of Brazil has shot itself in the foot," wrote Neil Shearing, an analyst with financial consultancy Capital Economics.

The obvious conclusion is that policymakers have bowed to government pressure not to increase rates in the face of rising inflation."

The China effect

Jose Luiz Pimenta Junior, a specialist trade consultant, said Brazil must diversify its exports beyond minerals and grain. "The internal situation is complicated. The slowdown in China and the rise in US interest rates will take away capital and investments. How will we survive?" he said.

"We should think not only in terms of quantity but also quality, and go looking for growth abroad." The question of whether the impeachment against Rousseff will proceed is likely to be resolved next month when Brazil's legislature reconvenes. That could be a turning point.

"There is a recession, the public accounts are in deficit and inflation is high," said strength and concentrate on economic recovery." —AFP

TSIPRAS FACING THE MUSIC AFTER ROLLERCOASTER YEAR IN POWER

Creditors do not seem to share Greece's urgency for debt deal

ATHENS: He came to power vowing a debt revolution, but after a rollercoaster year of economic meltdown forcing him to abandon his election promises, a less bouncy but still charismatic Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras is facing the

His leftist government has been whittled down to a parliamentary majority of three, his popular appeal is slipping, and Greece's international creditors do not seem to share his urgency for a debt deal to jumpstart the country's recovery.

On Monday, Greece will mark a year under the first leftist government in its history. A day earlier, Tsipras will address his party in a celebratory speech, promising that the upturn is just around the corner. "I believe 2016 will be the year that Greece will surprise the world economic community," Tsipras told Bloomberg TV in Davos this week.

"I'm confident that all our partners want a successful and timely concluded review because they can understand that time is part of our strategy," he said. "If we manage to do it the sooner we'll leave the vicious circle and come back to growth soon." Tsipras was elected in January 2015 after persuading Greeks that they no longer had to grovel to foreign powers for their economic survival.

He argued that debt-hit Greece would never recover if it continued to be tied to international bailouts focused on spending cuts and tax

He promised to aggressively broker a new economic deal. Within weeks, Tsipras and his firebrand finance minister Yanis Varoufakis had knocked heads with the country's creditors-the European Union, European Central Bank and the International Monetary Fund-and the stage was set for six months of acrimonious talks that nearly saw Greece pushed out of the eurozone.

It wasn't until July that Tsiprasstaring into the unknown and a possible return to the drachmaditched Varoufakis and signed another economic rescue for 86 billion euros (\$93 billion) accompanied by more spending cuts. The decision split his radical leftist Syriza party and the Tsipras government resigned. But the adroit former student sit-in leader weathered the storm and got himself reelected in September, albeit with a reduced majority.

Still in an improbable coalition with the nationalist Independent Greeks party, Tsipras now has 153 lawmakers in the 300-seat parlia-

Few expect his administration to complete its four-year term, and

No more arm wrestling

"We think the government will manage to carry out the reforms despite its small parliamentary majority, because it wants to begin talks on debt relief," says Natixis economist Jesus Castillo. Creditors "will not want to go back to an arm wrestling match" with Greece given the deteriorating state of the global economy and continued conflict in the Middle East, he

Standard and Poor's on Friday

new equilibrium".

Tsipras is now locked in a delicate negotiation with an uncertain outcome exactly what happened with his conservative predecessor Antonis Samaras in his final six months in power in 2014, Sefertzis says. "We are losing time without obtaining a result, and without having a clear idea of where the negotiations will lead," he adds.

Athens has been waiting since November to begin debating relief measures for its crushing public



ATHENS: A supporter of the Communist-affiliated trade union PAME shouts a slogan yesterday in Athens against the reforms the government has proposed for the new pension plan, as part of measures demanded by country's creditors. —AFP

he faces an imminent challenge in raised its credit rating for Greek implementing an unpopular pension and tax overhaul mandated by Greece's three-year bailout.

Opinion polls for the first time show Syriza falling behind the conservative New Democracy party which recently elected a liberal

reformer as chief. However, analysts argue that with an unprecedented refugee challenge on the European Union's doorstep and Britain threatening to leave the bloc, Brussels has big-

ger fish to fry than Tsipras.

debt by one notch, saying it expected Athens to meet the conditions attached to the latest bailout package.

Greece's sovereign rating went up to B- from CCC+, which removes it from the range of being vulnerable default. to Nevertheless, Greece's youngest leader in over a century "lost a lot of time to adapt and see reality", argues political analyst George Sefertzis, adding that the 41-yearold premier "is still in search of a debt-nearly 200 percent of GDP which is a condition the IMF has set for continuing to participate in the Greek bailout as demanded by Germany and other hardline eurozone nations.

Further delay in talks on the evaluation of Greece's reforms and debt relief could ultimately doom the new bailout, the Greek finance minister warned Monday. "If (the evaluation) is not concluded within a reasonable time frame this program cannot work," Euclid Tsakalotos said. —AFP

VENEZUELA LAWMAKERS REJECT MADURO'S ECONOMIC CRISIS PLAN Interest dilemma Antonio Madeira, an analyst with consultan-When commodity prices were high, Brazil cy MCM. "On the other hand, apparently the **CARACAS:** Venezuelan opposition lawmakers on prolonging a tense political standoff in the volatile impeachment drive is losing steam. Perhaps Friday rejected President Nicolas Maduro's bid to South American state, where citizens are suffering that can help the government recover its

decree a state of economic emergency, deepening a political crisis in the oil-rich nation. Friday was the deadline for the opposition-con-

trolled National Assembly to vote on Maduro's decree, which would have given him special powers to intervene in the economic crisis.

But his rivals in the assembly refused to pass it,

shortages of food and goods.

"We reject this decree because it means just more of the same," said Jose Guerra, head of the congressional commission that examined the decree before the vote. "The cause of the problem is a failed economic model."

Lawmakers voted by 107 votes to 53 to reject

the measure. The pro-government camp vowed to fight on to get its way. "See you in the Supreme Court. Yes to the decree!" yelled deputy Diosdado Cabello, the second most senior figure in Maduro's leadership, during the vote.

The opposition accuses Maduro of packing the court with his allies and fears he may use it to push through his measures.

President wary of media 'show'

The decree, issued a week ago, would give Maduro 60 days of extraordinary powers to commandeer private companies' resources, impose currency controls and take other unspecified measures. The opposition speaker of the congress, Henry Ramos Allup, accused Maduro's government of failing to give lawmakers the information they needed to properly debate the plan.

"It would be totally irresponsible for the National Assembly to blindly approve a decree of such magnitude, scope and implications, without having any information because the government itself refused to provide it," he said on television.

He said lawmakers suspended a session of the assembly in which the government was due to defend the decree because the ministers did not show up. Maduro's economic team pulled out at the last minute, saying they would only participate if it was closed to the media, Ramos said.

Maduro accused the opposition of trying to turn the assembly into a "show". "I very much regret that the majority which controls the National Assembly is turning its back on the country at this time," Maduro said in a speech.

Tense political standoff

Announcing the decree last week, Maduro admitted Venezuela was in a "catastrophic" economic state. He called on the assembly to approve the decree and help him "navigate this crisis." —AFP



CARACAS: People wait in a line outside a supermarket in Caracas, Venezuela, to buy price regulated toilet paper made available for sale by the government on Friday. In a note published Friday, the International Monetary Fund Western Hemisphere Director Alejandro Werner said inflation would more than double in the economically struggling South American country in 2016, reaching 720 percent. —AP

Economics. "I predict (the Fed) will not be raising rates in the next few meetings - and maybe not in the first half of the year." So far, the global economy has benefited modestly at best from the cures central banks have offered. The World Bank and the International Monetary Fund this month

once again downgraded their outlook for the

global economy. Like other analysts, they

have persistently overestimated the strength of the worldwide recovery from the Great Recession despite the extraordinary efforts of major central banks. Around the world, stock markets have

WEAK GROWTH, SHAKY MARKETS

PUT PRESSURE ON CENTRAL BANKS

been pounded for weeks, in large part by fear and uncertainty over a decelerating Chinese economy, the world's secondbiggest and long a vital source of global strength.

China's slowdown has hammered the countries that have supplied it with coal, copper and other raw materials. The currencies of those countries have, in turn, tumbled. Oil prices this week hit a 12-year low of \$28.15 a barrel before rebounding a bit.

At this week's ECB's meeting, President Mario Draghi warned that plunging oil prices heightened the risk that inflation would stay well below the central bank's 2 percent target. He said the ECB was poised to expand its existing stimulus efforts at its next meeting.

The rate the ECB pays banks for deposits is already negative 0.3 percent. By making banks pay to keep their money at the central bank, it tries to pressure them to use their money to lend to businesses and consumers instead. —AP



First prize

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

<u>Second prize</u>

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

Third prize

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

Fourth prize

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

Fifth prize

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

Sixth prize

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

All photos should be submitted at the Kuwait Times newspaper before 17th of March 2016.

Rules & Conditions:

- The competition is open to individuals of all ages.
- The submitted photos should be taken by the participant.
- Every participant is allowed to submit maximum five entries.
- The photos can be black and white or colour size 40X30 cm.
- All entries should be provided a hard copy and Soft Copy on a CD (in high resolution) with photo of the participant needs to be included in the CD.
- The original coupon should be attached to the back of each photo and should include a complete information about the participant.

The coupons are advertised at Kuwait Times and Al Anba newspapers during the period of competition.

- All submitted photos will become property of Kuwait Times newspaper and can be used for different purposes.
- The winners will be chosen by a panel of judges.
- All photos must be original and should not be doctored with any design program, such as Photoshop.

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IMF REVISES ITS GLOBAL GROWTH ESTIMATES LOWER

KAMCO Investment Research Report

KUWAIT: IMF revised its global growth estimates lower, in its World Economic Outlook (WEO) released in January-16, after slashing growth expectations three times in 2015. Global growth was revised downwards, albeit marginally by 20 bps for both 2016 & 2017, and current growth expectations are projected at 3.4 percent for 2016 and 3.6 percent for 2017.

Global GDP growth in 2015 remained modest at 3.1 percent. The subdued growth in 2015 was largely ascribed to a reduction in growth clocked by emerging and developing economies, as growth figures fell for the fifth consecutive year. Average growth in emerging markets and developing economies, which contribute to over two-thirds of the growth globally fell by 60 bps from the previous year to 4.0 percent in 2015. The slowdown and rebalancing of economic activity in China, lower prices for commodities and energy products are likely to remain themes which influence the outlook for 2016 and 2017, as per the IMF.

Saudi Arabia's growth

Economic growth in Saudi Arabia for 2015 was estimated at 2.5 percent, as per the IMF. Real GDP growth expectations for 2016 & 17 is projected to be lower at 1.2 percent and 1.9 percent respectively, and were revised lower by 100 bps each from Oct-15 forecasts, largely ascribed to the drop in oil revenues that the agency expects oil exporting countries to be affected from.

Sufficient headroom remains for implementation of diversification plans: KAMCO Research believes that there is sufficient headroom in the medium term for Saudi Arabia to expedite and implement its diversification plans, and move its revenue sources away from oil in the long term. Various avenues for financing these plans exist, and in our view if combined well, this would overhaul the existing model based on oil revenues and public expenditure. Optimization of reserves and government expenditure, along with divestment options in state owned enterprises, subsidy cuts on utilities, and additional revenues through taxes, be it Value Added Tax (VAT) or on specific goods, or real estate fees, remain options that are keenly looked into

to plug the gap in oil revenues.

Implementation remains key

IMF reduced real GDP forecasts for Saudi Arabia by 100 bps for 2016 & 17, and also forecast oil prices to drop by \$17.6/barrel in 2016, from an average of \$50.9/barrel achieved over 2015. Further, a partial recovery of \$14.9/barrel is forecasted for 2017. They further mentioned that oil price concerns and geopolitical risks continue to weigh on the outlook for the Middle East.

Despite the concerns, KAMCO Research believes that Saudi Arabia has ample fiscal space to maneuver with, as the country evaluates options to achieve its target of diversification targets of moving beyond oil as its single dominant source of revenues. Global consultant Mckinsey estimates Saudi Arabia's financial and non-financial assets to be over \$1 trillion, excluding oil reserves, which should serve as a good source of funding, in our view to buoy the non-oil economy. The country is also reportedly evaluating divestment options of its state owned corporations, such as the downstream business of Aramco to fund the gap in fiscal expenditure. Other fiscal revenue side initiatives in terms of taxation and fees are also being reviewed, the prominent one being the implementation of VAT. Initiatives that are already implemented include the hike in prices of petroleum products of up to 50 percent, increase in prices of utilities such as electricity, water sewage etc., and on the real estate side the Shoura Council in Nov 15 agreeing on a 2.5 percent annual tax for undeveloped land in urban areas. We expect other GCC countries to also follow Saudi Arabia's lead in expenditure rationalization, prioritizing key infrastructure projects and expediting initiatives towards diversification of their economies.

Advanced economies

Key drivers for the lower estimates of global growth were revisions to growth of emerging markets and developing economies, as the IMF cited that the backdrop for these economies is expected to remain challenging. However, IMF expects advanced economies to continue on

IMF Estimates	Current Estimates Jan-16						
Real GDP Growth	2015	2016 F	2017 F				
Percentage							
US	2.5%	2.6%	2.6%				
Europe	1.5%	1.7%	1.7%				
UK	2.2%	2.2%	2.2%				
Japan	0.6%	1.0%	0.3%				
Russia	-3.7%	-1.0%	1.0%				
China	6.9%	6.3%	6.0%				
India	7.3%	7.5%	7.5%				
Brazil	-3.8%	-3.5%	0.0%				
Saudi Arabia	3.4%	1.2%	1.9%				
Advanced Economies	1.9%	2.1%	2.1%				
Emerging Market & Developing Economies	4.0%	4.3%	4.7%				
MENA, Afghanistan & Pakistan	2.5%	3.6%	3.6%				
Real GDP Growth - Global	3.1%	3.4%	3.6%				
Growth in other key economic drivers	2015	2016 F	2017 F				
Percentage							
CPI - Advanced Economies	0.3%	1.1%	1.7%				
CPI -Emerging Market & Developing Economies	5.5%	5.6%	5.9%				
World Trade	2.6%	3.4%	4.1%				

2016 F	2017 F	2016 F	2017 F
-0.2%	-0.2%	2.8%	2.8%
0.1%	0.0%	1.6%	1.7%
0.0%	0.0%	2.2%	2.2%
0.0%	-0.1%	1.0%	0.4%
-0.4%	0.0%	-0.6%	1.0%
0.0%	0.0%	6.3%	6.0%
0.0%	0.0%	7.5%	7.5%
-2.5%	-2.3%	-1.0%	2.3%
-1.0%	-1.0%	2.2%	2.9%
-0.1%	-0.1%	2.2%	2.2%
-0.2%	-0.2%	4.5%	4.9%
-0.3%	-0.5%	3.9%	4.1%
-0.2%	-0.2%	3.6%	3.8%
2014 E	2015 F	2016 F	2017 F
-0.1%	0.0%	1.2%	1.7%
0.5%	1.0%	5.1%	4.9%
-0.7%	-0.5%	4.1%	4.6%

levisions by IMF

Source: IMF WEO Update January 2016

their recovery path, and further estimate a further narrowing of the output gap from potential GDP. Inflation in advanced economies is likely to grow from 0.3 percent per annum in 2015 to 1.1 percent and 1.7 percent in 2016 and 2017, as deflationary concerns alleviate.

However most regions saw their growth forecasts revised downwards from Oct 15. Most revisions of growth forecasts by the IMF in Jan-16 as against its expectations from Oct-15 were negative, as global Real GDP growth was brought down by 20 bps for 2016 & 17. The MENA, Afghanistan and Pakistan region saw the largest drop in

growth expectations with negative revisions of 30 bps and 50 bps for 2016 & 17 respectively, largely affected by the expectations of a drop in oil prices for oil exporting GCC countries. However, even post the revision, the region is set to grow at a faster pace in 2016 & 2017, than the 2.5 percent real GDP registered in 2015, as the IMF expects growth of 3.6 percent per annum over the period. Advanced economies saw the least revisions to the downside, as accommodative financial conditions and benefits accrued from lower oil prices helped retain forecasts for these economies.

NBK GOLD SPONSOR OF PETROLEUM ECONOMIST ENERGY STRATEGY FORUM

KUWAIT: National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) is the Gold Sponsor of the Petroleum Economist Energy Strategy Forum, for the second consecutive year.

The Forum, co-hosted by Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC), will take place on Tuesday 26th January, 2016 under the patronage of Anas Al-Saleh, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and Acting Minister of Oil.

The second in this series of energy strategy forums will explore the contention that the hydrocarbons industry is facing a combination of disruptive forces, which have the potential to radically change the way the industry works.

The forum will provide insight of the impact of oil prices drop on Kuwait and GCC economies from high profile speakers. Pradeep Handa, NBK General Manager, Foreign Corporate, Oil and Trade Finance Group will speak at the "Finance and Governance" panel.

NBK's participation in this forum comes in line with its commitment to deploy all its potentials and expertise to support Kuwait's oil sector. NBK has been the banking partner of choice for Kuwait's oil sector and enjoys historical relationships with many leading oil companies in the forefront KPC and all its subsidiaries.

NBK is the largest financial institution in Kuwait and has been consistently awarded the highest credit rating in the region from Moody's, Standard & Poor's, and Fitch Ratings. NBK also stands out in terms of its local and international network, which includes branches, subsidiaries and representative offices in China, Geneva, London, Paris, New York, and Singapore alongside its regional presence in Lebanon, Jordan, Egypt, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Turkey, and the UAE. NBK was founded in 1952 as the first indigenous bank and the first joint stock company in Kuwait and the Gulf Region.

Qalaa Chairman addresses Davos Forum, lists economic challenges

DAVOS: Ahmed Heikal, Chairman and Founder of Qalaa Holdings joined participants from more than 100 countries including heads of state and global CEOs in four high profile sessions on the challenges facing regional economies at the 2016 World Economic Forum

"With low commodity prices, high debt levels in emerging markets, higher interest rates in the US, sluggish emerging-market economies and slower Chinese growth, one could be forgiven for thinking that for the time being there will be no investment in the Middle East and Africa region," said Ahmed Heikal, Chairman and Founder of Qalaa Holdings. "But it is a fallacy that there are no growth opportunities in the region and it is a fallacy that there is no money. What we are lacking is the risk appetite and the skillset required on the part of the private sector to undertake the type of greenfield projects that the region needs," he added.

Heikal participated in a CEO panel on day 1 of the World Economic Forum (WEF) to discuss the investment case for the Red Sea region, the barriers to investment and the measures needed to get capital flowing in the region amid geopolitical uncertainty and a collapse in energy prices. The session commenced with commentary from Prince Turki bin Faisal Al-Saud, a senior member of the Saudi royal family and former Saudi Ambassador to the US, followed by a panel composed of and including views from Heikal as well as GE Power CEO, Steve Bolze and WPP CEO, Martin Sorrell.

"If you're an infrastructure investor and have appetite for risk, then there are opportunities and very significant growth potential in regional markets," added Heikal. "Governments across the region are now entering into a new paradigm, they have come to the realization that they can no longer do it alone, they must partner with or enable the private sector to take on the large megaprojects that were previously only in the realm of the public sector."

"We were 3-4 steps ahead of this trend. We knew this to be the case early on which is why we invested in companies like TAQA Arabia, the largest private sector energy distributor in Egypt which is now looking at numerous growth opportunities as a result of the deregulation of the energy sector. Our long term view was questioned in the beginning but now our strategy has been validated. Governments are now starting to focus on fighting their own



battles, dismantling the bureaucracy, playing the role of regulator and letting the private sector do its job. Governments cannot continue to shoulder these funding needs, or else emerging markets will wake up to a large credit crisis in five years" said Heikal.

Addressing the issue of lack of transparency in the region, Heikal explained that important strides have already been made in that respect. "The Development Finance Institutions (DFI's), Export Credit Agencies (ECA's) and Sovereign Wealth Funds (SWF's) that are now funding projects in the region are requiring companies to abide by stricter codes of conduct."

"You can look at the cup as half empty or half full. Of course there are global headwinds but if you take the optimistic view and look at the cup half full you will recognize that there has been substantial reform across the region particularly in Egypt and KSA but the results of this effort will not be felt for another five years," said Heikal.

Heikal also stressed on the importance of education and developing human capital. "The divide between rich and poor is continuing to widen globally and it is particularly pronounced in our part of the world which is why it is incumbent upon investors to bring in and train the best talent they can find."

"We must look across the investment spectrum and open the door for smaller projects as well as large infrastructure investments. SME's and microenterprises will also be key for economic growth in the region," said Heikal.

Qalaa Holdings, a leading African investor in

energy and infrastructure, has been able to successfully tap into a wide pool of funding resources under highly challenging conditions to fund large-scale infrastructure projects that are critical to Africa's development such as the Egyptian Refining Company (ERC), a US\$3.7 billion greenfield refinery and Egypt's largest in progress, private sector infrastructure megaproject which is now more than 75 percent complete. ERC has the potential to more than halve Egypt's present-day diesel imports and reduce by nearly one-third the country's current sulfur emissions when it starts production in 2017.

On day 2 of the Forum, Heikal acted as discussion leader in a session on bridging the funding gap to finance the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's) for 2030 along with global thought leaders including former Secretary General of the UN, Kofi Annan, World Bank Group President Jim Yong Kim, former British Prime Minister Gordon Brown and Ethiopian Prime Minister, Hailemariam Desalegn. He will also participate in an African Regional Business Council session on fostering economic growth and social inclusion as well as a session on building more resilient Arab economies. In addition, Heikal will partake in a panel on the Future of Economic Reform in the Arab World along with UAE Minister of Energy Suhail Bin Mohammed Al-Mazrouei, CEO of the Bahrain Economic Development Board Khalid Al-Rumaihi, and Kuwait's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Anas Khalid Al-Saleh.

GULF BANK ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF AL-DANAH DAILY DRAWS

KUWAIT: Gulf Bank held its Al-Danah daily draws on 17 January 2016 announcing the names of its winners for the week of 10 January - 14 January 2016. The Al-Danah daily draws include draws each and every working day for two prizes of KD1,000 per winner.

The winners are: (Sunday 10/1): Othman Ahmad Othman Al-Yaqout, Mohammad Jassim Mohammad Al-Safar

(Monday 11/1): Fahad Sayah Al-Azmi, Majed Najem Abdullah Al-Abdullah (Tuesday 12/1): Sulaiman Thunayan Al-

Ghanim, Hafethji Aqeel Fathalla Bahaai (Wednesday 13/1): Abdulaziz Mohammed Rafiea'a Al-Awadhi, Awatef Mohammed Eissa Al-Buloushi

(Thursday 14/1): Fatima Abdulkareem Mohammed Al-Saqer, Haidar Ismail Jassim Kamal

Gulf Bank's Al-Danah 2016 draw lineup includes daily draws (2 winners per working day each receive KD1000). Al-Danah's 1st Quarterly draw will be held on 31 March, 2nd Quarter - 30 June, 3rd Quarter - 29 September. The final Al-Danah draw for the Million Dinars will be held on 5 January, 2017 whereby the Al-Danah millionaire will be announced. Five reasons why the Al-Danah

account is the Best:

1) Kuwait's single biggest yearly cash

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

prizes, up to KD500,000 3) Two winners of KD1,000 every

working day

4) The most opportunities to win

5) Only bank that transfers your

chances to win from year to year
Win big, live big, with Al-Danah 2016.
Al-Danah also offers a number of
unique services including: the Al-Danah
deposit Only ATM card which helps
account holders deposit their money at
their convenience; as well as the AlDanah calculator to help customers calculate their chances of becoming an AlDanah winner.







KUWAIT: Ahmad Al-Mutawa, Chairman & CEO of Abdulaziz Al-Ali Al-Mutawa Group of Companies, Kenny Kim, Deputy GM at KIA HQ for the ME & Africa, a delegation from the embassy of the Republic of Korea to Kuwait, business partners & members of the media, attend the unveiling of KIA's all-new 2016 Optima at a breathtaking event at Marina Mall. —Photos by Joseph Shagra

FASCINATING PERFECTION: ALL-NEW 2016 KIA OPTIMA UNVEILED AT MARINA MALL

Gabr: KIA #3 auto brand in Kuwait despite economic challenges

KUWAIT: The evolution of KIA's best-selling model continued on Wednesday, Jan 20 with the unveiling of the All-New 2016 Optima at a breathtaking event at Marina Mall's main dome area in the presence of Ahmad Al-Mutawa, Chairman & CEO of Abdulaziz Al-Ali Al-Mutawa Group of Companies, Kenny Kim, Deputy GM at KIA HQ for the ME & Africa, a delegation from the embassy of the Republic of Korea to Kuwait, business partners & members of the media.

Organized under the slogan "Fascinating Perfection" by National Agencies Group (NAG), a subsidiary of Abdulaziz Al-Ali Al-Mutawa Group of Companies and authorized distributor of KIA Motors in Kuwait, the launch event highlighted KIA's impressive local and international achievements before revealing the award-winning 2016 Optima sedan to an excited audience.

Named 2016 International Car of the Year by Road & Travel Magazine, the All-New Optima features a stunning modern design, an impressive array of high-tech features, excellent performance and increased spaciousness to provide occupants with an elegant yet sporty riding experience. Moreover, the Optima underscores KIA's status as a global and local automotive leader.

"KIA now ranks 3rd in Kuwait despite economic challenges which are exerting heavy pressure on the automotive market" explained Omar Gabr, Brand Manager at KIA Motors Kuwait. "This continued success can be attributed to KIA's award-winning innovation as seen in the All-New 2016 Optima in addition to NAG's efforts & continuously upgraded services which reflect KIA's status in Kuwait Market."

Also speaking on the Optima's success story was Mohannad Al-Mutawa, General Sales Manager of KIA Motors Kuwait, who gave a short presentation on the model's evolution since its inception in the year 2000, highlighting the many advancements of the All-New model along with explaining the importance of the midsize sedan segment to the Kuwaiti automotive market.

Instantly recognizable European design

Building on the award-winning design of the previous-generation Optima, KIA designers in Germany and the United States retained the identity of the vehicle while making a confident move forward to keep the car modern and fresh. The design was inspired by sweeping contemporary surfaces and modern architecture, leading to a sophisticated and dynamic sedan that is instantly recognizable.

tion to detail and features real stitching along the dashboard and doors along with tasteful metallic accents. At the same time, the interior has been simplified with a cleaner, more unified design than the previous generation. Improvements have also been made to enhance seat comfort where occupants will enjoy reduced vibrations, higher-quality seat materials and ventilated front seats.

For added convenience, the 2016 Optima offers a height-adjustable front passenger

er audio system and the option to upgrade to a KIA-first available Harman/KardonQuantumLogic Premium Surround Sound Audio System, which includes 10 speakers, Clari-Fi(tm) technology and an upgraded 630-watt digital amplifier. KIA was one of the first automakers to incorporate Clari-Fi technology into its audio systems with the debut of the 2016 Sorento, and Optima is the first-ever KIA sedan to feature QuantumLogic Premium Surround Sound technology.

Also available on every Optima is a rear-

ditions, will bring the vehicle to a complete stop to potentially avoid a collision or reduce damage - makes the task of driving easier and safer. Also available for the first time on any KIA vehicle are Bi-Xenon HID headlights with Dynamic Bending Lamps (DBL) and intuitive High Beam Assist (HBA), which recognizes oncoming traffic and automatically switches the lights to low beam until the opposing vehicle has passed.

The 2016 Optima features a uniquely engi-



The All-New Optima's exterior is also wider, longer and sits lower than its predecessor, ensuring better aerodynamics which translates into more torque for less horsepower.

Exquisite interior craftsmanship

The Optima's elegant and more comfortable interior reflects the model's elevated status. The driver-oriented cabin has been obsessively crafted with an impressive atten-

The All-New Optima's exterior is also wider, seat, a feature normally found only in preminger and sits lower than its predecessor, um vehicles.

Convenience, technology, smart performance and safety

Cutting-edge technology has become a cornerstone of the Optima experience, and the new generation promises to impress with incredible features. The All-New Optima comes with a smartphone wireless charger, standard six-speak-

camera display with the option to upgrade to a 360-degree Surround-View Monitor. Available driver-aid technology, including Advanced Smart Cruise Control (ASCC), Blind Spot Detection (BSD) with Lane Change Assist, Rear Cross Traffic Alert (RCTA), Rear Parking Assist System (RPAS), Front Collision Warning System (FCWS), Lane Departure Warning System (LDWS) and Autonomous Emergency Braking (AEB) - which, under appropriate conneered body that uses Advanced High Strength Steel (AHSS) and a special type of adhesive to improve structural rigidity and chassis durability while ensuring a quieter

The vehicle is available in Kuwait in 2 engine sizes:

* 2.0L MPI, 4-Cylinder, 157 HP * 2.4L MPI, 4-Cylinder, 178 HP



















MUMBAI TRAVELERS LOG ON AS GOOGLE STARTS TRAIN STATION WI-FI

offering free Wi-Fi to Mumbai train passengers in hopes of boosting its role in the Indian market. Giggling groups of students, bored commuters and snack-shop vendors were all logging on Friday at Mumbai Central Train Station, the first of 400 stations the company plans to eventually reach with the service.

"If my train is leaving, and I need to search, don't know where to go, then immediately I will get the answer," student Divya Patel said excitedly while waiting for a train to her hometown of Ahmedabad in the western state of Gujarat. "This is very good, and good for everyone."

Free Wi-Fi is rare across India. Most of the country's 300 million Internet users pay for personal access and often rely on slow-loading smartphone connectivity.

With a massive 1.25 billion population in India, including 6 million new Internet users every month, Silicon Valley tech giants such as Google, Facebook and Microsoft

MUMBAI: Google Inc has begun have set sights on expanding in the Indian market. Online retailers Amazon and eBay have also launched services in the country.

> India also has homegrown online commerce companies but small businesses are still catching on. Fewer than 5 percent of the 50 million or so small businesses in India have a web page.

> With more than 23 million people riding Indian railways every day, Google said free Internet in train stations will give high-speed access that many can't afford. It also hopes to diversify India's user base, given that less than a third of Internet users in India are women, and has been upgrading its services in Hindi and other languages spoken across India. "Most of India is still not online," Google CEO Sundar Pichai told reporters last month in New Delhi. "We want to bring access to as many people as possible," he said. For the project, Google teamed up with Indian Railways as well as communications infrastructure provider RailTel. — AP



MUMBAI: Indian travellers use a free WiFi service to browse the net at Mumbai Central Train Station in Mumbai on Friday. Google Inc has begun offering free WiFi to Mumbai train passengers in hopes of boosting its role in the Indian market, the first of 400 stations the company plans to eventually reach with the service. — AP

PARIS: An AZERTY keyboard is pictured in Paris on Friday. France's government is putting out a call for a standardized computer keyboard to replace the multitude of AZERTY models now on the market, saying the current options make it "nearly impossible to write French correctly with a keyboard sold in France. — AP

QUOI? FRANCE WANTS KEYBOARD ADAPTED TO PROPER GRAMMAR

PARIS: France's government is put- letters - like those that form the corting out a call for a standardized French correctly with a keyboard sold in France."

The French Culture Ministry noted that there are no standardized keys for accents, quote marks or certain

rect beginning of the word "oeuvre" computer keyboard to replace the needed to create a masterpiece. The multitude of AZERTY models now on AZERTY keyboard, whose name the market, saying current options derives from the first five letters on make it "nearly impossible to write the top, is a variation on the standard English-language keyboard used by many countries with Latin alphabets.

The French organization in charge of norms said its conclusions will be presented this summer. — AP

APPLE'S ZADESKY, HEAD OF ELECTRIC CAR PROJECT, TO LEAVE COMPANY

SAN JOSE: Apple Inc's Steve Zadesky, who has been overseeing the company's electric car project for the last two years, has said he is leaving the company, the Wall Street Journal reported on Friday, citing people familiar with the matter.

Zadesky, who previously worked with the iPod and iPhone teams, is leaving for personal reasons not related to his performance, the WSJ said. It was not clear when the 16-year veteran would leave Apple, the Journal said. As of Friday afternoon his profile on LinkedIn still listed him as working at Apple. Apple declined to comment. Apple has never acknowledged it is looking into building an electric car, but the company has recruited dozens of auto experts, many from car makers like Ford or Mercedes-Benz.

Apple Chief Executive Tim Cook went to BMW's headquarters in 2014, and senior Apple executives toured the carmaker's Leipzig factory to learn how it manufactures the i3 electric car, sources familiar with the matter told Reuters. The dialogue ended without conclusion because Apple, the world's largest maker of electronic gadgets, appears to want to explore developing a passenger car on its own, one of the sources said.

Also, BMW, the world's biggest seller of premium cars, is being cautious about sharing its manufacturing know-how because it wants to avoid becoming a mere supplier to a software or Internet giant. But one of the sources said the exploratory talks between senior managers might be revived. — Reuters

GOOGLE TO PAY £130MN TO BRITAIN IN BACK TAXES

OSBORNE CLAIMS GOOGLE TAX BILL IS A VICTORY

LONDON: Technology giant Google is to pay £130 million (\$185.4 million, 172 million euros) in back taxes to Britain following a government inquiry into its tax arrangements, a company spokeswoman said Friday. It follows a six-year probe by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs in response to controversy over low taxes paid by multinational corporations which operate in Britain but have headquarters elsewhere.

"We have agreed with HMRC a new approach for our UK taxes and will pay £130 million, covering taxes since 2005," a Google spokeswoman said.

"The way multinational companies are taxed has been debated for many years and the international tax system is changing as a result. This settlement reflects that shift."

In future, Google will pay taxes in Britain according to revenue from advertisers based in Britain, something that "reflects the size and scope of our UK business", the spokeswoman said.

The BBC reported that Google would now register a greater proportion of its sales activity in Britain rather than Ireland, where its European headquarters is based and which has a lower rate of corpora-

An HMRC spokesman welcomed the agreement. "The successful conclusion of HMRC inquiries has secured a substantial result, which means that Google will pay the full tax due in law on profits that belong in the UK," the spokesman said. "Multinational companies must pay the tax that is due and we do not accept less."

Finance minister claims victory

Britain's finance minister George Osborne has vowed to close tax loopholes and introduce a socalled "Google tax"-the diverted profits tax-to stop firms moving profits abroad.

"Good to see Google paying more tax on past profits. We want successful businesses in UK-but they should pay their taxes," the chancellor of the exchequer said. "Google tax bill is a victory for the action we've taken. I introduced diverted profits tax. We now expect to see other firms pay their share." The opposition Labour Party's finance spokesman John McDonnell said Google's deal was "derisory". "This is relatively trivial in comparison with what should have been paid," he told BBC

Meg Hillier, who chairs parliament's public accounts scrutiny committee, said international companies had been "running rings around tax officials". She said HMRC was "effectively admitting it pulled in too little tax from Google for nine out of 10 years". Google is among several top technology firms under pressure over complex tax arrange-

Apple agreed to pay Italy 318 million euros to settle a tax dispute last month, and in November world leaders of the Group of 20 top economies vowed to clamp down on schemes by multinationals to minimize tax. The plan would force multinationals to pay tax in the country where their main business activity is based.

The OECD group of rich nations has estimated that national governments lose \$100-240 billion (90-210 billion euros), or four to 10 percent of global tax revenues, every year due to the tax-minimizing schemes of multinationals. — AFP

MICROSOFT BUYING EDUCATIONAL VERSION OF MINECRAFT

SAN FRANCISCO: Microsoft is buying the educational version of Minecraft and has plans to create a bigger and better version of the popular world-building video game that's designed for classrooms. The Redmond, Washington, software company will partner with TeacherGaming LLC, creator of MinecraftEdu, to transform that game into "Minecraft: Education Edition." Financial terms were not disclosed.

Microsoft says the new version will add and expand features intended to make the game classroom friendly, including better maps and coordinates that will help teachers and students find their way around a Minecraft world together. Developers will also beef up the game's multi-player capabilities so that a classroom of up to 40 kids can work together.

The game lets players explore, fight monsters and build surprisingly complex structures - even electrical circuits - out of blocks. You could easily use it to teach math, said Deirdre Quaranstrom, Microsoft's director of Minecraft education. But kids could also explore ancient temples in the game for a history class or view the inside of an eyeball as part of a science lesson.

Perks for educators include an online community with a mentorship program for connecting teachers experienced with Minecraft to those new to it.

The new game will be available this summer, with free trials available for teachers and students. Microsoft will announce pricing details before the end of the current school year, but says it currently plans to keep the price at \$5 per user per year.

Amazon expansion

Amazon is expanding its smart-home ordering service to a range of new appliances. Its Dash "replenishment" service lets users reorder common household items with a touch of a button. (Its first incarnation involved plastic "Dash buttons" dedicated to particular products; pressing one orders a set quantity of, say, diapers or dishwasher detergent.)

The new Dash devices will work in a similar fashion, although they won't be dedicated buttons anymore. Instead, Brother connected printers will let you order replacement toner or ink automatically. A GE washer will reorder detergent when it runs low. And a Gmate glucose meter, which tests blood sugar for diabetics, automatically reorders testing strips and blood-drawing lancets when needed. Users can sign up online to activate the service. Amazon first announced the expansion to the Dash line in October; now the new products are hitting the market. Others in the works include Purell hand-sanitizer dispensers, Samsung laser printers, "smart" home locks from Austin and others.

Encryption

Some government and police officials may be seething because encryption makes it harder for them to track criminals and extremists, but it turns out that many companies aren't bothering to protect their data by encoding it in the first place. A new study released Tuesday by the security firm Sophos surveyed 1,700 IT managers at mid-sized businesses in the US, Canada,

India, Australia, Japan and Malaysia. Of those, 44 percent say they're currently making extensive use of encryption, while another 43 percent are using encryption to some degree.

Encryption levels were lower among the smaller businesses surveyed, with just 38 percent of organizations with 100 to 500 employees saying they're encrypting extensively. In the US, encryption rates are higher, with 54 percent of those surveyed saying they make extensive use of the technology. Australia came in second with a rate of 49 percent, while Malaysia posted the lowest rate of 26 percent. The top reason for not encrypting extensively - supplied by 37 percent of those who responded - was a lack of budget, while 31 percent cited performance concerns.

Web surfing

Verizon is the latest cellphone company to offer Web surfing for customers that doesn't count against their data caps. Under such caps, you can get hit with extra fees or slower speeds if you go over your plan's data limit. That's not particularly difficult, especially if you're often watching video and listening to music in the go. Verizon has said that it's interested in "sponsored data" as another source of revenue. A company can pay Verizon so that phone users can browse their websites, watch video clips or download their apps without using up their data allotment. Verizon says brands that have signed up include Hearst Magazines and AOL, which Verizon owns. — AP

WHITE HOUSE TURNS TO PENTAGON IN BACKGROUND CHECKS SHAKE-UP

WASHINGTON: The US government will set up a new agency to do background checks on employees and contractors, the White House said on Friday, after a massive breach of U.S. government files exposed the personal data of millions of people last year.

As a part of a sweeping overhaul, the Obama administration said it will establish a National Background Investigations Bureau. It will replace the Office of Personnel Management's (OPM) Federal Investigative Services (FIS), which currently conducts each year more than 2 million background investigations for scores of federal agencies.

The move, a stiff rebuke for FIS and OPM, comes after last year's disclosure that a hack of OPM computers exposed the names, addresses, Social Security numbers and other sensitive information of roughly 22 million current and former federal employees and contractors, as well as applicants for federal jobs and individuals listed on background check forms.

Unlike FIS, the new agency's information systems will be handled by the Defense Department, making it even more central to Washington's effort to bolster its cyber defenses against constant intrusion attempts by hackers and foreign nationals.

The White House gave no timeline for implementing the changes, but said some would begin this year. It will seek \$95 million more in its upcoming fiscal 2017 budget for information technology development, according to a White House fact sheet.

A transition team will develop a plan to migrate existing functions from FIS while continuing to provide investigative services, the US Director of National Intelligence James Clapper wrote in a blog on the OPM website.

'NOT THERE YET'

Officials have privately blamed the OPM data breach on China, though security researchers and officials have said there is no evidence Beijing has maliciously used the data trove. The hack prompted several congressional committees to investigate whether OPM was negligent in its cyber security practices. OPM Director Katherine Archuleta resigned last July as the government intensified a broad push to improve cyber defenses and modernize systems.

"Clearly we're not there yet," Admiral Mike Rogers, head of the National Security Agency, said at a cybersecurity event in Washington

this week when asked about US preparedness against hacks. The damage done by cyberattacks, he added, "is going to get worse before it gets better." — Reuters



PASADENA: California Institute of Technology astronomer Michael Brown points to a yellow dot simulating Planet 9 on a computer video simulation view of Planet 9 in the solar system at the CalTech USGS Media center in Pasadena. — AP

VISUAL CHINA BUYS CORBIS ENTERTAINMENT

BEIJING: Chinese image licensing company Visual China Group said it acquired on Friday the image division and content licensing unit of photo library Corbis Entertainment, owned by Microsoft Corp's cofounder Bill Gates. The company signed another deal with media service provider Getty Images to distribute Corbis' images and content to customers, thus bringing in a major photo library and an image distributor to China.

Getty Images would distribute Corbis' content, creating a collection of over 200 million images and videos and certain archived historical contents for creative and editorial use.

Following the sale of its image assets, Corbis will be rebranded and its other businesses will operate under a new brand name.

As per the deal, Visual China's division, Unity Glory, will own and manage the images and motion archives, names and trademarks associated with Corbis Images, Corbis Motion and Veer licensing brands. The financial terms for the deal were not disclosed.

After a transition period, Getty Images said it would offer Corbis creative stills, Corbis Motion content and Corbis archival and documentary content to its customers outside China.

Corbis, which is one of the leading image service provider like Reuters, was represented by Allen & Company LLC in the sale. — Reuters

CHINA BUSTS 35 RESTAURANTS USING OPIUM AS SEASONING



BEIJING: A man walks past a branch of the Hu Da hot pot restaurant chain. —AP

BEIJING: Thirty-five restaurants across China, including a popular Beijing hot pot chain, have been found illegally using opium poppies as seasoning, one of the more unusual practices bedeviling the country's food regulators. Five restaurants are being prosecuted while 30 others, ranging from Shanghai dumpling joints to noodle shops in southwestern Chongging, are under investigation, said the China Food and Drug Administration.

Cases of cooks sprinkling ground poppy powder, which contains low amounts of opiates like morphine and codeine, in soup and seafood are not new in China, though it is unclear whether they can effectively hook a customer or deliver a noticeable buzz. Shaanxi provincial police busted a noodle seller in 2014 after being tipped off by a failed drug test. Seven restaurants were closed in Ningxia province in 2012 for using the additive and Guizhou province shut down 215 restaurants in 2004.

Hu Ling, the general manager of Hu Da, a popular chain with several adjacent locations on the raucous Beijing nightlife strip known as "Ghost chicken meat. —AP

Street," confirmed Friday the company was under investigation, saying it may have unknowingly sourced seasoning containing opiates. She declined further comment.

Poppy powder, made from capsules and shells that contain higher opiate content than the seeds commonly seen on bagels, can be easily purchased in markets in western China for about \$60 a kilogram, according to a 2014 report by the official Xinhua news agency. The additives were commonly mixed with chili oil and powders, making detection difficult without laboratory equip-

Despite pledges from the government to improve enforcement, Chinese consumers perennially face high-profile food scares, ranging from tainted baby milk to fake meat and fruits to seafood pumped with gelatin. The country's food safety problems spilled beyond its borders in 2014 when a Shanghai-based supplier to companies including KFC, Starbucks and MacDonald's was found selling unsanitary and expired

OFFICIALS PROBE TIE BETWEEN ZIKA, PARALYZING SYNDROME

Is virus behind life-threatening nerve condition?

RIO DE JANEIRO: Two Latin American countries are investigating whether outbreaks of the mosquito-borne Zika virus are behind a rise in a rare and sometimes lifethreatening nerve condition that can cause paralysis and leave victims on life-support.

The Zika virus has already been tentatively linked to a rash of microcephaly, a birth defect in which babies are born with unusually small heads. And while the mechan-

Rise in cases

The rise in cases of Guillain-Barre has also alarmed health officials region-wide. The nerve disorder causes muscle weakness that generally begins in the legs and spreads to the arms and face, and can cause numbness, trouble walking and even limb paralysis. While most people recover in weeks or months, in severe cases the muscles used for breathing weaken so much that patients require life-

The World Health Organization said authorities in El Salvador reported 46 cases of Guillain-Barre in just five weeks, from Dec 1 to Jan 6. The full-year average for the country is 169 cases. Of 22 patients for whom there was information, at least 12 had experienced a rashfever illness in the 15 days prior.

Brazilian officials are also probing a near-simultaneous rise in Guillain-Barre and Zika, which was first identified in the country last in with Guillain-Barre, and none since August," said Antonio Bandeira, an infectious disease specialist at the hospital. In a normal year, he sees just two or three such

Zika-like symptoms

Most of the patients had also experienced Zika-like symptoms, which can include fever and red splotchy skin, Bandeira said. Meanwhile the Hospital da Restauracao in Recife treated about six times the normal number of Guillain-Barre cases, neurologist Maria Lucia Ferreira said. Of the 94 patients treated there during the rainy season, 50 of them died. However the scope of the problem remains unclear, as Guillain-Barre has been so rare that Brazil's Health Ministry does not track the exact number of cases.

Albert Ko, a professor of epidemiology at the Yale School of Public Health, said a link between Zika and Guillain-Barre is "plausible and highly likely." But the difficulty of diagnosing Zika and the fact that Guillain-Barre can set in weeks later have made it tough to confirm the link. "While many of us are convinced and believe it's highly plausible that Zika virus caused this epidemic of Guillain-Barre, and can cause it anywhere the virus is being transmitted, we still lack really firm evidence to make that diagnosis," said Ko, who has conducted research in northeastern Brazil for two decades.

Zika originated in Africa and expanded to parts of Asia. When it was first detected in Brazil, health officials were not initially alarmed since the virus appeared to be like a less potent form of dengue. But then came the spike in microcephaly: Since October the country has recorded 3,893 suspected cases, compared with fewer than 150 for all of 2014. Brazilian officials say they are convinced of a link. International health bodies say it is not yet scientifically established, but they are on alert. The CDC said Friday it issued its travel advisory "out of an abun-



FLINT: Bottles filled owned by Flint residents Jessica Owens and Tonya Williams, filled with water, sit on the table outside of city council chambers as Michigan Gov Rick Snyder speaks during a news conference. —AP

MICHIGAN COOPERATE, CONFRONT WITH US ON **UNSAFE FLINT WATER**

DETROIT: Michigan's top environmental officer was by turns cooperative and confrontational with the Environmental Protection Agency on Friday, pledging to work together to ensure the safety of Flint's drinking water but challenging the legality and scope of some federal demands.

In a letter to US Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Gina McCarthy, Michigan Department of **Environmental Quality Director Keith** Creagh wrote that the state "is committed to working" with her department and Flint to deal with the city's lead-contamination problem. But he said the state has "legal and factual concerns" with an EPA order a day earlier taking state and city officials to task for their efforts so far and requiring them to take specific actions.

Creagh said Michigan "has complied with every recent demand" of the EPA and that Thursday's federal order "does not reference the tens of millions of dollars expended by ... the state for water filters, drinking water, testing and med-

Contaminated with lead

"The order demands that the state take certain actions, but fails to note that many of those actions ... have already been taken," Creagh, who recently replaced an official who resigned over the water crisis, wrote in his required response to the EPA order.

Flint's water became contaminated with lead when the city switched from the Detroit municipal system and began drawing from the Flint River in April 2014 to save the financially struggling city money. The water was not properly treated to keep lead from pipes from leaching into the supply. Some children's blood has tested positive for lead, a potent neurotoxin linked to learning disabilities, lower IQ and behavioral prob-

Creagh wrote that state officials don't know whether it's legal for the EPA to order Michigan to take such actions. Among other requirements, the EPA said the city should: submit plans for ensuring that Flint's water has adequate treatment, including corrosion controls; ensure city personnel are qualified to operate the water system in a way that meets federal quality standards; and create a website where the public can get information.

Earlier Friday, The Flint Water Advisory

Task Force issued recommendations to Snyder aimed at restoring reliable drinking water in Flint. The advisory group said its recommendations are more detailed and comprehensive than what the EPA ordered, and Snyder said officials would "move as quickly as possible to determine the best way to achieve the results."

Regulatory failures

Separately, Snyder announced the suspensions of two employees of the state Department of Environmental Quality in connection with regulatory failures that led to the crisis. The panel's recommendations included working with the EPA staff on a comprehensive lead-sampling program and seeking help from the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in assessing an outbreak of Legionnaires' disease and its cause.

"To help address both the technical issues facing Flint, as well as the publictrust issues, we believe it is imperative to have the right people and organizations involved," task force Co-Chairman Chris Kolb said. "Until the public trust starts to build, this crisis will continue."

Flint's public health emergency led to local, state and federal emergency declarations, the last of which could bring up to \$5 million in direct funding to the city. The federal government denied a request for additional aid through a disaster declaration, saying the program is designed for natural disasters and therefore not appropriate for the city's drinking water crisis. The government announced Friday that it had denied an appeal of that decision by Snyder.

The unnamed DEQ employees who were suspended Friday pending investigations work in the agency's drinking water division, state spokesman Kurt Weiss said. The agency's director and communications director resigned last month. "Some DEQ actions lacked common sense, and that resulted in this terrible tragedy in Flint," Snyder said.

While much of the blame over the crisis has been directed at Snyder and state officials, particularly the Department of Environmental Quality, some have faulted the EPA's Region 5 office for not acting more forcefully.

The EPA's order to state and city officials came the same day that the agency announced that Susan Hedman, head of the agency's regional office in Chicago whose jurisdiction includes Michigan, was stepping down Feb 1. —AP



LIMA: A health worker fumigates to prevent Dengue, Chikunguya and Zika virus, at El Angel cemetery. —AP

ics of how the virus may affect infants remain murky, authorities in Brazil, Colombia and El Salvador are urging women to avoid the risk by postponing pregnancies.

The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention advised pregnant women to reconsider travel to countries with Zika outbreaks, and on Friday it expanded the warning to 22 destinations, most in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Anyone of any age can get Guillain-Barre, although it is very rare. It is thought to be triggered by an infection - something as simple as food poisoning - and happens when the immune system attacks the body's own nervous system. Researchers have been wary of Zika since French Polynesia noted a jump Guillain-Barre and microcephaly cases in tandem with an outbreak of the dengue-like virus, though the populations were far smaller than in the recent outbreaks.

May. It is believed that Zika may have arrived through a tourist at the 2014 World Cup or an international canoeing event the same year. Amid a Zika outbreak in the northeastern city of Salvador during last

year's rainy season, the Couto Maia Hospital saw an unprecedented rise in Guillain-Barre. "Zika was really bad here from

February to July and then all but disappeared in August. In May, June and July, we had 24 patients come

MENTAL HEALTH A GROWING FEAR FOR IOWA UNIVERSITIES

CEDAR RAPIDS: Demand for mental health services at lowa's public universities is surging, with the number of students seeking help up 10 percent year over year at University of Iowa and Iowa State University and 13 percent at University of Northern Iowa.

And the severity of issues facing students is growing too, with suicidal thoughts affecting many of those seeking support, UI Counseling Service Director Barry Schreier told members of the Board of Regents' new campus safety and security subcommittee on Thursday.

During its second meeting to date, the committee reviewed a handful of issues facing the regent campuses, including infectious disease procedures, active shooter protocols, mandatory reporter issues, and mental health concerns. Mental health, according to the American Psychological Association, is becoming a bigger issue on campuses nationally - with 95 percent of college counseling directors in a recent survey calling students with "significant psychological problems" a growing concern.

Seeking counseling

During his presentation Thursday, Schreier said there is an increase of students seeking counseling services on lowa's three campuses complete questionnaires that ask, among other things, if they are considering suicide.

'Students are checking that in greater regularity than they ever have before," Schreier said. "It almost seems to be a sort of go-to coping mechanism for students right now. They think, 'Oh well, I could at least kill myself." More students are coming in to the counseling offices with histories of suicide attempts, non-suicidal self-harm, psychotropic medication use, and substance abuse and dependence, Schreier said. Of the UI students receiving counseling services, for example, about half are on psychotropic medication - and 30some percent come in with it already "in hand." "Some of them really don't know what life is like without those medications," Schreier said.

In response to the growth in demand and severity of issues facing students, the university counseling offices are considering ways to better

serve their campuses, like ramping up training, closing service gaps, finding creative ways to target high-risk populations, and shouting their message "from the rooftops." "We have to be a very active, loud presence on campus," he said. "And social media is a way for us to do that."

dance of caution." —AP

Schreier said the historical stigma around mental health issues and the need for treatment is fading. Today, he said, people more freely talk about problems and help they're receiving. Of those served by the universities' counseling services, many reported academic improvement, according to Schreier. About half those seen on each campus reported a reduction in incidents of depression and anxiety within three counseling sessions. "So across the three campuses what we're showing is that when students come in and they use the counseling services quickly, they are feeling better," he said. "And they are having a reduction of symptoms, which improves their academic performance." But, Schreier stressed, response time is key, and that area has definite room for improvement. —AP

BATTLEGROUND COLORADO ENTERS 2016 WITH ABORTION DEBATES

forgiven for thinking that several years of fiery political contests over abortion and reproductive rights, which helped Democrats win several elections in this socially liberal swing state, were behind

Then, last year a pregnant woman close to giving birth was gruesomely

later an anti-abortion zealot opened fire at a Planned Parenthood clinic in Colorado Springs, killing three. Think those cases won't affect the 2016 races?

Abortion and reproductive rights are never far from the nerve in this battleground state, where party affiliation is



COLORADO: In this Friday, March 23, 2012 file photo, supporters from both sides of the abortion issue share the sidewalk next to the Planned Parenthhood clinic in West Glenwood. —AP

DENVER: Colorado Republicans could be attacked with a knife, and a few months roughly even between Democrats and Republicans and statewide contests often come down to the votes of suburban women who belong to neither party. That key demographic generally favors moderate candidates who back conservative spending but also abortion rights.

Dog-whistle issue

With a US Senate seat and control of the US House delegation on the line in Colorado, plus the prospect of Hillary Clinton becoming the first major party female presidential nominee, gender politics could easily make the difference.

"It is a bit of a dog-whistle issue for a narrow minority, but it is one that does have political power," said Gregoriah Hartman of NARAL Pro-Choice Colorado. 'We're expecting to see more and not less in 2016." Battle lines have already been drawn in Colorado's hottest contests.

In the US Senate race, Tim Neville, a Republican state senator from Littleton, kicked off his campaign against Democratic incumbent Sen. Michael Bennet by talking about abortion politics. 'When an organization like Planned Parenthood ignores the law, kills the unborn, sells their body parts for profit, and we have both parties that can't even come together to end this tragedy, we have an issue with leadership," Neville told supporters, referencing videos taken by anti-abortion activists they said showed Planned Parenthood personnel negotiating the sale of fetal organs.

Bennet likely won't mind if the debate stays on Planned Parenthood. The state's senior senator won his last contest in large part because of reproductive rights. Bennet faced a conservative Tea Party favorite in 2010, one who appeared to be winning in polls until Democrats pounded him for supporting ballot measures to ban abortion by defining fertilized embryos as people, a concept described as "personhood."

Bennet's victory ensured that Democrats for the next five years would try tying Republicans to the "personhood" movement. The focus on reproductive rights grew so intense that during the 2014 Senate campaign, reporters and Republicans derisively dubbed former Sen. Mark Udall "Mark Uterus." Udall was defeated for a second term by Republican Cory Gardner, who once supported a "personhood" measure but convincingly told the public he'd changed his mind.

The Udall defeat was seen by many as the last time Colorado Democrats would focus so heavily on reproductive rights. But events have dictated otherwise. In addition to the Planned Parenthood shootings, motivated apparently by the confessed gunman's opposition to abortion, Colorado is preparing to try a woman accused of cutting an unborn baby out of nearly eight-months-pregnant Longmont woman last year. The baby did not survive. The accused attacker goes on trial this spring in a case Republicans are saying highlights the state's inadequate

penalties for killing unborn babies.

Women's reproductive rights are playing out in a pitched congressional contest, too. Democrats are trying to oust a suburban Republican, Rep. Mike Coffman, who joined Republican colleagues last year and voted to defund Planned Parenthood. The contest will likely determine which party controls Colorado's US House delegation, where the GOP currently has a 4-3 edge.

Reproductive rights

Democratic contender Morgan Carroll, who is challenging Coffman, called his Planned Parenthood vote "appalling." She has received the backing of Emily's List, a national political group focused on electing Democratic women who support abortion rights. Glamour Magazine recently described the Coffman-Carroll race one that "women everywhere should also have their eye on."

Inspired by the attack on the pregnant woman and the Planned Parenthood shootings, the Colorado Legislature this year is going to offer plenty of opportunities for candidates to score political points on women's reproductive rights. Lawmakers will debate an outright ban on abortion, along with a GOP plan to make killing a fetus eligible for a homicide charge. Democrats, meanwhile, will be defending a plan by the Democratic administration to use tax money to increase teenage access to long-acting reversible contraception such as intrauterine devices. —AP

BRAINS VS BLIZZARDS: HARVARD STUDENTS TAKE ON SNOWFALL

SUPERHEATED ICICLE CUTTER, FREEZE-RESISTANT DOORMAT

Harvard University students have been engineering new ways to deal with it. Eighteen juniors representing several engineering disciplines in Professor David Mooney's problem-solving and design class spent the fall semester inventing a robotic remote-control rooftop snowblower, a superheated icicle cutter and a freeze-resistant

The projects grew out of meetings with the university's Facilities Maintenance Operations

BOSTON: Winter is bearing down anew, and department, which is responsible for clearing snow from the 5,000-acre campus and was particularly challenged last winter when the Boston area got more than 9 feet of snow. Harvard shut down several times, the first time campus closed since the infamous Blizzard of '78.

"Don't get me wrong, FMO did an impressive job last winter," electrical engineering major Peyton Fine said. "But we wanted to somehow improve their operations. We wanted to make it easier to get around campus safely and keep

workers safe." A major problem is clearing snow off Harvard's many old and flat-roofed buildings. The main Cambridge/Boston campus has about 500 buildings.

The students retrofitted a commercial snowblower that can be controlled using a modified video game control pad and can be operated remotely, even from inside a nice, warm office. It eliminates the need for workers to spend time on slippery rooftops where they risk falling.

Clearing icicles

Another potential hazard for workers is clearing icicles off eaves. The students' research found that about 150 people a year are killed in the US trying to clear snow and icicles off rooftops. For that problem, the students came up with a device resembling a roof rake, with a long handle topped with a Y-shaped head that holds a superheated wire that can quickly slice through the thickest of icicles while the operator stands on firm ground.

The students also developed a durable freeze resistant hydrogel mat to keep doorways and steps ice free. The class was one of the most practical junior bioengineering major Cassie Lowell has taken. "It's a unique class in the sense is that we're given a lot of freedom," she said. "It was a really hands-on, real-world experience."

The students and Mooney stress that all their inventions are prototypes and won't be deployed on campus this winter. But some of the students plan to keep working on them, with the goal of one day making them commercially available. Fine said he'd love to walk into a hardware store in the future and see the items for sale. "Just like someone has a leaf blower in their garage, we'd love to see someone have an icicle cutter in the garage one day," he said. —AP



VIRGINIA: Cars make their way down Electric Road in southwest Roanoke **County past Tanglewood Mall.**

DINOSAUR FOSSILS FOUND IN W INDIA

AHMEDABAD: A geologist said yesterday his team has discovered what it believes are dinosaur fossils in the western Indian state of Guiarat that could be millions of years old. The team, of 10 mainly German and Indian archaeologists and researchers, dug up the fossils during excavations in Gujarat's marshy coastal district of Kutch, Gaurav Chauhan said.

"We have found three portions of hip bones of (a) dinosaur," Chauhan, a geologist from Gujarat's Kutch University and a member of the excavation team said. "We have been working on this site since (the) last 10 days or so," he said.

Chauhan said carbon-dating tests would need to be carried out to try to determine

the age of the bones, while more examinations were needed to identify the type. Gujarat, sometimes dubbed India's Jurassic Park is home to one of the world's largest collections of dinosaur remains. In 2003, a National Geographic team discovered a new dinosaur species in Gujarat after examining fossils found scattered along the Narmada River.

The dinosaur was named "Rajasaurus Narmadensis" or the regal reptile from Narmada, which was a 30-foot-long, carnivorous and stocky animal, with an unusual head crest. And a large dinosaur egg hatchery has been discovered in the town of Balasinor, some 90 kilometers south of the state's main city of Ahmedabad. —AFP



CAMBRIDGE: In this December 2015 photo provided by Harvard University, junior Cesar Maeda explains a robotic snow blower to a group of officials at Harvard. —AP

CLINIC

Kuwait Times 248 33 199













DICKSON HOUSE: CULTURAL CENTER FOR GENERATIONS TO COME



ickson House is named after the British High Commissioner Lieutenant Colonel Harold Dickson who moved into the house the same year he was appointed at British Political Agent to Kuwait in 1929. The house was built in the early 19th century; it belonged to a Kuwait merchant called Mohammad bin Ali Al-Asfour. After Dickson's death in 1959, his wife, Dame Violet (locally known as Om Soud) remained a tenant in the house until 1990. After she died, the house has been under the care of Kuwait's National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters. It was converted into a museum, and was opened in January 23, 2001, to become a cultural center that tells the story of a British officer who was smitten by the Kuwaiti culture and customs. —KUNA











PRAVASAANDHRA TDP PAYS TRIBUTES TO NTR

ravasaandhra Telugu Desam Kuwait members and Telugu people living in Kuwait from the Indian state of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana paid rich tributes with blood donations to the late legendary actor, TDP founder and Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh Nandamuri Taraka Rama Rao (NTR).

On the occasion of NTR's 19th death anniversary (vardhanti), Pravasaandhra Telugu Desam Kuwait organized a blood donation program at Jabriya central blood bank.

Pravasaandhra Telugu Desam President Mulakala Subbarayudu Naidu and Jyothi Mulakala, Vice Presidents Koduru Venkat, Peram Ramana and others garlanded photos of NTR and made speeches praising his services to Telugu states. Mulakala fondly recalled some of the memories of the legendary actor and leader on the occasion. Among those present were Korapati Ramachandra Naidu, Sudarsan Naidu, K Venkatesh Naidu, B P Naidu, Laxmipathi Naidu, Paleti Prasad, Mulakala Ravi, Jyothi Mulakala, Narayanamma, Venu, K Rajayya K Tripal, K Bhaskar, G Sivayya, G Subbaraudu, G Damu, A Shaker, A Pratap, Y Ramesh, Y Siva, K Babu, G Raghavlu, B Durgayya, T Sudhir, M Ravi and others.











— Photos by Joseph Shagra

INCREDIBLE INDIA FESTIVAL AT LULU HYPERMARKET

uLu Hypermarket, the lifestyle shopping destination of choice for discerning shoppers,

launched their captivating 'Incredible India' festival at the Al-Rai branch on Thursday, 21 January.



The Indian Ambassador to Kuwait Sunil Jain inaugurated the festival in the presence of LuLu management, staff and a large gathering of shoppers and well-wishers. Various Indian cultural programs, including decorations from different Indian states, added entertainment to the opening

event.

The 10-day festival, which runs from 20 to 30 January, allows shoppers to enjoy many of the popular food products and other items from India. In addition to a variety of Indian food items, a special section of the festival is dedicated to freshlyprepared Indian dishes and sweets. Along with branded garments, exquisitely designed sarees, churidars, kurthas and footwear by Indian craftsmen are on offer during the festival.

The festival is an ideal opportunity for citizens and other expatriates in Kuwait to get a taste of Indian food and various other products. The wide range and large selection of products on display, as well as the expansive shopping space, makes shopping at LuLu a very comfortable experience. The festival also allows shoppers to find value in their regular purchase of fresh fruits, vegetables, groceries and

other household products.
LuLu Hypermarkets offers an ultramodern shopping ambience along with a selection of high-quality products at very affordable prices. The Incredible India festival is part of LuLu Hypermarket's initiative to continuously bring the best of the world to their customers, by providing the right products in the right place at the right time.











Anna Tamer, the wife of the Turkish Ambassador to Kuwait hosted a tea party recently in which participants bid farewell to Rzayeva Sevinj, the wife of the outgoing Ambassador of Azerbaijan to Kuwait.

— Photos by Joseph Shagra

PIERCE BROSNAN



00:20 Superhuman Science 00:45 Alaskan Bush People Alaskan Bush People Alaskan Bush People 03:15 Alaskan Bush People Alaskan Bush People 05:00 Alaskan Bush People

06:00 Yukon Men Wheeler Dealers 07:40 Misfit Garage 08:30 Storage Hunters UK

The Liquidator 09:20 Storage Wars Canada 09:45 What Happened Next? How Machines Work 10:35 Alaskan Bush People

11:25 Alaska: The Last Frontier Railroad Alaska 13:05 Storage Hunters UK 13:30 The Liquidator

14:20 Yukon Men 15:10 Wheeler Dealers 16:00 Misfit Garage 16:50 What Happened Next? 17:15 How Machines Work

Storage Wars Canada

Street Outlaws 18:30 Engine Addict With Jimmy De Ville 19:20 Troy

20:10 The Liquidator 20:35 Storage Wars Canada 21:00 X-Ray Mega Airport 21:50 X-Ray Mega Airport 22:40 Wheeler Dealers: Trading Up

DISCOVERY

23:30 Wheeler Dealers

00:35 How The Universe Works 02:55 Strip The Cosmos 03:42 Mythbusters 07:37 How Do They Do It? 08:23 Food Factory How It's Made: Dream Cars 19:50 How The Universe Works

Wrong?

23:45 What Could Possibly Go

00:40 Serial Killers 01:30 Deadly Sins 02:20 Deadly Devotion 03:10 Swamp Murders 04:00 Deadly Women Serial Killers 05:30 Deadly Sins

06:20 The Will 08:00 Fatal Encounters 08:50 Disappeared 09:40 Disappeared 10:30 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones

12:10 The Will 13:50 California Investigator 14:40 Dr. G: Medical Examiner 15:30 True Crime With Aphrodite 16:20 True Crime With Aphrodite

Jones 17:10 Disappeared 18:50 California Investigator 19:40 I Almost Got Away With It True Crime With Aphrodite

23:50 Deadline: Crime With Tamron



Teenage Witch
01:15 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch 01:40 Wolfblood 02:05 Wolfblood 02:30 Violetta 03:15 The Hive 03:20 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
03:45 Sabrina Secrets Of A

Teenage Witch 04:10 Wolfblood 04:35 Wolfblood 05:00 Violetta 05:45 The Hive 05:50 Mouk 06:00 Lolirock Sofia The First 06:50 That's So Raven 07:15 Gravity Falls

07:40 Jessie 08:05 Shake It Up 08:30 Shake It Up 08:55 That's So Raven 09:20 That's So Raven

09:45 Jessie 10:10 Violetta Recipes 10:25 16 Wishes 12:00 I Love Violetta

12:20 Jessie 12:45 Jessie 13:10 Liv And Maddie 13:35 Liv And Maddie 14:00 Austin & Ally 14:30 Austin & Ally

14:55 Lolirock 15:20 I Didn't Do It 15:45 | Didn't Do It 16:10 Best Friends Whenever 16:35 Best Friends Whenever 17:00 Girl Meets World

17:25 Girl Meets World 17:50 The Good Dinosaur Movie Special 18:00 Frenemies

19:30 Gravity Falls19:55 Dog With A Blog 20:20 Mako Mermaids 20:45 Good Luck Charlie 21:10 Good Luck Charlie 21:35 Wizards Of Waverly Place 22:00 Binny And The Ghost 22:25 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch

22:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch 23:10 Wolfblood 23:35 Wolfblood

00:00 New Money 00:30 Fashion Bloggers 00:55 Fashion Bloggers

Stewarts And Hamiltons 02:20 E! News 03:15 Eric And Jessie: Game On 03:40 Eric And Jessie: Game On 04:10 E! Entertainment Special

05:05 E! Entertainment Special 06:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians

06:55 Keeping Up With The Kardashians 07:50 Style Star 08:20 E! News 09:15 House Of DVF 10:15 House Of DVF

11:10 Fashion Bloggers 11:35 Fashion Bloggers 12:05 E! News 13:05 Keeping Up With The

20:00 The Blacklist 14:05 Keeping Up With The 21:00 Scandal 22:00 How To Get Away With Kardashians 15:00 Dash Dolls

16:00 Christina Milian Turned Up

17:00 New Money

17:30 New Money

19:00 Fashion Bloggers

19:30 Fashion Bloggers 20:00 Keeping Up With The

21:00 Keeping Up With The

22:00 Christina Milian Turned Up

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00:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives

01:00 Chopped 02:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives

Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives

Amazing Wedding Cakes

Rev Run's Sunday Suppers

Man v Food

04:00 BBQ Crawl

05:00 Chopped

08:00 Chopped

12:00 Chopped

17:00 Chopped

18:00 Siba's Table

18:30 Siba's Table

19:00 Dinner At Tiffani's

21:00 All Star Academy 22:00 Ching's Amazing Asia

The Freshman Class

CHOICE

Coronation Street

The Jonathan Ross Show

00:20 Coronation Street

04:15 Murdoch Mysteries

11:20 The Chase: Celebrity

13:10 Murdoch Mysteries

16:45 The Chase: Celebrity

17:40 The Jonathan Ross Show

The Jonathan Ross Show

The Jonathan Ross Show

OJA FIRST HID

COMEDY

04:30 The Tonight Show Starring

07:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers

17:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers

ON FIRST HID

04:00 Stitchers 05:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show

13:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show14:00 Witches Of East End

16:00 Live Good Morning America

The Ellen DeGeneres Show

08:30 Young & Hungry 11:00 The Tonight Show Starring

01:10 Pick Me!

08:40 Safe House

09:35 Endeavour

12:15 Grantchester

15:55 Pick Me!

19:55 Pick Me!

21:45 Safe House

22:45 Coronation Street

01:30 Saturday Night Live

05:30 Young & Hungry

13:00 Young & Hungry

19:00 Grandfathered

19:30 Melissa & Joey 20:00 Bad Judge

22:00 Married

23:00 The Big C

23:30 Bad Judge

00:00 Defiance

09:00 Stitchers

01:00 Heroes Reborn

03:00 Minority Report

07:00 Drop Dead Diva 08:00 Witches Of East End

11:00 Drop Dead Diva

12:00 Coronation Street

12:30 Coronation Street

18:00 Witches Of East End

19:00 Heroes Reborn

02:00 The Blacklist

02:30 The Big C

Jimmy Fallon

06:00 Til Death

Jimmy Fallon

12:00 Til Death

15:00 Code Of A Killer

18:35 Coach Trip 19:00 Code Of A Killer

Specials

07:00 Man Fire Food

The Kitchen

Guy's Big Bite

14:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives

18:00 E! News

Kardashians

Kardashians

23:00 Dash Dolls

23:00 Show Me A Hero **OVIN** FIRST

MORE 00:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show 01:00 Survivor: Cambodia 02:00 Good Morning America Satisfaction

04:00 Blood & Oil 05:00 Survivor: Cambodia 06:00 Good Morning America 07:00 Coronation Street 07:30 Coronation Street The Ellen DeGeneres Show 09:00 Supernatural 10:00 Coronation Street Coronation Street 10:30

The Ellen DeGeneres Show 12:00 Resurrection 13:00 Shark Tank 14:00 Supernatural 15:00 Survivor: Cambodia The Voice 16:00 18:00 Shark Tank

19:00 Supernatural

22:00 Satisfaction

23:00 Blood & Oil

Resurrection

Shark Tank

20:00

MOVIES

ACTION 00:00 American Heist 02:00 Patrick 04:00 Hours

06:00 The Scorpion King 4: Quest 08:00 Abandoned Mine 10:00 The River Wild 12:00 Android Cop 14:00 Destruction: Las Vegas 16:00 The Scorpion King 4: Quest 18:00 The River Wild 20:00 Don't Look Back

ON MOVIES HID

22:00 Turbulence

ACTION

00:00 Patrick-18 02:00 Hours-PG15 04:00 The Scorpion King 4: Quest For Power-PG15 06:00 Abandoned Mine-PG15 08:00 The River Wild-PG15 10:00 Android Cop-PG15 12:00 Destruction: Las Vegas14:00 The Scorpion King 4: Quest For Power-PG15 16:00 The River Wild-PG15 18:00 Don't Look Back-PG15 20:00 Turbulence-PG15 22:00 Lone Survivor-PG15

ON MOVIES HID

COMEDY

00:00 We'll Never Have Paris 02:00 Cas & Dylan 04:00 Beethoven's Treasure Tail 06:00 The Love Punch 08:00 A Simple Twist Of Fate 10:00 Beethoven's Treasure Tail 12:00 Cas & Dylan 14:00 Chef 16:00 A Simple Twist Of Fate 18:00 A Case Of You Pretty Woman

22:00 Mad Dog And Glory

MOVIES

DRAMA 01:30 The Wicked Within-PG15 03:00 Decoding Annie Parker-PG15 05:00 Grand Central-PG15

07:00 I Will Follow You Into The Dark-PG15 09:00 A Promise-PG15 11:00 Grand Central-PG15 13:00 At Middleton-PG15 14:45 For Greater Glory-PG15

A Promise-PG15 19:00 Inside Llewyn Davis-PG15 21:00 The Trials Of Cate McCall

ON MOVIES HID

FESTIVAL 01:00 Heaven's Gate 04:30 To Write Love On Her Arms 06:30 Upside Down

10:45 Heaven's Door 12:45 The Mirror Has Two Faces 15:00 The Bag Man 17:00 Waitress 19:00 Out Of The Furnace

OM MOVIES HD

01:00 Left Behind-PG15 03:00 Taken 3-PG15 05:00 Earth To Echo-PG 06:45 Salinger-PG15 09:00 Breathe In-PG15 11:00 Taken 3-PG15 13:00 The Mark-PG15 15:00 Good Deeds-PG15 17:00 Breathe In-PG15 19:00 Good People-PG15 21:00 Some Girls-PG15 23:00 The November Man-18

OM MOVIES HD

01:30 The Elf Who Stole Christmas

KIDS

03:00 Snow Queen 04:30 Marco Macaco 06:00 Mostly Ghostly: Have You Met My Ghoulfriend 08:00 Miffy The Movie 09:45 Hatching 11:15 Tarzan 13:00 Snow Queen 14:30 Bolts And Blip 16:00 Sir Billi 18:00 Hatching 20:00 Jingle All The Way 2 22:00 Bolts And Blip 23:30 Marvel's Planet Hulk

MOVIES HID

PREMIERE 01:00 Anna Nicole-PG15 02:30 Le Weekend-PG15 04:15 Bad Parents-PG15 06:00 August: Osage County-PG15 08:00 A Common Man-PG15 The Good Witch's Wedding-12:00 Stonehearst Asylum-PG1514:00 40 Days And Nights-PG15 16:00 A Common Man-PG15 18:00 Kristy-PG15 20:00 Winter's Tale-PG15

03:50 Robinson Crusoe 05:25 Little Sister 07:00 The Watsons Go To Birmingham

22:00 Dom Hemingway-18

08:30 Separate Tables 10:10 Apache 11:40 The Crocodile Hunter: Collision Course

13:10 Big Screen13:25 Inspector Clouseau 15:00 Music Of The Heart 17:05 The Man In The Iron Mask 19:15 Mannequin 20:45 Big Screen

01:40 Road House

00:00 Dracula 2000

21:00 Venom

22:30 London

03:00 Born To Kill 04:00 Born To Kill 05:00 The Haunting Of. 06:00 Celebrity Ghost Stories 07:00 The FBI Files 08:00 After The First 48

09:00 After The First 48 10:00 The FBI Files 11:00 The FBI Files 12:00 Killers

13:00 Killers 14:00 Killers 15:00 Crimes That Shook Australia 16:00 Crimes That Shook Australia 17:00 Crimes That Shook Australia 18:00 Crimes That Shook Australia

19:00 Crimes That Shook Australia 20:00 | Didn't Do It I Didn't Do It

22:00 I Didn't Do It 23:00 Killer Kids 00:00 Killer Kids 01:00 The Haunting Of... 02:00 | Escaped My Killer

DISNED &

03:05 Calimero 03:20 Zou 03:30 Loopdidoo 03:45 Art Attack 04:20 Calimero

04:10 Henry Hugglemonster 04:35 Zou 04:45 Loopdidoo 05:00 Art Attack 05:25 Henry Hugglemonster

05:35 Calimero

05:50 Zou

06:00 Loopdidoo 06:15 Art Attack Henry Hugglemonster 06:50 Calimero 07:00 Zou 07:20 Loopdidoo

07:35 Art Attack 08:00 Calimero 08:10 Zou 08:25 Loopdidoo 08:40 Jake And The Never Land 09:05 Sofia The First 09:30 Miles From Tomorrow

09:55 The Hive 10:35 Mickey Mouse 11:00 Sofia The First 11:30 Captain Jake And The Never

Land Pirates 12:00 Miles From Tomorrow 12:25 Sofia The First 14:25 Doc McStuffins 14:50 Henry Hugglemonster 15:15 Zou 15:30 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse

Loopdidoo 16:10 Miles From Tomorrow 16:35 Jake And The Never Land **Pirates**

17:00 Sofia The First 17:25 Jungle Cubs 17:50 Aladdin 17:50 18:15 Gummi Bears 18:40 Jake And The Never Land Pirates 19:05 Miles From Tomorrow 19:30 Sofia The First

19:55 Doc McStuffins 20:15 Jake And The Never Land **Pirates** 20:45 Sheriff Callie's Wild West 21:05 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse 21:35 Sofia The First

02:30 Art Attack

22:25 Aladdin

23:45

23:50 Zou

00:35 Zou

02:00 Zou

00:20 Calimero

00:50 Loopdidoo

01:05 Art Attack

02:15 Loopdidoo

22:50 Gummi Bears

Lilo And Stitch

00:05 Henry Hugglemonster

01:30 Henry Hugglemonster

Cars Toons

07:00 Star vs The Forces Of Evil 07:25 K. C. Undercover 07:50 Supa Strikas

08:15 A Goofy Movie 09:35 Gamers Guide To Pretty Much Everything 10:00 Star vs The Forces Of Evil

10:25 K. C. Undercover 10:50 Suna Strikas Lab Rats 11:20 11:45 Annedroids 12:10 Kirby Buckets

12:35 Gamers Guide To Pretty Much Everything 13:00 Lab Rats 13:30 Lab Rats

13:55 Lab Rats 14:20 Lab Rats 14:45 Lab Rats 15:15 Lab Rats 15:40 Lab Rats 19:10 Annedroids 19:35 Star vs The Forces Of Evil

THE NOVEMBER MAN ON OSN MOVIES HD

20:00 Kirby Buckets 20:25 Gamers Guide To Pretty Much Everything 20:55 K. C. Undercover 21:20 Supa Strikas 21:45 Lab Bats 22:10 Mighty Med

17:50 Supa Strikas

18:15 Lab Rats

18:40 Mighty Med

16:30 Lab Rats 16:55 Lab Rats: Bionic Island 17:25 K. C. Undercover

23:05 Super Matrak

Boyster 00:00 Programmes Start At 7:00am

03:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles

03:24 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles

03:48 Henry Danger 04:12 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn

04:36 The Haunted Hathaways

06:12 SpongeBob SquarePants 06:36 SpongeBob SquarePants

05:00 Winx Club 05:24 Sanjay And Craig

05:48 Sanjay And Craig

07:48 Sanjay And Craig

09:24 Rabbids Invasion

09:48 Henry Danger 10:12 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn

The Haunted Hathaways

08:12 Harvey Beaks

08:36 Breadwinners

09:00 Get Blake

11:00 Winx Club

17:24 Harvey Beaks 17:48 Breadwinners

18:12 Henry Danger 18:36 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn 19:00 100 Things To Do Before nickelodeon HD

High School 19:24 Max & Shred 19:48 SpongeBob SquarePants 20:12

21:24 Breadwinners 21:48 Breadwinners 22:12 Sanjay And Craig 22:36 Sanjay And Craig

23:48 Henry Danger 00:12 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn 00:36 Max & Shred Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles 07:24 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles 01:00 100 Things To Do Before High School

01:24 Sanjay And Craig 01:48 Sanjay And Craig 02:12 SpongeBob SquarePants

sundance 04:35 Mary Is Happy, Mary Is





Taken 3 ON OSN MOVIES HD

11:24 SpongeBob SquarePants11:48 SpongeBob SquarePants12:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles

13:00 Breadwinners 13:24 Breadwinners 13:48 Get Blake 14:12 Rabbids Invasion

LUKE BRACEY

14:36 100 Things To Do Before High School 15:00 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn 15:24 SpongeBob SquarePants

SpongeBob SquarePants 16:12 Teenage Mutant Ninia Turtles Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles

SpongeBob SquarePants Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles

23:00 SpongeBob SquarePants 23:24 SpongeBob SquarePants

02:36 SpongeBob SquarePants

Ben Lee: Catch My Disease 08:10 Kumiko, The Treasure 10:00 Circles 11:50 A Sea Turtle Story

12:00 All On The Line 13:00 The Red Road 14:00 Everest 16:05 Dear Lemon Lima 17:30 Movie Talk 17:55 Discovering: Zeffirelli

18:40 Circles 20:30 The Red Road 21:30 All On The Line 22:30 Theatreland 23:00 Hollywood's Best Film

Directors 23:30 A Sea Turtle Story 23:40 Barking Water 01:00 For Ellen 02:45 Barking Water



03:15 Long Island Medium 03:40 Long Island Medium 04:05 World's Worst Mum 05:00 World's Worst Mum 06:00 Say Yes To The Dress ,Äì

Bridesmaids 06:25 Super Soul Sunday 07:15 Hoarding: Buried Alive 08:05 My Giant Life

08:55 Curvy Brides 09:20 Curvy Brides 09:45 Jon & Kate Plus 8 Little People, Big World 10:35 My Five Wives 11:25 Cake Boss

11:50 Oprah: Where Are They Now? 12:40 Super Soul Sunday 13:30 7 Little Johnstons 14:20 My Big Fat Fabulous Life 14:45 My Big Fat Fabulous Life 15:10 Jon & Kate Plus 8

15:35 Little People, Big World

CLASSIFIEDS

Kuwait Times

SUNDAY, JANUARY 24, 2016





KNCC PROGRAMME FROM THURSDAY TO WEDNESDAY (21/01/2016 TO 27/01/2016)

SHARQIA-1		DARKNESS DESCENDS	3:00 PM	THE 5TH WAVE	9:30 PM
LOST IN THE SUN	12:15 PM	DILWALE - Hindi	5:00 PM	THE 5TH WAVE	12:15 AM
LOST IN THE SUN	2:30 PM	DICTATOR - Telugu	5:00 PM	THE STITUTE OF	12.13741
DARKNESS DESCENDS	4:30 PM	DARKNESS DESCENDS	8:00 PM	AVENUES-2	
DARKNESS DESCENDS	6:30 PM	DARKNESS DESCENDS	10:00 PM	DARKNESS DESCENDS	12:00 PM
LOST IN THE SUN	8:30 PM	DARKNESS DESCENDS	12:05 AM	DARKNESS DESCENDS	2:15 PM
DARKNESS DESCENDS	10:30 PM	Di WWW LESS DESCEIVES	12.037411	DARKNESS DESCENDS DARKNESS DESCENDS	4:30 PM
LOST IN THE SUN	12:30 AM	FANAR-3			
2031 114 1112 3014	12.507111	RIDE ALONG 2	12:30 PM	DARKNESS DESCENDS DARKNESS DESCENDS	6:45 PM 9:00 PM
SHAROIA-2		RIDE ALONG 2	2:30 PM		
MIN DAHAR RAGEL - Arabic	12:15 PM	KUNG FU STYLE	4:30 PM	DARKNESS DESCENDS	11:30 PM
RIDE ALONG 2	2:00 PM	RIDE ALONG 2	6:30 PM		
MIN DAHAR RAGEL - Arabic	3:45 PM	RIDE ALONG 2	8:30 PM	AVENUES-3	
THE 5TH WAVE	6:45 PM	RIDE ALONG 2	10:30 PM	OUR BRAND IS CRISIS	1:00 PM
MIN DAHAR RAGEL - Arabic	9:15 PM	RIDE ALONG 2	12:30 AM	OUR BRAND IS CRISIS	1:30 PM
MIN DAHAR RAGEL - Arabic	12:15 AM	HIDE ALONG 2	12.50 AIVI	FRI	
WIIN DAI IANTIAGLE AIGDIC	12.13 /101	FANAR-4		OUR BRAND IS CRISIS	3:45 PM
SHARQIA-3		MIN DAHAR RAGEL - Arabic	12:15 PM	OUR BRAND IS CRISIS	6:15 PM
RIDE ALONG 2	1:00 PM	RIDE ALONG 2	1:30 PM	OUR BRAND IS CRISIS	8:45 PM
THE BOY	2:45 PM	MIN DAHAR RAGEL - Arabic	3:15 PM	OUR BRAND IS CRISIS	11:15 PM
RIDE ALONG 2	4:45 PM	MIN DAHAR RAGEL - Arabic	6:15 PM		
RIDE ALONG 2	6:45 PM	MIN DAHAR RAGEL - Arabic	9:15 PM	360°- 1	
THE BOY	8:45 PM	MIN DAHAR RAGEL - Arabic	12:15 AM	RIDE ALONG 2	11:45 AM
		MIIN DAMAK KAGEL - ARADIC	12:15 AW	RIDE ALONG 2	1:45 PM
RIDE ALONG 2 THE BOY	10:45 PM 12:45 AM	FANAR-5		RIDE ALONG 2	3:45 PM
THE BOY	12:45 AW		11.45 AM	RIDE ALONG 2	5:45 PM
ANULIAL AD 1		THE BOY THE BOY	11:45 AM	RIDE ALONG 2	7:45 PM
MUHALAB-1 DARKNESS DESCENDS	11.30 444	THE BOY	1:45 PM 3:45 PM	RIDE ALONG 2	9:45 PM
	11:30 AM				
KUNG FU STYLE	1:30 PM	THE 5TH WAVE	5:45 PM	RIDE ALONG 2	11:45 PM
DILWALE - Hindi	3:30 PM	THE BOY	8:15 PM	****	
DICTATOR - Telugu	3:30 PM	THE 5TH WAVE	10:15 PM	360°- 2	40.45.014
OUR BRAND IS CRISIS	6:30 PM	THE BOY	12:45 AM	KUNG FU STYLE	12:15 PM
DARKNESS DESCENDS	8:45 PM	*******		KUNG FU STYLE	2:15 PM
DARKNESS DESCENDS	10:45 PM	MARINA-1	11 30 444	KUNG FU STYLE	4:15 PM
OUR BRAND IS CRISIS	12:45 AM	LOST IN THE SUN	11:30 AM	DILWALE - Hindi	6:15 PM
		THE 5TH WAVE	1:30 PM	DILWALE - Hindi	9:30 PM
MUHALAB-2	10.00 014	OUR BRAND IS CRISIS	3:45 PM	THE BOY	12:30 AM
RIDE ALONG 2	12:00 PM	LOST IN THE SUN	6:00 PM		
RIDE ALONG 2	2:00 PM	THE 5TH WAVE	8:00 PM	360°-3	
THE REVENANT	4:00 PM	OUR BRAND IS CRISIS	10:15 PM	DARKNESS DESCENDS	1:00 PM
SOGGADE CHINNI NAYANA -Telugu	4:00 PM	LOST IN THE SUN	12:30 AM	DARKNESS DESCENDS	3:15 PM
RIDE ALONG 2	7:00 PM	MARINA		DARKNESS DESCENDS	5:30 PM
RIDE ALONG 2	9:00 PM	MARINA-2	12.00.014	DARKNESS DESCENDS	7:45 PM
RIDE ALONG 2	11:00 PM	RIDE ALONG 2	12:00 PM	DARKNESS DESCENDS	10:00 PM
RIDE ALONG 2	1:00 AM	RIDE ALONG 2	2:00 PM	DARKNESS DESCENDS	12:15 AM
ANULAL AD D		THE REVENANT	4:00 PM		
MUHALAB-3	11.45.444	RIDE ALONG 2	7:00 PM	AL-KOUT.1	
MIN DAHAR RAGEL - Arabic	11:45 AM	THE REVENANT	9:00 PM	MIN DAHAR RAGEL - Arabic	12:15 PM
MIN DAHAR RAGEL - Arabic	2:45 PM	RIDE ALONG 2	12:05 AM	RIDE ALONG 2	1:30 PM
MIN DAHAR RAGEL - Arabic	5:45 PM			MIN DAHAR RAGEL - Arabic	3:15 PM
MIN DAHAR RAGEL - Arabic	8:45 PM	MARINA-3	40.00.014		
MIN DAHAR RAGEL - Arabic	11:45 PM	MIN DAHAR RAGEL - Arabic	12:30 PM	MIN DAHAR RAGEL - Arabic	6:15 PM
		KUNG FU STYLE	1:30 PM	MIN DAHAR RAGEL - Arabic	9:15 PM
FANAR-1		KUNG FU STYLE	3:30 PM	MIN DAHAR RAGEL - Arabic	12:15 AM
OUR BRAND IS CRISIS	11:45 AM	MIN DAHAR RAGEL - Arabic	5:45 PM		
OUR BRAND IS CRISIS	2:00 PM	MIN DAHAR RAGEL - Arabic	8:45 PM	AL-KOUT.2	
OUR BRAND IS CRISIS	4:15 PM	MIN DAHAR RAGEL - Arabic	11:45 PM	RIDE ALONG 2	11:30 AM
THE REVENANT	6:30 PM			THE 5TH WAVE	1:30 PM
OUR BRAND IS CRISIS	9:30 PM	AVENUES-1		RIDE ALONG 2	3:45 PM
THE REVENANT	11:45 PM	KUNG FU STYLE	11:30 AM	THE 5TH WAVE	5:45 PM
		THE 5TH WAVE	1:30 PM	RIDE ALONG 2	8:15 PM
FANAR-2		THE 5TH WAVE	4:00 PM	THE 5TH WAVE	10:15 PM
DARKNESS DESCENDS	1:00 PM	TWO COUNTRIES - Malayalam	6:30 PM	RIDE ALONG 2	12:45 AM

APARTMENTS FOR RENT

1 & 2 BEDROOMS - HALL -2 **BATH - KITCHEN - BALCONY**

Furnished & Unfurnished At Shaab With Sea View Including Water & Electricity - Satellite - Shaded Car Parking - Fully Furnished & Unfurnished - Free Maintenance

Contact: 99494337 - 67600972

FOR RENT

Ground floor, 3 master room and reception / living room, maid room, in Rumaithiya.

Rent KD 850

99559075

REQUIRED

(visa transfer immediately) Indian or Filipino For a good salary

Career.kuwait.01@gmail.com 69999081

EMERGENCY



THE PUBLIC AUTHORITY FOR CIVIL INFORMATION

Automated enquiry about the Civil ID card is 1889988

Prayer timings

Fajr: 05:19 06:41 Shorook **Duhr:** 12:00 Asr: 14:59 Maghrib: 17:19 Isha: 18:39





Flight Schedule

Directorate General of Civil Aviation Home Page (www.kuwait-airport.com.kw)

In case you are not travelling, your proper cancellation of bookings will help other passengers to use seats

			Arrival Flights on S	unday 24/1/2	016						Departure Flights on	Sunday 24/	1/2016		
Airlines	FIt	Route	Time	SVA	500	Jeddah	14:30	Airlines	FIt	Route	Time	FDB	076	Dubai	13:10
MSC	415	Sohag	00:05	KAC	284	Dhaka	14:45	AIC	988	Hyderabad/Chennai	00:05	JZR	786	Riyadh	13:10
JZR	239	Amman	00:25	KAC	672	Dubai	14:45	FDB	072	Dubai	00:40	KAC	791	Madinah	13:25
JZR	267	Beirut	00:30	KAC	788	Jeddah	14:50	JAI	573	Mumbai	00:55	SAW	702	Damascus	13:35
JZR	539	Cairo	00:40	GFA	221	Bahrain	15:00	MSC	416	Sohag	01:00	JZR	176	Dubai	13:45
FDB	069	Dubai	00:55	KNE	472	Jeddah	15:05	KAC	283	Dhaka	02:10	MSR	611	Cairo	14:00
RJA	642	Amman	01:05	OMA	645	Muscat	15:30	THY	773	Istanbul	02:30	UAE	872	Dubai	14:15
THY	772	Istanbul	01:05	KAC	562	Amman	15:40	DLH	635	Frankfurt	02:35	KAC	673	Dubai	15:00
ETH	3402 635	Addis Ababa/Riyadh	01:30	ABY UAE	127 857	Sharjah	15:45	ETH	621	Addis Ababa	02:45	FDB	058	Dubai	15:10
DLH ETH	620	Doha Addis Ababa	01:35 01:45	JZR	535	Dubai Cairo	15:45 16:10	ETH	3403	Addis Ababa	03:05	QTR	1079	Doha	15:10
PGT	858	Istanbul	02:00	QTR	1072	Doha	16:10	KAC	381	Delhi	03:30	AXB	394	Kozhikode	15:20
JZR	555	Alexandria	02:25	JZR	787	Riyadh	16:25	UAE	854	Dubai	03:45	SVA	503	Madinah/Jeddah	15:45
UAE	853	Dubai	02:30	FDB	051	Dubai	16:30	PGT	859	Istanbul	03:55	GFA	222	Bahrain	15:45
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:30	ETD	303	Abu Dhabi	16:40	OMA	644	Muscat	03:55	KAC	617	Doha	15:45
OMA	643	Muscat	02:55	RJA	640	Amman	16:55	FDB	068	Dubai	04:00	KAC	773	Riyadh	15:50
FDB	067	Dubai	03:05	KAC	542	Cairo	16:55	MSR	613	Cairo	04:10	KAC	741	Dammam	15:55
MSR	612	Cairo	03:10	SVA	510	Riyadh	17:15	ETD	306	Abu Dhabi	04:15	KNE	473	Jeddah	16:05
CEB	7694	Manila	03:15	GFA	215	Bahrain	17:30	KKK	6508	Istanbul	04:20	ABY	128	Sharjah	16:25
QTR	1076	Doha	03:15	KAC	678	Muscat/Abu Dhabi	17:50	PGT	861	Istanbul	04:55	OMA	646	Muscat	16:30
KKK	6507	Istanbul	03:20	MSR	614	Cairo	17:50	QTR	1077	Doha	05:00	JZR	266	Beirut	17:05
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:25	JZR	777	Jeddah	17:55	LMU	511	Cairo	05:05	ETD	304	Abu Dhabi	17:30
KAC	544	Cairo	03:35	UAE	875	Dubai	18:00	THY	765	Istanbul	05:15	JZR	238	Amman	17:30
LMU	510	Cairo	04:05	KAC	502	Beirut	18:00	CEB	7695	Manila	05:20	FDB	052	Dubai	17:35
PGT DHX	860	Istanbul	04:15	FDB KAC	063 792	Dubai	18:05	JZR	560	Sohag	06:10	QTR	1073	Doha	17:40
THY	170 770	Bahrain Istanbul	05:40 05:55	JZR	177	Madinah Dubai	18:10 18:20	FDB	070	Dubai	06:30	UAE	858	Dubai	17:45
QTR	8511	Doha	06:10	KAC	786	Jeddah	18:30	JZR	164	Dubai	06:55	JZR	538	Cairo	17:45
FDB	5061	Dubai	06:30	ABY	123	Sharjah	18:45	RJA	643	Amman	07:05	RJA	641	Amman	17:55
BAW	157	London	06:40	QTR	1080	Doha	18:55	THY	771	Istanbul	07:05	SVA	511	Riyadh	18:15
KAC	412	Manila/Bangkok	07:20	KAC	742	Dammam	19:05	FDB	5062	Dubai	07:10	GFA	216	Bahrain	18:20
FDB	053	Dubai	07:25	KAC	774	Riyadh	19:25	GFA	212	Bahrain	07:15	JZR	184	Dubai	18:40
QTR	1086	Doha	07:40	GFA	217	Bahrain	19:30	QTR	8512	Doha	07:40	MSR	615	Cairo	18:50
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:50	KAC	166	Paris/Rome	19:30	FDB	054	Dubai	08:10	JZR	124	Bahrain	19:10
SVA	512	Riyadh	07:50	KAC	618	Doha	19:35	JZR	174	Dubai	08:25	FDB	064	Dubai	19:20
OMA	641	Muscat	08:00	JZR	483	Istanbul	19:35	QTR	1087	Doha	08:40	ABY	124	Sharjah	19:25
KAC	354	BLR	08:15	KAC	674	Dubai	19:45	BAW	156	London	08:45	UAE	876	Dubai	19:30
KAC	206	Islamabad	08:25	KAC	102	New York/London	19:55	SVA	513	Riyadh	08:50	GFA	218	Bahrain	20:15
KAC	352	Kochi	08:30	FDB	061	Dubai	20:20	OMA	642	Muscat	08:55	KAC	361	Colombo	20:45
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	08:30	OMA	647	Muscat	20:20	KAC	171	Frankfurt	09:05	QTR	1081	Doha	20:50
UAE KAC	855 332	Dubai Trivandrum	08:40 08:50	MSR FDB	606 5053	Luxor Dubai	20:45 20:50	JZR KAC	534	Cairo	09:15	KAC	351	Kochi	20:50
KAC	362	Colombo	08:50	JAI	572	Mumbai	20:55	ABY	787	Jeddah	09:25	OMA	648	Muscat	21:20
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:00	DLH	634	Frankfurt	20:55	UAE	126 856	Sharjah Dubai	09:40 09:55	FDB MSR	062 619	Dubai Alexandria	21:20 21:45
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	09:20	QTR	1088	Doha	21:00	KAC	117	New York	09:55	DLH	634	Doha	21:45
QTR	1070	Doha	09:25	MEA	402	Beirut	21:20	KAC	541	Cairo	09:55	DHX	171	Bahrain	21:50
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	ETD	307	Abu Dhabi	21:20	KAC	561	Amman	10:00	FDB	5054	Dubai	21:50
IRA	665	Shiraz	09:40	ALK	229	Colombo	21:25	KAC	671	Dubai	10:05	JAI	571	Mumbai	21:55
IRC	528	Ahwaz	10:00	UAE	859	Dubai	21:40	ETD	302	Abu Dhabi	10:25	QTR	1089	Doha	22:00
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	GFA	219	Bahrain	21:45	KAC	501	Beirut	10:30	JZR	502	Luxor	22:00
UAE	873	Dubai	11:05	QTR	1082	Doha	22:00	FDB	056	Dubai	10:35	ETD	308	Abu Dhabi	22:10
SYR	341	Damascus	11:25	JZR	125	Bahrain	22:00	JZR	482	Istanbul	10:35	KAC	301	Mumbai	22:10
JZR	165	Dubai	11:30	KLM	417	Amsterdam	22:05	IRA	664	Shiraz	10:40	MEA	403	Beirut	22:20
AGY	682	Asyut	11:40	AIC	981	Chennai/Ahmedabad	22:25	KAC	677	Abu Dhabi/Muscat	10:50	ALK	230	Colombo	22:25
MEA	404	Beirut	11:55	ETD FDB	309	Abu Dhabi	22:25	QTR	1071	Doha	11:00	GFA	220	Bahrain	22:30
SAW FDB	701 075	Damascus Dubai	12:20 12:25	KAC	059 172	Dubai Frankfurt	22:30 22:35	IRC	529	Ahwaz	11:00	UAE	860	Dubai	22:55
JZR	561	Sohag	12:45	MSC	501	Alexandria	23:00	GFA	214	Bahrain	11:25	QTR	1083	Doha	23:05
UAE	871	Dubai	12:50	JZR	239	Amman	23:05	JZR	776	Jeddah	12:20	KLM	417	Dammam/Amsterdam	23:05
JZR	175	Dubai	13:00	JZR	185	Dubai	23:15	SYR	342	Damascus	12:25	KAC	205	Islamabad	23:10
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00	PIA	205	Lahore	23:40	KAC	103	London	12:25	ETD	310	Abu Dhabi	23:15
KAC	382	Delhi	13:50	FDB	071	Dubai	23:45	UAE	874	Dubai	12:30	FDB	060	Dubai	23:35
QTR	1078	Doha	14:10	THY	764	Istanbul	23:50	AGY	683	Alexandria	12:40	KAC	411	Bangkok/Manila	23:35
FDB	057	Dubai	14:10	JAI	574	Mumbai	23:55	MEA	405	Beirut	12:55	KAC	415	Kuala Lumpur/Jakarta	23:40
														P.	

CROSSWORD 1147

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ACROSS

- 1. A person's brother or sister.
- 4. Cause to become alive again.
- 11. A bachelor's degree in music. 15. A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
- 16. Having a hole cut through.
- 17. Cause annoyance in. 18. A unit of length of thread or yarn.
- 19. An industrial city in south central Finland.
- 20. A former copper coin of Pakistan. 21. East Indian flying squirrel.
- 23. Showing both bilateral and radial sym-
- 25. Narrow wood or metal or plastic run-
- ners used for gliding over snow. 27. Beliefs of a person or social group in
- which they have an emotional investment (either for or against something).
- 30. Stable gear consisting of either of two curved supports that are attached to the collar of a draft horse and that hold the traces.
- 31. A large number or amount.
- 34. A particular geographical region of indefinite boundary (usually serving some special purpose or distinguished by its people or culture or geography).
- 35. The 8th letter of the Greek alphabet. 38. A domain in which something is domi-
- 40. A highly unstable radioactive element (the heaviest of the halogen series).
- 42. A soft silvery metallic element of the alkali earth group.
- 43. (Greek mythology) The winged god-
- dess of the dawn in ancient mythology. 44. The blood group whose red cells carry both the A and B antigens.
- 46. (prefix) Indicating difference or varia-
- 50. A vehicle mounted on runners and
- pulled by horses or dogs.
- 52. A very light colorless element that is one of the six inert gasses.
- 53. Give pleasure to.
- 55. (Akkadian) God of wisdom. 56. According to the Old Testament he was
- a pagan king of Israel and husband of Jezebel (9th century BC).
- 58. Not gained by merit or labor or service. 61. A logarithmic unit of sound intensity.
- 62. Summer cypress.
- 63. The capital and largest city of Yemen. 67. An anxiety disorder associated with
- serious traumatic events and characterized by such symptoms as guilt about surviving or reliving the trauma in dreams or numbness and lack of involvement with reality or recurrent thoughts and images.
- 70. American prizefighter who won the world heavyweight championship three times (born in 1942).
- 71. Charge falsely or with malicious intent. 75. A spacecraft that carries astronauts from the command module to the surface
- of the moon and back. 76. Constrict or bind or draw together.
- 78. A workplace for the conduct of scientific research.
- 79. Large brownish-green New Zealand parrot.
- 80. Recurring again and again. 81. A loose sleeveless outer garment made

from aba cloth. **DOWN**

1. Containing or filled with salt.

2. The United Nations agency concerned with atomic energy.

- 3. (informal) Exceptionally good.
- 4. The process of taking food into the body through the mouth (as by eating).
- 5. A person who plays the piano.
- 6. A recurring sleep state during which dreaming occurs.
- 7. Alsatian artist and poet who was
- cofounder of Dadaism in Zurich. 8. A ship with a reinforced bow to break up
- ice and keep channels open for navigation. 9. Argentinian cariama. 10. United States swimmer who in 1926
- became the first woman to swim the English Channel (1903-). 11. An awl for making small holes for brads
- or small screws. 12. (British) A minicar used as a taxicab.
- 13. The inner and longer of the two bones of the human forearm.
- 14. Fastener consisting of a resinous composition that is plastic when warm.
- 22. Occurring or encountered or experienced or observed frequently or in accor-
- dance with regular practice or procedure. 24. The branch of computer science that deal with writing computer programs that can solve problems creatively.
- 26. Long-legged spotted cat of Africa and southwestern Asia having nonretractile claws.
- 28. Small space in a tissue or part such as the area between veins on a leaf or an insect's wing
- 29. Property that is leased or rented out or let.
- 32. Corrupt morally or by intemperance or sensuality.
- 33. Having or joined by a seam or seams. 36. (astronomy) The angular distance of a celestial point measured westward along the celestial equator from the zenith cross-
- ing. 37. A radioactive element of the actinide
- 39. The eleventh month of the Hindu cal
- endar. 41. 100 kopecks equal 1 ruble.
- 45. A small ball with a hole through the middle.
- 47. Malignant neoplasm of blood-forming tissues.
- 48. (printing) A short line at the end of the main strokes of a character.
- 49. A long slender cigar.
- 51. An informal term for a father.
- 54. The syllable naming the sixth (submediant) note of a major or minor scale in
- solmization. 57. A small pellet fired from an air rifle or BB gun.
- 59. Having a tendency to cause harm.
- 60. (Jungian psychology) The inner self (not the external persona) that is in touch with the unconscious.
- 64. On or toward the lee. 65. The sixth month of the civil year. 66. Denuded of leaves.
- 68. Someone who works (or provides workers) during a strike.
- 69. A Chadic language spoken south of Lake Chad.
- 72. The compass point midway between east and southeast.
- 73. (computer science) Protocol that allows users to copy files between their local system and any system they can reach on the
- network. 74. (Brit) A tough youth of 1950's and 1960's wearing Edwardian style clothes.
- 77. A brittle gray crystalline element that is a semiconducting metalloid (resembling silicon) used in transistors.

Yesterday's Solution

О	P	S		В	Α	G	U	Е	T	T	Е		Α	Е	С
M	Е	Q		В	0	U	N	T	I	Е	D		S	I	R
Α	K	U		S	U	L	T	Α	N		I	M	Α	G	Е
N	Е	Α	R		D	Α	Н		D	Е	В	0	N	Е	D
		В	Α		Α	G	Α	M	Α		L	L	Α	N	О
Α	L		J		D		W	Α	L	L	Е	D			
K	Е	В	Α	В		С		N		F		О	W	L	T
Α	Н	Α	В		С	Н	Α	G	Α		Α	V	Α	Н	I
В	Α	D			R	Α	T	Е	L		M	Α	D	A	M
A	R	Е	Α		Е	Т	Н	Y	L		Н		Е	S	Е
			Q	С	D		О		A	J	Α	R		Α	D
Α	G	L	A	I	Α		S	Α	Н	A	R	Α	N		
Е	Y	Е	В	Α	L	L		L		N	Α	G	Α	M	I
D	R	Е	Α	R		Α	P	I	О	S		U	N	I	О
Е	Α	R		D	Α	Т	Α	В	L	Е		S	Α	L	T
S	L	Y		I	В	Е	R	I	Α	N		Α	K	K	Α

STAR TRACK

Aries (March 21-April 19)

Be wise in your communications with an authority figure today. You may find someone you meet just now is too secretive for your liking. Sometimes things are very clear until you realize some important fact was excluded. Even with all the facts, you may need to wait before completing the task. The things that you see and hear today may need time to develop. If you read about a job opportunity, send out your resume. Your management and directional abilities are in high focus-give yourself a chance. You have insight into your emotions and drive and you can talk about your feelings with great insight. Social invitations and romance are in the forecast-you may take some time this afternoon to get a new suit or dress for the event.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

The flow of your work or finances may have run into a wall of resistance this last day or so. There may be instances when you will have to give a full accounting of your labors, particularly to superiors or those interested in buying your wares. Be cooperative and all will go well. You will see an overall improvement in your sales very soon. This month has allowed you time to adjust before the real demands begin. You will feel able to cope with whatever comes to your attention. You are intent on seeing the big picture and getting to the point. Being in touch with ideas and people on a large scale keeps you on your toes, so to speak. Make a determined effort to practice balance in your life. Compartmentalizing and prioritizing will be your safety net.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You may find yourself a bit serious and your words today are that you need to concentrate on your work. You may also find yourself distracted and wishing you were at home with your own personal projects. Feeling handcuffed to your desk, you do realize the need to work today is temporary and so you get down to business and accomplish more than you expected. The evening brings up some interesting conversations around the dinner table concerning plans. All will contribute their own dreams and wishes for themselves. Some conversations lead to memories past and comparisons of the present and perhaps, some possibilities of the future. You can sway others with your ideas-you are probably a speaker or in a religious field.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

Idealism, rationality and critical thinking become more and more a part of your mental patterns and the way you communicate. You are inventive, original and high-tech. You may find yourself analyzing your life situation and surroundings. A relationship that has been touch and go lately may find you deciding to back offthis may be the wisest time to let go-fish or cut bait, so to speak. Control issues may have to be studied in order to create happier future relationships. Review your limitations as well as your expectations. Respect the differences. You are wise to balance your personal and your professional life now.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

Political issues may be running around in your head today. Tending to errands this morning may bring issues to the forefront of your attention. There is talk about a new rule regarding the requirement for a valid photo id before sending a letter. You may even conjure up the memories when everybody actually sent cards-thank you cards, birthday cards, anniversary cards, etc. There is something about freedom that is precious and precarious-you may decide to write a local newspaper. Perhaps a letter to some editor is in order. Talk a neighbor into a walking exercise with you-you may find these walks, as well as the friendship, will boost your energies.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

This morning is in your favor for completing any unfinished personal business. You may also find yourself politically expressive regarding some sort of neighborhood project. This may mean that you get people to sign a petition or you collect money to help with future spring planting of trees or building a covered bus stop. You may be contemplating some citywide issues. This could mean a volunteer job for you. This is a fun time to purchase beauty or toiletry products-perhaps a new scent or skin protection product. You also can see the benefit of making your own skin product to keep the unsuitable chemicals away from your body-fun. Of course, you always want to abide by the safety precautions of developing any products, particularly soap.

WORD SEARCH PUZZLE

Fourth Of July

Find and circle all of the words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell an Abraham Lincoln quotation.

L	В	С	Е	L	G	А	Е	D	L	Α	В	Ν	Т	Н	L	0	D	S
Α	E	S	Ε	F	Е	W	Ρ	Α	Т	R	-	0	Т	- 1	С	Е	Ν	Т
٧	Ν	Н	0	L	D	Е	S	Ν	E	Α	Υ	G	В	- 1	С	0	Н	R
- 1	F	S	F	0	Е	R	Т	K	Т	Е	Α	Е	Ν	0	0	0	E	Ε
Ν	R	Т	Ε	Α	Υ	В	Α	1	D	L	R	С	R	L	Μ	Е	Υ	С
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С	K	Α	0	М	Т	Н	Α	0	Т	1	В	J	Т	R	Н	Е	D	С
Ε	L	Μ	Н	Α	S	0	Ν	1	0	1	E	R	С	E	В	D	0	В
В	1	Е	E	D	1	Т	D	Ν	Н	F	0	0	Ρ	E	Α	Ν	0	Ε
Α	Ν	R	Т	Α	Н	D	S	S	F	Ρ	М	Ν	Α	D	S	Е	Н	Т
R	G	S	- 1	Ν	D	0	Т	E	Ε	Е	L	S	R	0	Ε	Ρ	Ν	S
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Е	Α	1	W	0	1	S	-	Υ	Т	R	Α	Ρ	D	Т	Α	D	-	R
С	D	Ν	Ν	J	0	Α	Ρ	0	Т	F	0	R	Е	Α	L	Ν	Т	0
U	1	0	Т	Ν	S	R	Ε	G	R	U	В	М	Α	Н	L	1	Α	S
Е	L	L	Н	U	Е	М	S	K	R	0	W	Е	R	1	F		Ν	S
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EHCMEHTNALANOITANSP BALD EAGLE PATRIOTIC CONCERTS HOLIDAY BALLOONS DECORATIONS HOT DOGS PHILADELPHIA BARBECUE DEMOCRACY INDEPENDENCE PICNIC RED WHITE BLUE BASEBALL JOHN ADAMS FIREWORKS

BEN FRANKLIN

BETSY ROSS

CELEBRATION COLONIES

CARNIVAL

FLAG

FLOATS

FREEDOM

HISTORY

GREAT BRITAIN

Daily SuDoku

LIBERTY

PARADE

NATIONAL ANTHEM

NATIONHOOD

STARS AND STRIPES

THOMAS JEFFERSON

STREAMERS

WHITE HOUSE

Daily Suborta												
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Libra (September 23-October 22)

Personal chores can be accomplished today but interruptions are likely; now you have been forewarned. You may want to stay as flexible as possible. Relatives express their admiration of your ability to adjust to change. Good fortune happens in a natural and timely manner and by the end of this day you will wonder what you did to create so many good vibrations. There are lots of opportunities to enjoy the afternoon; you are wanting and able to do almost anything. Today you may be successful in scheduling a travel plan for yourself. You feel great support for your ideas. Set clear priorities that will help you eliminate the unessential. Look at the companies that discover or work with navigation tools and remote control equipment for a future investment.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

You attract people that give you encouragement. A new friend may come into your life that is new to your part of the country. You can also attract high-strung people that worry and aim for advancement. Perhaps you need this difficulty in your life just to create a challenge in solving problems. As you help people with their problems . . They will move forward with their lives. Don't expect these people that you have helped to stay in one place. Perhaps you will do well in lecturing, motivational speaking or writing how-to books. Allocate some of the home responsibilities today by taking a vote on who will do what chore. Have clarity in direction and desired results with rewards for going beyond the call of duty. Positive energies are available.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

Feeling two ways at once takes up most of the day. Although many things are positive, some difficulties can occur in your day. You have a way of wording things so that people see a particular subject your way . . . You can persuade others with your argument. You feel a love of order and law-an appreciation for responsibilities and duty. Problems are short-lived. Continual discovery, persistent search and continual change and transformation keep you on the move and growing. You are able to penetrate and get to the very heart of things; thus if you are doing research, you will find much success. When you express yourself honestly and take a stand for yourself you may find an attentive and fair-minded partner gives you more than the time of day.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

Good luck, good opportunities and interesting relationships make this a fun and rewarding day. If there is something you need help in accomplishing or new projects to begin . . . Today is your day. Someone close to you is supportive of your ideas and will help you. There is motivation for disciplined work, but push too hard and you may break something. Keep your resolutions regarding health and fitness. This afternoon some political issues may come to your attention. The power of attraction and desire for love is great, but you should exercise caution before entering a new relationship that may come about during this time.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

Circumstances may force you to reorganize and become more conservative today. Your circle of friends has already started calling you early this morning. Never being at a loss for words, you may find the day moving along a little too fast. You may be asking yourself if there was some way this day could slow down and allow you to squeeze everything you can out of it. Go ahead-put that phone away-turn off the ringer for a short while and dress. Run outside and hug the day. If it is raining, enjoy a warm fireplace or hot shower and perhaps a cup of something that is nice and hot. Sing, laugh and be happy-you have many years ahead to do just that . . . Squeeze the day. Hug the people that help you celebrate this day and make a wish.

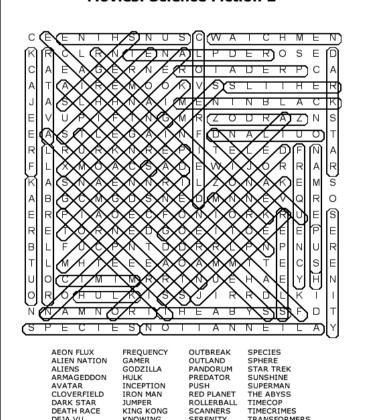


Pisces (February 19-March 20)

You like salads, so create some tempting ones for next week. Tuna and chicken salads could be made for the first of the week and some finger food like rolled lunchmeat and low-fat cheese with crackers can go for the end of the week. You enjoy cooking a week ahead so you can magically pull out special items all week long with very little work. Perhaps you will think about publishing a cookbook-one for people that work and need easy-to-prepare foods to take to work. Educational plans need changing: you realize that they may not suit you as well as you'd like. Anything connected with publishing, advertising, or broadcasting requires examination. Your dreams of further education or travel keep coming into your mind. Create a plan.

Yesterday's Solution

Movies: Science Fiction 2



FLATLINERS FREEJACK Hidden movie: CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE THIRD KIND

KING KONG

MEN IN BLACK

KNOWING

MIMIC

DEJA VU

DONNIE DARKO

Yesterday's Solution

SCANNERS

SERENITY

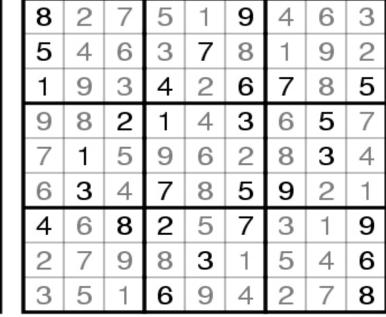
SIGNS

SLEEPER

TIMECRIMES

VATCHMEN

TRANSFORMERS



medium

hard

Sabah Hospital

Amiri Hospital

Chest Hospital

Adan Hospital

Ibn Sina Hospital

Al-Razi Hospital

Kaizen center

Rawda

Adaliya

Khaldiya

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

Kaifan

Physiotherapy Hospital

Maternity Hospital

Farwaniya Hospital

Mubarak Al-Kabir Hospital

INTERNATIONAL

CALLS

INFORMATION

For labor-related inquiries and complaints:

Hospitals

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

Soor Center

Tel: 2290-1677

Fax: 2290 1688

Four-Day Forecast

Min Temp °C

Max Temp °C

Wind Direction

Wind Speed km/h

Call MSAL hotline 128

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



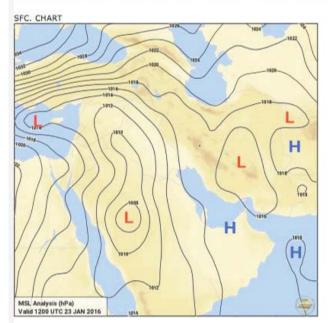
Tel: (+965) 161 Ext: 2627 - 2630 Fax: (+965) 24348714 www.met.gov.kw

Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours
Issued 23/01/2016-19:00 LT UTC +3hr

MIN Temperature 12 °C

By Night :Partly cloudy to cloudy with moderate to fresh south easterly wind, with speed of 22 - 42 km/h with a chance for scattered rain that might be thundery at times

By Day: Cloudy to partly cloudy with light to moderate freshening gradually south easterly changing to north westerly wind, with speed of 15 - 40 km/h with a chance for scattered rain



	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
		*	-14	
	9,0,0,0	1		0,0,0,0
xpected Weather	cloudy + scattered rain	sunny	sunny	partly cloudy + scattered rain

08

17

north westerly

12 - 35

06

north westerly to

07

northerly to north westerly

15 - 35

II	times	are	local	time	(GMT+3)	unless	otherwise	state

12

21

south easterly

15 - 40

Station	MIN °C EXP	Max °C REC
KUWAIT CITY	15	20
KUWAIT AIRPORT	12	20
ABDALY	10	18
BUBYAN	13	19
JAHRA	13	18
FAILAKA ISLAND	14	19
SALMIYAH	15	17
AHMADI	16	18
JAL ALIYAH	11	18
QAROH ISLAND	18	20
UMM AL-MARADEM	17	20
NUWAISIB	13	24
WAFRA	12	25
MANAGISH	12	19
SALMY	13	20
MUTRIBA	12	18

	a restoract at its	mais rai port	
Max Tem	p (°C)	23	
Min Tem	p (°C)	09	
Max Rel	Hum (%)	83	
Min Rel I	lum (%)	20	
Max Win and Dire	d Speed (km/h) ction	21 N	
TOTAL R	AINFALL IN 24 HR	0 mm	
*	Sunrise	06:41	
-	Suncet	17:18	

Prayer Times	
Fajr	05:19
Sunrise	06:41
Zuhr	12:00
Asr	14:58
Sunset	17:18
Isha	18:38

PRIVATE CLINICS

Ophthalmologi:	sts
Dr. Abidallah Al-Mansoor	25622444
Dr. Samy Al-Rabeea	25752222
Dr. Masoma Habeeb	25321171
Dr. Mubarak Al-Ajmy	25739999
Dr. Mohsen Abel	25757700
Dr Adnan Hasan Alwayl	25732223
Dr. Abdallah Al-Baghly	25732223
Ear, Nose & Throat	(ENT)
Dr. Ahmed Fouad Mouner	24555050 Ext 510
Dr. Abdallah Al-Ali	25644660
Dr. Abd Al-Hameed Al-Taweel	25646478
Dr. Sanad Al-Fathalah	25311996
Dr. Mohammad Al-Daaory	25731988
Dr. Ismail Al-Fodary	22620166
Dr. Mahmoud Al-Booz	25651426
General Practition	ners
Dr. Mohamme Y Majidi	24555050 Ext 123
Dr. Yousef Al-Omar	24719312
Dr. Tarek Al-Mikhazeem	23926920
Dr. Kathem Maarafi	25730465
Dr. Abdallah Ahmad Eyadah	25655528
Dr. Nabeel Al-Ayoobi	24577781
Dr. Dina Abidallah Al-Refae	25333501
Urologists	
Dr. Ali Naser Al-Serfy	22641534
Dr. Fawzi Taher Abul	22639955
Dr. Khaleel Abidallah Al-Awad	li 22616660
Dr. Adel Al-Hunayan FRCS (C)	25313120
Dr. Leons Joseph	66703427
Di. Leons Joseph	00/0342/

Psychologists

/Psychotherapists

Plastic Surge	eons
Dr. Mohammad Al-Khalaf	22547272
Dr. Abdal-Redha Lari	22617700
Dr. Abdel Quttainah	25625030/60
Family Doc	tor
Dr Divya Damodar	23729596/23729581
Psychiatris	its
Dr. Esam Al-Ansari	22635047
Dr Eisa M. Al-Balhan	22613623/0
Gynaecologists & O	bstetricians
DrAdrian arbe	23729596/23729581
Dr. Verginia s.Marin	2572-6666 ext 8321
Dr. Fozeya Ali Al-Qatan	22655539
Dr. Majeda Khalefa Aliytami	25343406
Dr. Ahmad Al-Khooly	25739272
Dr. Salem soso	22618787
General Surg	eons
Dr. Amer Zawaz Al-Amer	22610044
Dr. Mohammad Yousef Bash	er 25327148
Internists, Chest	& Heart
Dr. Adnan Ebil	22639939
Dr. Mousa Khadada	22666300
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Dr. Nadem Al-Ghabra	25355515
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Dr. Sohail Qamar	22621099
Dr. Snaa Maaroof	25713514
Dr. Pradip Gujare	23713100
Dr. Zacharias Mathew	24334282
Dermatolog	Jy .
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
Neurologis	ts
Dr. Sohal Najem Al-Shemeri	25633324
Dr. Jasem Mola Hassan	25345875
Gastrologis	ts
Dr. Sami Aman	22636464
Dr. Mohammad Al-Shamaly	25322030
Dr. Foad Abidallah Al-Ali	22633135

Kaizen center

25716707

Noor Clinic

23845955

	Endocrinologi	st
_	Dr. Abd Al-Naser Al-Othman	25339330
	Dr. Ahmad Al-Ansari 25658888	
	Dr. Kamal Al-Shomr 25329924	
	Physiotherapists	&VD
	Dr. Deyaa Shehab 25722291	
	Dr. Musaed Faraj Khamees	22666288
	Rheumatologis	its:
	Dr. Adel Al-Awadi 25330060	
31	Dr. Khaled Al-Jarallah	25722290
	Di. Kilalea Al-Jarahan	23/22230
	Internist, Chest &	
	Internist, Chest &	Heart 24555050 Ext 210
	Internist, Chest & DR.Mohammes Akkad Dr. Mohammad Zubaid MB, ChB, FRCPC, PACC Assistant Professor Of Medicin Head, Division of Cardiology	24555050 Ext 210 ne 25339667
	Internist, Chest & DR.Mohammes Akkad Dr. Mohammad Zubaid MB, ChB, FRCPC, PACC Assistant Professor Of Medicin Head, Division of Cardiology Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital	24555050 Ext 210 ne 25339667

William Schuilenberg, RPC 2290-1677

Zaina Al Zabin, M.Sc. 2290-1677

Afghanistan	0093	Luxembourg	00352
Albania	00355	Macau	00853
Algeria	00213	Macedonia	00389
Andorra	00376	Madagascar	00261
Angola	00244	Majorca	0034
Anguilla	001264	Malawi	00265
Antiga	001268	Malaysia	0060
Argentina	0054	Maldives	00960
Armenia	00374	Mali	00223
Australia	0061	Malta	00356
Austria	0043	Marshall Islands	00692
Bahamas	001242	Martinique	00596
Bahrain	00973	Mauritania	00222
Bangladesh	00880	Mauritius	00230
Barbados	001246	Mayotte	00269
Belarus	00375	Mexico	0052
Belgium	0032	Micronesia	00691
Belize Benin	00501	Monage	00373 00377
Bermuda	00229	Monaco Mongolia	00377
Bhutan	001441	Montserrat	001664
Bolivia	00591	Morocco	00212
Bosnia	00387	Mozambique	00258
Botswana	00267	Myanmar (Burma)	0095
Brazil	0055	Namibia	00264
Brunei	00673	Nepal	00977
Bulgaria	00359	Netherlands	0031
Burkina	00226	Netherlands Antilles	00599
Burundi	00257	New Caledonia	00687
Cambodia	00855	New Zealand	0064
Cameroon	00237	Nicaragua	00505
Canada	001	Nigar	00227
Cape Verde	00238	Nigeria	00234
Cayman Islands	001345	Niue Navfalla laland	00683
Central African	00236	Norfolk Island	00672
Chilo	00235	N. Ireland (UK)	0044
Chile China	0056 0086	North Korea	00850 0047
China	0086	Norway Oman	0047
Conoros	0057	Oman Pakistan	00968
Congo	00269	Pakistan	00680
Cook Islands	00682	Panama	00507
Costa Rica	00506	Papua New Guinea	00675
Croatia	00385	Paraguay	00595
Cuba	0053	Peru	0051
Cyprus	00357	Philippines	0063
Cyprus (Northern)	0090392	Poland	0048
Czech Republic	00420	Portugal	00351
Denmark	0045	Puerto Rico	001787
Diego Garcia	00246	Qatar	00974
Djibouti	00253	Romania	0040
Dominica	001767	Russian Federation	007
Dominican Republic		Rwanda	00250
Ecuador	00593	Saint Helena	00290
Egypt El Salvador	0020 00503	Saint Kitts	001869 001758
		Saint Lucia	
		Saint Lucia	
England (UK)	0044	Saint Pierre	00508
England (UK) Equatorial Guinea	0044 00240	Saint Pierre Saint Vincent	00508 001784
England (UK) Equatorial Guinea Eritrea	0044 00240 00291	Saint Pierre Saint Vincent Samoa US	00508 001784 00684
England (UK) Equatorial Guinea Eritrea Estonia	0044 00240 00291 00372	Saint Pierre Saint Vincent Samoa US Samoa West	00508 001784 00684 00685
England (UK) Equatorial Guinea Eritrea Estonia Ethiopia	0044 00240 00291 00372 00251	Saint Pierre Saint Vincent Samoa US Samoa West San Marino	00508 001784 00684 00685 00378
England (UK) Equatorial Guinea Eritrea Estonia Ethiopia Falkland Islands	0044 00240 00291 00372 00251 00500	Saint Pierre Saint Vincent Samoa US Samoa West San Marino Sao Tone	00508 001784 00684 00685 00378 00239
England (UK) Equatorial Guinea Eritrea Estonia Ethiopia Falkland Islands Faroe Islands Fiji Finland	0044 00240 00291 00372 00251 00500 00298 00679 00358	Saint Pierre Saint Vincent Samoa US Samoa West San Marino Sao Tone Saudi Arabia Scotland (UK) Senegal	00508 001784 00684 00685 00378 00239 00966 0044
England (UK) Equatorial Guinea Eritrea Estonia Ethiopia Falkland Islands Faroe Islands Fiji Finland France	0044 00240 00291 00372 00251 00500 00298 00679 00358 0033	Saint Pierre Saint Vincent Samoa US Samoa West San Marino Sao Tone Saudi Arabia Scotland (UK) Senegal Seychelles	00508 001784 00684 00685 00378 00239 00966 0044 00221
England (UK) Equatorial Guinea Eritrea Estonia Ethiopia Falkland Islands Faroe Islands Fiji Finland France French Guiana	0044 00240 00291 00372 00251 00500 00298 00679 00358 0033 00594	Saint Pierre Saint Vincent Samoa US Samoa West San Marino Sao Tone Saudi Arabia Scotland (UK) Senegal Seychelles Sierra Leone	00508 001784 00684 00685 00378 00239 00966 0044 00221 00284 00232
England (UK) Equatorial Guinea Eritrea Estonia Ethiopia Falkland Islands Faroe Islands Fiji Finland France French Guiana French Polynesia	0044 00240 00291 00372 00251 00500 00298 00679 00358 0033 00594 00689	Saint Pierre Saint Vincent Samoa US Samoa West San Marino Sao Tone Saudi Arabia Scotland (UK) Senegal Seychelles Sierra Leone Singapore	00508 001784 00684 00685 00378 00239 00966 0044 00221 00284 00232
England (UK) Equatorial Guinea Eritrea Estonia Ethiopia Falkland Islands Faroe Islands Fiji Finland France French Guiana French Polynesia Gabon	0044 00240 00291 00372 00251 00500 00298 00679 00358 0033 00594 00689 00241	Saint Pierre Saint Vincent Samoa US Samoa West San Marino Sao Tone Saudi Arabia Scotland (UK) Senegal Seychelles Sierra Leone Singapore Slovakia	00508 001784 00684 00685 00378 00239 00966 0044 00221 00284 00232 0065
England (UK) Equatorial Guinea Eritrea Estonia Ethiopia Falkland Islands Faroe Islands Fiji Finland France French Guiana French Polynesia Gabon Gambia	0044 00240 00291 00372 00251 00500 00298 00679 00358 0033 00594 00689	Saint Pierre Saint Vincent Samoa US Samoa West San Marino Sao Tone Saudi Arabia Scotland (UK) Senegal Seychelles Sierra Leone Singapore	00508 001784 00684 00685 00378 00239 00966 0044 00221 00284 00232
England (UK) Equatorial Guinea Eritrea Estonia Ethiopia Falkland Islands Faroe Islands Fiji Finland France French Guiana French Polynesia Gabon	0044 00240 00291 00372 00251 00500 00298 00679 00358 0033 00594 00689 00241 00220	Saint Pierre Saint Vincent Samoa US Samoa West San Marino Sao Tone Saudi Arabia Scotland (UK) Senegal Seychelles Sierra Leone Singapore Slovakia Slovenia	00508 001784 00684 00685 00378 00239 00966 0044 00221 00284 00232 0065 00421 00386
England (UK) Equatorial Guinea Eritrea Estonia Ethiopia Falkland Islands Faroe Islands Fiji Finland France French Guiana French Polynesia Gabon Gambia Georgia	0044 00240 00291 00372 00251 00500 00298 00679 00358 0033 00594 00689 00241 00220 00995	Saint Pierre Saint Vincent Samoa US Samoa West San Marino Sao Tone Saudi Arabia Scotland (UK) Senegal Seychelles Sierra Leone Singapore Slovakia Slovenia Solomon Islands	00508 001784 00684 00685 00378 00239 00966 0044 00221 00284 00232 0065 00421 00386 00677
England (UK) Equatorial Guinea Eritrea Estonia Ethiopia Falkland Islands Faroe Islands Fiji Finland France French Guiana French Polynesia Gabon Gambia Georgia Germany	0044 00240 00291 00372 00251 00500 00298 00679 00358 0033 00594 00689 00241 00220 00995 0049	Saint Pierre Saint Vincent Samoa US Samoa West San Marino Sao Tone Saudi Arabia Scotland (UK) Senegal Seychelles Sierra Leone Singapore Slovakia Slovenia Solomon Islands Somalia	00508 001784 00684 00685 00378 00239 00966 0044 00221 00284 00232 0065 00421 00386 00677
England (UK) Equatorial Guinea Eritrea Estonia Ethiopia Falkland Islands Faroe Islands Fiji Finland France French Guiana French Polynesia Gabon Gambia Georgia Germany Ghana	0044 00240 00291 00372 00251 00500 00298 00679 00358 0033 00594 00689 00241 00220 00995 0049 00233	Saint Pierre Saint Vincent Samoa US Samoa West San Marino Sao Tone Saudi Arabia Scotland (UK) Senegal Seychelles Sierra Leone Singapore Slovakia Slovenia Solomon Islands Somalia South Africa	00508 001784 00684 00685 00378 00239 00966 0044 00221 00284 00232 0065 00421 00386 00677 00252
England (UK) Equatorial Guinea Eritrea Estonia Ethiopia Falkland Islands Faroe Islands Fiji Finland France French Guiana French Polynesia Gabon Gambia Georgia Germany Ghana Gibraltar	0044 00240 00291 00372 00251 00500 00298 00679 00358 0033 00594 00689 00241 00220 00995 0049 00233 00350 0030 00299	Saint Pierre Saint Vincent Samoa US Samoa West San Marino Sao Tone Saudi Arabia Scotland (UK) Senegal Seychelles Sierra Leone Singapore Slovakia Slovenia Solomon Islands Somalia South Africa South Korea	00508 001784 00684 00685 00378 00239 00966 0044 00221 00284 00232 0065 00421 00386 00677 00252 0027 0082 0034 0094
England (UK) Equatorial Guinea Eritrea Estonia Ethiopia Falkland Islands Faroe Islands Fiji Finland France French Guiana French Polynesia Gabon Gambia Georgia Germany Ghana Gibraltar Greece Greenland Grenada	0044 00240 00291 00372 00251 00500 00298 00679 00358 0033 00594 00689 00241 00220 00995 0049 00233 00350 0030 00299 001473	Saint Pierre Saint Vincent Samoa US Samoa West San Marino Sao Tone Saudi Arabia Scotland (UK) Senegal Seychelles Sierra Leone Singapore Slovakia Slovenia Solomon Islands Somalia South Africa South Korea Spain Sri Lanka Sudan	00508 001784 00684 00685 00378 00239 00966 0044 00221 00284 00232 0065 00421 00386 00677 00252 0027 0082 0034 0094 00249
England (UK) Equatorial Guinea Eritrea Estonia Ethiopia Falkland Islands Faroe Islands Fiji Finland France French Guiana French Polynesia Gabon Gambia Georgia Germany Ghana Gibraltar Greece Greenland Grenada Guadeloupe	0044 00240 00291 00372 00251 00500 00298 00679 00358 0033 00594 00689 00241 00220 00995 0049 00233 00350 0030 00299 001473 00590	Saint Pierre Saint Vincent Samoa US Samoa West San Marino Sao Tone Saudi Arabia Scotland (UK) Senegal Seychelles Sierra Leone Singapore Slovakia Slovenia Solomon Islands Somalia South Africa South Korea Spain Sri Lanka Sudan Suriname	00508 001784 00684 00685 00378 00239 00966 0044 00221 00284 00232 0065 00421 00386 00677 00252 0027 0082 0034 0094 00249 00597
England (UK) Equatorial Guinea Eritrea Estonia Ethiopia Falkland Islands Faroe Islands Fiji Finland France French Guiana French Polynesia Gabon Gambia Georgia Germany Ghana Gibraltar Greece Greenland Grenada Guadeloupe Guam	0044 00240 00291 00372 00251 00500 00298 00679 00358 0033 00594 00689 00241 00220 00995 0049 00233 00350 0030 00299 001473 00590 001671	Saint Pierre Saint Vincent Samoa US Samoa West San Marino Sao Tone Saudi Arabia Scotland (UK) Senegal Seychelles Sierra Leone Singapore Slovakia Slovenia Solomon Islands Somalia South Africa South Korea Spain Sri Lanka Sudan Suriname Swaziland	00508 001784 00684 00685 00378 00239 00966 0044 00221 00284 00232 0065 00421 00386 00677 00252 0027 0082 0034 0094 00249 00597 00268
England (UK) Equatorial Guinea Eritrea Estonia Ethiopia Falkland Islands Faroe Islands Fiji Finland France French Guiana French Polynesia Gabon Gambia Georgia Germany Ghana Gibraltar Greece Greenland Grenada Guadeloupe Guam Guatemala	0044 00240 00291 00372 00251 00500 00298 00679 00358 0033 00594 00689 00241 00220 00995 0049 00233 00350 0030 00299 001473 00590 001671 00502	Saint Pierre Saint Vincent Samoa US Samoa West San Marino Sao Tone Saudi Arabia Scotland (UK) Senegal Seychelles Sierra Leone Singapore Slovakia Slovenia Solomon Islands Somalia South Africa South Korea Spain Sri Lanka Sudan Suriname Swaziland Sweden	00508 001784 00684 00685 00378 00239 00966 0044 00221 00284 00232 0065 00421 00386 00677 00252 0027 0082 0034 0094 00249 00597 00268 0046
England (UK) Equatorial Guinea Eritrea Estonia Ethiopia Falkland Islands Faroe Islands Fiji Finland France French Guiana French Polynesia Gabon Gambia Georgia Germany Ghana Gibraltar Greece Greenland Grenada Guadeloupe Guam Guatemala Guinea	0044 00240 00291 00372 00251 00500 00298 00679 00358 0033 00594 00689 00241 00220 00995 0049 00233 00350 0030 00299 001473 00590 001671 00502 00224	Saint Pierre Saint Vincent Samoa US Samoa West San Marino Sao Tone Saudi Arabia Scotland (UK) Senegal Seychelles Sierra Leone Singapore Slovakia Slovenia Solomon Islands Somalia South Africa South Korea Spain Sri Lanka Sudan Suriname Swaziland Sweden Switzerland	00508 001784 00684 00685 00378 00239 00966 0044 00221 00284 00232 0065 00421 00386 00677 00252 0027 0082 0034 0094 00249 00597 00268 0041
England (UK) Equatorial Guinea Eritrea Estonia Ethiopia Falkland Islands Faroe Islands Fiji Finland France French Guiana French Polynesia Gabon Gambia Georgia Germany Ghana Gibraltar Greece Greenland Grenada Guadeloupe Guam Guatemala Guinea Guyana	0044 00240 00291 00372 00251 00500 00298 00679 00358 0033 00594 00689 00241 00220 00995 0049 00233 00350 0030 00299 001473 00590 001671 00502 00224 00592	Saint Pierre Saint Vincent Samoa US Samoa West San Marino Sao Tone Saudi Arabia Scotland (UK) Senegal Seychelles Sierra Leone Singapore Slovakia Slovenia Solomon Islands Somalia South Africa South Korea Spain Sri Lanka Sudan Suriname Swaziland Sweden Switzerland Syria	00508 001784 00684 00685 00378 00239 00966 0044 00221 00284 00232 0065 00421 00386 00677 00252 0027 0082 0034 0094 00249 00597 00268 0041 00963
England (UK) Equatorial Guinea Eritrea Estonia Ethiopia Falkland Islands Faroe Islands Fiji Finland France French Guiana French Polynesia Gabon Gambia Georgia Germany Ghana Gibraltar Greece Greenland Grenada Guadeloupe Guam Guatemala Guinea	0044 00240 00291 00372 00251 00500 00298 00679 00358 0033 00594 00689 00241 00220 00995 0049 00233 00350 0030 00299 001473 00590 001671 00502 00224 00592 00509	Saint Pierre Saint Vincent Samoa US Samoa West San Marino Sao Tone Saudi Arabia Scotland (UK) Senegal Seychelles Sierra Leone Singapore Slovakia Slovenia Solomon Islands Somalia South Africa South Korea Spain Sri Lanka Sudan Suriname Swaziland Sweden Switzerland	00508 001784 00684 00685 00378 00239 00966 0044 00221 00284 00232 0065 00421 00386 00677 00252 0027 0082 0034 0094 00249 00597 00268 0041
England (UK) Equatorial Guinea Eritrea Estonia Ethiopia Falkland Islands Faroe Islands Fiji Finland France French Guiana French Polynesia Gabon Gambia Georgia Germany Ghana Gibraltar Greece Greenland Grenada Guadeloupe Guam Guatemala Guinea Guyana Haiti	0044 00240 00291 00372 00251 00500 00298 00679 00358 0033 00594 00689 00241 00220 00995 0049 00233 00350 0030 00299 001473 00590 001671 00502 00224 00592 00509	Saint Pierre Saint Vincent Samoa US Samoa West San Marino Sao Tone Saudi Arabia Scotland (UK) Senegal Seychelles Sierra Leone Singapore Slovakia Slovenia Solomon Islands Somalia South Africa South Korea Spain Sri Lanka Sudan Suriname Swaziland Sweden Switzerland Syria Serbia	00508 001784 00684 00685 00378 00239 00966 0044 00221 00284 00232 0065 00421 00386 00677 00252 0027 0082 0034 0094 00249 00597 00268 0041 00963 00381
England (UK) Equatorial Guinea Eritrea Estonia Ethiopia Falkland Islands Faroe Islands Fiji Finland France French Guiana French Polynesia Gabon Gambia Georgia Germany Ghana Gibraltar Greece Greenland Grenada Guadeloupe Guam Guatemala Guinea Guyana Haiti Holland (Netherlands)	0044 00240 00291 00372 00251 00500 00298 00679 00358 0033 00594 00689 00241 00220 00995 0049 00233 00350 0030 00299 001473 00590 001671 00502 00224 00592 00509 0031	Saint Pierre Saint Vincent Samoa US Samoa West San Marino Sao Tone Saudi Arabia Scotland (UK) Senegal Seychelles Sierra Leone Singapore Slovakia Slovenia Solomon Islands Somalia South Africa South Korea Spain Sri Lanka Sudan Suriname Swaziland Sweden Switzerland Syria Serbia Taiwan	00508 001784 00684 00685 00378 00239 00966 0044 00221 00284 00232 0065 00421 00386 00677 00252 0027 0082 0034 0094 00249 00597 00268 0046 0041 00963 00381 00886
England (UK) Equatorial Guinea Eritrea Estonia Ethiopia Falkland Islands Faroe Islands Fiji Finland France French Guiana French Polynesia Gabon Gambia Georgia Germany Ghana Gibraltar Greece Greenland Grenada Guadeloupe Guam Guatemala Guinea Guyana Haiti Holland (Netherlands)	0044 00240 00291 00372 00251 00500 00298 00679 00358 0033 00594 00689 00241 00220 00995 0049 00233 00350 0030 00299 001473 00590 001671 00502 00224 00592 00509 0031 00504	Saint Pierre Saint Vincent Samoa US Samoa West San Marino Sao Tone Saudi Arabia Scotland (UK) Senegal Seychelles Sierra Leone Singapore Slovakia Slovenia Solomon Islands Somalia South Africa South Korea Spain Sri Lanka Sudan Suriname Swaziland Sweden Switzerland Syria Serbia Taiwan Tanzania	00508 001784 00684 00685 00378 00239 00966 0044 00221 00284 00232 0065 00421 00386 00677 00252 0027 0082 0034 0094 00249 00597 00268 0046 0041 00963 00381 00886 00255
England (UK) Equatorial Guinea Eritrea Estonia Ethiopia Falkland Islands Faroe Islands Fiji Finland France French Guiana French Polynesia Gabon Gambia Georgia Germany Ghana Gibraltar Greece Greenland Grenada Guadeloupe Guam Guatemala Guinea Guyana Haiti Holland (Netherlands) Honduras Hong Kong	0044 00240 00291 00372 00251 00500 00298 00679 00358 0033 00594 00689 00241 00220 00995 0049 00233 00350 0030 00299 001473 00592 00509 0031 00504 00852	Saint Pierre Saint Vincent Samoa US Samoa West San Marino Sao Tone Saudi Arabia Scotland (UK) Senegal Seychelles Sierra Leone Singapore Slovakia Slovenia Solomon Islands Somalia South Africa South Korea Spain Sri Lanka Sudan Suriname Swaziland Sweden Switzerland Syria Serbia Taiwan Tanzania Thailand	00508 001784 00684 00685 00378 00239 00966 0044 00221 00284 00232 0065 00421 00386 00677 00252 0027 0082 0034 0094 00249 00597 00268 0041 00963 00381 00886 00255 0066
England (UK) Equatorial Guinea Eritrea Estonia Ethiopia Falkland Islands Faroe Islands Fiji Finland France French Guiana French Polynesia Gabon Gambia Georgia Germany Ghana Gibraltar Greece Greenland Grenada Guadeloupe Guam Guatemala Guinea Guyana Haiti Holland (Netherlands) Honduras Hong Kong Hungary Ibiza (Spain) Iceland	0044 00240 00291 00372 00251 00500 00298 00679 00358 0033 00594 00689 00241 00220 00995 0049 00233 00350 0030 00299 001473 00590 001671 00502 00224 00592 00509 0031 00504 00852 0036	Saint Pierre Saint Vincent Samoa US Samoa West San Marino Sao Tone Saudi Arabia Scotland (UK) Senegal Seychelles Sierra Leone Singapore Slovakia Slovenia Solomon Islands Somalia South Africa South Korea Spain Sri Lanka Sudan Suriname Swaziland Sweden Switzerland Syria Serbia Taiwan Tanzania Thailand Toga Tonga Tokelau	00508 001784 00684 00685 00378 00239 00966 0044 00221 00284 00232 0065 00421 00386 00677 00252 0027 0082 0034 0094 00597 00268 0046 0041 00963 00381 00886 00255 0066 00228
England (UK) Equatorial Guinea Eritrea Estonia Ethiopia Falkland Islands Faroe Islands Fiji Finland France French Guiana French Polynesia Gabon Gambia Georgia Germany Ghana Gibraltar Greece Greenland Grenada Guadeloupe Guam Guatemala Guinea Guyana Haiti Holland (Netherlands) Honduras Hong Kong Hungary Ibiza (Spain) Iceland India	0044 00240 00291 00372 00251 00500 00298 00679 00358 0033 00594 00689 00241 00220 00995 0049 00233 00350 0030 00299 001473 00590 001671 00502 00224 00592 00509 0031 00504 00852 0036 0034	Saint Pierre Saint Vincent Samoa US Samoa West San Marino Sao Tone Saudi Arabia Scotland (UK) Senegal Seychelles Sierra Leone Singapore Slovakia Slovenia Solomon Islands Somalia South Africa South Korea Spain Sri Lanka Sudan Suriname Swaziland Sweden Switzerland Syria Serbia Taiwan Tanzania Thailand Toga Tonga	00508 001784 00684 00685 00378 00239 00966 0044 00221 00284 00232 0065 00421 00386 00677 00252 0027 0082 0034 0094 00249 00597 00268 0046 0041 00963 00381 00886 00228 00676
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Morissette's Instagram

helps give a new sense of self



he 41-year-old singer has only recently unveiled her deep interest in psychology and spirituality, and is currently working on a book that is half memoir and half "reflections, insights, regrets, and just straight-up teaching". She also regularly keeps her fans updated with her progress in life through her blog and Instagram feeds, and admits that these methods of sharing have proved eye-opening for her. She told Vogue magazine: "I've always had a little of a blind spot around how I am perceived. But there's uniformity now. This may be a crass way of understanding it, but there's something about even looking at my own Instagram, looking at my blog, where I'm getting a sense of self that I never had." Alanis is most well known for songs such as 'Ironic' and her album 'Jagged Little Pill'. But she admits that her songwriting process meant she disassociated herself from her other addictions - such as being a workaholic. She explained: "The art expressed catharsis. I was embodying it every day onstage, sweating it out. "You know these songs were being written without me cognitively knowing how they were being written. It was very visceral, somatic. Art is just a storm. I've been dissociated for so long, and a workaholic and a few other addictions in there." Now a mother to five-year-old son Ever, Alanis' priorities in life have changed. Speaking about her start in the entertainment industry, she admits she never really fitted in among her peers. She said: "All due respect to the geniuses that were around me, I felt like a bit of an outsider. I tried really hard to fit in and belong and have BFFs that were famous. It could have had something to do with the time period. It wasn't 2016; it was the '90s and early 2000s. It was a

different time for women in music. I would awkwardly phone different celebrities to see if we could be friends. And a lot of times I would be met with: "Why are you calling me?" I guess people don't call people just to become friends with them.

Michael Buble has welcomed son Elias into the world

he 40-year-old singer and his 28-year-old wife Luisana Lopilato are already parents to two-year-old Noah, and announced their new arrival on Twitter on Friday. Alongside a picture of him and Luisana with their little boy, Michael wrote: "And then there were four. Introducing Noah's little brother Elias." In the snap, both Michael and Luisana are seen beaming for the camera, while little Elias curls up to his mother. Lingerie model Luisana previously revealed that during this pregnancy, she has been craving fried eggs and peanut butter sandwiches, and wakes up at all hours of the night desperate to satisfy her cravings. She shared with HELLO! magazine: "Unlike with Noah, I'm craving things like hamburgers, hot dogs, fried eggs, sweets. I try to eat healthily, but then I wake up at three in the morning wanting a peanut butter sandwich." Luisana also revealed her love for black pudding has returned with her second pregnancy. Asked if Michael makes the sandwiches for her, she said: "Yes. He's great. I also want to eat black pudding all the time. I felt that way giving birth, I couldn't stand it."



Cannon reportedly 'shocked' by Mariah Carey's engagement

he singer's Australian beau popped the question on Thursday, despite the pair having dated for less than 12 months. Nick, who was married to Mariah from 2008 to 2014, is said to be slightly taken aback by the news considering the speed of their whirlwind romance. A source said: "While Nick certainly supports Mariah and James' decision to get married, he's a little shocked. Surely, it was in the back of his mind that the mother of his children could tie the knot again. "And now that it's happened, he's a little taken back by it. It always stings when your ex moves on in a major way like marrying another man." Despite Nick's feelings, he is said to be adjusting quickly to the idea, mostly because he knows it would also be beneficial for his and Mariah's twins Moroccan and Monroe. The source added to

HollywoodLife.com: "Nick's adjusting. He knows James and knows that he's a good man and he's good with the twins." James is said to have proposed in Mariah's hometown, with a stunning 35 carat diamond ring. A source told E! News: "They fell head over heels in love with one another. It's crazy how perfect they are together, they both know it and couldn't be happier. "As soon as their friendship turned romantic, they have wanted to spend every moment together. They have a connection that is unparalleled; it's been a very beautiful experience for them both. If you spend even five minutes with them, you can't help but believe in true love. "They are just very cute together, they like doing sweet things for one another. They want to make each other happy."

Faris' identity changed when she had son

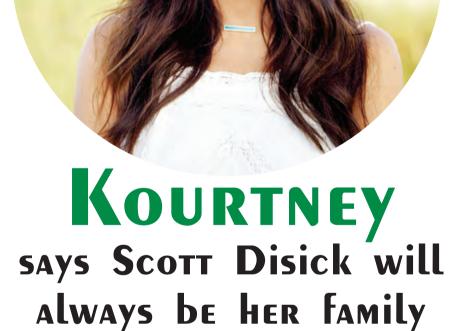


he 39-year-old actress welcomed the little boy with husband Chris Pratt in August 2012, and says she was entirely unprepared for just how much becoming a mother would change her life. She said: "Everything that everyone says [about having a baby] is true. People really need to pound the information into you because it is a tidal wave change into your life. "Especially as a woman, your identity changes. You are now a mom, sort of the most important job in the world, and the pressure and the guilt and all the things that are sort of wrapped up in that, I don't think anyone can prepare you for." Jack is getting used to a certain type of lifestyle, considering both his parents are successful actors. But Anna admits she and Chris are unsure whether or not they should continue to raise Jack in Hollywood. She explained to the Huffington Post: "We want Jack to have as normal of a childhood or at least a similar childhood as we had. The other day I was picking him up from his pre-school and there was some paparazzi-that doesn't happen very often, when Chris is around and in town it's different-but Jack waved at them and said, 'Cheese!" Anna also spoke about just how incredible she finds it to see Chris and their son, adding: "It's so amazing to see that moment that Chris comes home from work and Jack is like, 'Daddy!"

Cuoco is 'so happy' she's a single lady

■he Big Bang Theory' actress split from her tennis player husband Ryan Sweeting in September 2015 after less than two years of marriage. But as she rebuilds her life following the marriage breakdown, the 30-yearold star's sister Briana said she is coping extremely well. Her sister Briana said: "Kaley's never been better. She's good. She's so happy. She only cries twice a day now". Having a close sibling has been helpful for Kaley, with Briana admitting her sister has turned to her for support as she comes to terms with the split. She added to Entertainment Tonight: "Everyone goes through hard times and as long as you're there for that person and they know you're going to be there without judgment and you can be just a good sounding board, that's all you can do for someone." Kaley's in no rush to find a new boyfriend, but Briana has already thought about the kind of man she'd like to see her sister with. She continued: "She has a really great sense of humor and being a woman that saying a lot! So someone who makes her laugh and makes her feel comfortable and confident in what she's made for herself in her life." But the most important thing, Briana added, is that he's "not a jerk!"



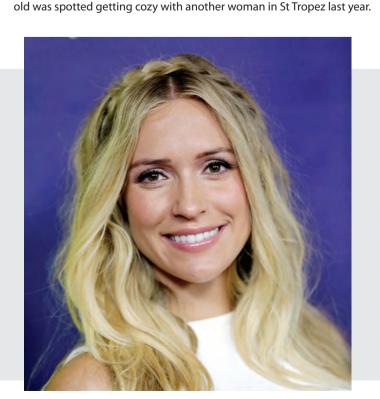


■he 36-year-old split from Scott last July after nine years together. The pair are parents to three children - Mason, six, Penelope, three and one-year-old Reign - and Kourtney insisted she will never cut Scott entirely out of her life. She told Ellen DeGeneres in a clip from an interview to air tomorrow: "We're totally getting along, we have three beautiful kids together. He's family, he'll always be." Kourtney and Scott sparked claims they could have reunited as they have been seen looking close on several occasions recently. But the reality television star told Ellen that she is most definitely single. She said: "Well, we're not together, I feel like every day is different." Kourtney looked incredible for the interview in a gold sparkling shirts suit, which showed off her slim figure and long legs. She had earlier admitted she was feeling nervous about her interview on the show, but later posted a picture on her Instagram suggesting her fears were a thing of the past. She captioned the shot: "She Instagram herself like I'm an idiotic hag alert." Kourtney ended her relationship with troubled Scott after the 32-year-

Kristin Cavallari was 'really shaken up' after her car crash

he former 'The Hills' star was rushed to hospital after her car was struck by another vehicle while she was driving in Chicago. It's been a difficult few months for the 29-yearold, whose brother Michael was found dead in Utah last December, and mother-of-three Kristin is said to be incredibly rattled by the latest incident in her life. A source said: "After everything that has happened lately, the accident really shook her up. She's just thankful that she didn't get hurt." Kristin is believed to "doing fine" after the crash, and will be discharged from hospital shortly, the source told People.com. Her husband, sports star Jay Cutler, showed up at the hospital to be with his wife shortly after the crash. None of Kristin's three children were present at the time of the incident. Kristin has been keeping a low profile since the passing of her brother, who had been missing for a fortnight before his body was discovered. Following the tragic loss, Kristin said she was seeking solace in her children, and her newborn daughter Saylor.

She wrote on Instagram: "My little angel, Saylor. She has been my light throughout this whole thing and has given me so much strength. Thank you baby girl for coming when u did." Kristin and Jay - who also have sons Camden, three, and Jaxon, 17 months, together - welcomed Saylor in November.



Bieber to work out on private 'gym bus'

he 'Sorry' hitmaker is set to embark on his mammoth run of shows on March 9, 2016, in Seattle, and will be on the road to at least November. Justin doesn't want to get out of shape whilst moving around and so will travel with his own portable exercise centre which he can use any time he wants. Revealing details of his mobile gym, he said: "I will be touring on a bus. It's a different vibe, I don't mind it. I have a studio bus and a workout bus, it's just a big gym." The benefit of having a gym bus is that if Justin wants to take a break from his fitness regime he can, but is safe in the knowledge he can pick it back up at any time. However, the 21-year-old singer doesn't plan on pushing himself to hard working

out because he finds going on tour "more lenient" as he can pretty much "party and sleep" his way through it. Speaking on the 'Kyle and Jackie O Show' on Australian radio station KIIS FM, he said: "On tour it's more lenient, I can bring friends [on tour] and party and sleep all day. It's better." And the 21-year-old skating fanatic will also have a half pipe with him in case he gets the urge to jump on his skateboard. He added: "I'm bringing a half pipe on tour." Justin was also asked if his tour rider was leaked what the most bizarre thing on it would be. He replied: "I like Ritz crackers with peanut butter."



Angie says late ex-husband David Bowie 'staged passing well'

the 66-year-old former model was shocked to hear David - who she was married to from 1970 to 1980 had died of cancer earlier this month because she expected him to outlive her, and while she wasn't on speaking terms with the 'Starman' hitmaker before his passing she has no regrets about it. Speaking about being informed David had died aged 69 while she was competing on UK reality TV show 'Celebrity Big Brother', she said: "It was fine except I couldn't believe it. I thought I would die first. "I don't think anyone knew [he'd been unwell]. In fact let me take this opportunity to say I think ... he staged his passing rather well. "Our rancor with each other almost kept us going and I realized I wasn't angry anymore and I thought, 'Oh my God." [I have] no regrets whatsoever. He was obnoxious when he was obnoxious and that's it. But I realised the possibility that I would never hear from him again." Angie and David had son Zowie Bowie, 44 - who is now known as Duncan Jones - together but she hasn't spoken to him for 30 years and admitted she "doubts" he will get in contact with her again. She explained: "I had Zowie for David ... I said to him, I will never fight you for custody. David and his father were this close. "What kind of a person would I be if I used my son as a weapon in my tool belt when we got divorced? Is that not disgusting behavior?" When asked if that was an act of generosity rather than selfishness, she replied: "Yes it was." Angie admits it "hurts" being estranged from her son but she would rather try to "close the door" and move on with her life than dwell on their divided relationship. Speaking on chat show 'Loose Women', she said: "Last time I saw him he was 13 or 14. It wasn't a tricky age, he was busy working, studying, doing what children do, what I did at 13 and 14. "Yeah I'm sorry I don't really have much else to say about it. That's how I feel about it and it hurts me and when something hurts me I put it in something in the back of



my head and I close the door. "You can ask me till you're blue in the face and I will say, 'Yeah whatever.' "When asked if David's death will change anything between Angie and her son, she replied: "No, I don't think so." Earlier this week, Angie quit 'Celebrity Big Brother' prematurely after falling ill, just over a week after hearing about David's passing, and she insists she became unwell because she eventually processed the news that he had passed away. Speaking about collapsing on her bed on the show, she said: "I got sick because of it [his death]."

Perry doesn't recall much of 'Friends' because he was 'a little out of it'

he 46-year-old actor - who has previously suffered from drug and alcohol addictions admits his memory of portraying Chandler Bing in the popular sitcom is a little hazy from series three to six in the late 1990s. When asked about his least favorite 'Friends' episode, he said: "I don't remember three years of it, so none of those. "I was a little out of it at the time ... Somewhere between seasons three and six." Matthew's 'Friends' co-stars Jennifer Aniston (Rachel Green), Courtney Cox (Monica Geller), Lisa Kudrow (Phoebe Buffay), David Schwimmer (Ross Geller) and Matt LeBlanc (Joey Tribbiani) are set to reunite on

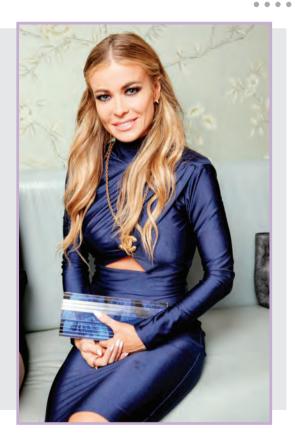
stage in London for a pre-recorded segment on 'Must See TV: A Tribute to James Burrows'. While Matthew recently revealed he has been too busy rehearsing for his London play 'The End of Longing' to record the segment, he wouldn't be surprised if the group got together to film a 'Friends' reunion episode at some point in the future. Speaking on Chris Evans' BBC Radio 2 show, he added: "I don't know what the price would be but I think the actors would actually be open to it, I do. I think we would be open to doing something, some kind of TV special. I don't know about a movie. "It's kind of tough because we've ended on such a high note that we don't want to ruin it, so we'd want to be really careful. Sometimes when you do a reunion it's terrible, and it sort of ruins the memory of the good show that you've done before. "We've talked about it a little bit over dinner, we like to get together for dinner and we have a good time together. "It's a really good group, there isn't a jerk in the group and that really saved us



Carmen Electra wants an 'intelligent' man

he 43-year-old model and actress would be happy to date a man out of the spotlight but is more worried about his brains than how he looks. She said: "If they don't trust me, it's hard. It makes work hard. They have to be incredibly smart, intelligent, brains is everything. Looks aren't really a priority for me. I like artists, a sense of humor. "But I have a tendency to get bored. I like very intelligent men because they're interesting; it's sexy to me. Someone that's open to play and have fun not someone that's so serious." And whilst she'd love to have a special man in her life, Carmen is trying to strike up a "balance" between her work life and her home life. Speaking on The Lowdown with Diana Madison, she added: "I just keep myself really busy and throw myself into work. I'm trying to have more balance in my life because I'm either one hundred percent work or one hundred percent relationship.

"I love doing this and I'm a workaholic sometimes and other times, I like to chill and relax. It's about finding that balance. I'm getting there."



Tomlinson very happy to have become a father

he 24-year-old singer and his ex-girlfriend Briana Jungwirth welcomed the couple's first child into the world in Los Angeles this week and the One Direction star has taken to his Twitter account yesterday to confirm the news with fans and share his delight in having a "healthy and pretty amazing" baby boy. Louis wrote: "I'm pleased to say my baby son was born yesterday:) He is healthy and pretty amazing:) I'm very happy! (sic)" Just minutes after his first tweet the excited new dad posted the lyrics to Boney M.'s 1976 popular hit 'Daddy Cool' and wrote: "Daddy Daddy cool" and soon after, followed it up with a string of smiley emojis.

The newborn's name or pictures of the little tot have yet to be shared. But messages of congratulations have started to flood in for Louis and 23-year-old Briana. The singer's band-mate Harry Styles wrote on Twitter today: "Flowers all round." And the social networking site went into meltdown on Friday after the arrival was first reported, when within a matter of minutes, #WelcomeBabyTomlinson was trending and fans worldwide offered their congratulations to the One Direction star. The news broke when a One Direction fan account wrote that Briana's grandmother had confirmed the news, and had also revealed the baby was a boy.



■he 37-year-old actor starred as Pacey Witter in the TV series, which aired its final episode in 2003, but has got an idea for producers if the show was ever to be resurrected. When asked if there was a possibility of a reunion, he told The Insider: "Well, that depends, [our show creator] Kevin Williamson would have to ask. People always forget that Michelle Williams' Jen character was killed off, so they really need to figure out a way around that. "I guess she could come back as a ghost, or they could do it like Dallas did and have someone wake up and find her alive in the shower 20 years later. That could work!" Meanwhile, Katie Holmes is less hopeful for a reunion of the popular teen drama. She shared previously: ""[Dawson's Creek]' was such a special time in all of our lives [but] some things are better when it stays the way it was. I would love to get together with everybody, [but] I'm not sure a reunion would be as fulfilling as what



we all want it to be. "I'm game for anything. I don't really regret anything that I've done. I've learned from everything, and everything sort of leads you to the next place. I just keep going."

Katie Price regrets taking an overdose when she split from her boyfriend

■he 37-year-old star dated the former Another Level singer from 1998 to 2000 and when their relationship ended she "stupidly" tried to win him back by taking pills and calling him up for "attention". Katie admits at the time she was young and foolish and before their break-up she had wrongly convinced herself that Dane had a developed a huge crush on Victoria when they worked together on August 2000 single 'Out Of Your Mind' even though Victoria was married to soccer superstar David Beckham. Thankfully, Katie didn't do herself any permanent damage when she took the overdose but realizes it was a crazy thing to do. During her appearance on daytime chat show 'Loose Women' today (22.01.16), she said: "Lots of people try and do things make their exes jealous. But at the end of the day they've seen what you're really like, so if you try and look different or go with their mates if they don't want to know you they don't want to know you. "When I was younger stupidly enough, I wanted my ex Dane Bowers back and stupidly I took an overdose to get him back - you do these things for attention. It is a massive thing, it does not work, but I was young and naive, if

anyone was speaking to me just do not do it. "He worked with Victoria Beckham and I thought something was going on, I thought is he obsessed with her. It ended up being her friend so my paranoia was right." Katie - who now has five children and is married to third husband Kieran Hayler - regrets the whole episode and can only explain her actions on the fact she was so "heartbroken" to lose Dane, who she was convinced was the "love of her life" at the time. — AP







That Pragon, Cancer

Love, loss and faith in a time of cancer

The game is broken down into a dozen chapters

By Aakash Bakaya

■hat Dragon, Cancer by Independent Studio 'Numinous Games' is a point and click, narrative driven game where you control a nameless and bodiless entity. Created by husband and wife team Ryan and Amy Green along with a few friends, TDC chronicles the last few weeks of their son Joel's long fight with terminal cancer. For a short two hours play session, you are a witness and a earpiece to both the husband and wife's struggles with their faith, their future and with each other as they come to terms with the inevitability of their 4-year-old son's

There are no controls except clicking the mouse to move except for a single platforming section and unlike other point and click games - there are no branching paths and barely any player choice except deciding where to look. So what makes this much of a videogame? In truth, it doesn't make it much of a traditional videogame but for a medium that is little over 30 years old, who defines what is traditional and what isn't?

'Gone Home' is the only other game TDC can be compared to in terms of mechanics - while in terms of powerful, emotional storytelling - 'Brothers: A Tale of Two Sons' would be an apt comparison. However none of those games deal with the real world experiences of raising a child with cancer. Cancer is a disease that has touched and changed countless lives in its terrible history. Whether or not we have experienced this disease first-hand, there is no adult on earth who isn't aware of its implications. TDC recreates those experiences from a parent's point of view



and gives you an almost uncomfortable insight into their thoughts.

baby Joel feeding a duck in a park while his dad talks to his elder siblings about Joel's condition. The child has no facial features and is only a humanly-shaped 3D polygon of sorts. This is an art style that is followed throughout the game - even the adults, the few you do meet, only have a haircut and facial hair for distinguishable features. This may seem jarring at first but the crystal clear voice work and immersive sound design immediately engulfs you into this simple but beautifully designed world. The vibrant surroundings filled with color and ambient sounds somehow make the polygon characters better looking than they actually are.

which chronically follow Joel starting with his final days of chemotherapy. These chapters are inter-con-The first thing you witness when you press start is nected to several dreamlike sequences. Some of these sequences are purely narrative in nature while four are different types of mini-games. One minigame in particular is a platformer (think Super Mario) called 'Joel the Brave Knight'. This platformer should have been the only one kept as the narration and built up fits perfectly into the rest of the story. It develops from an imaginative bedtime tale the parents are telling the other siblings of Joel, a brave knight who must defeat the evil dragon cancer. The mini-game alters itself and makes the kids ask harder to answer questions and the payoff at the end is highly thought-provoking.

This is only one example of the game's unique presentation and stellar writing, and does a superb job of engrossing the player into this highly emotional scenario. The husband's dialogue is confused, scared and frustrated, while the wife's steadfast, unyielding faith can look like either fear or hope depending on your own views on faith. Few pieces of art -be they movies or music - deal with the subject of faith in such a balanced and thought-provoking manner. It is one of the pillars of the narrative and is handled with respect and doubt equally. The last two chapters of the game symbolically revolve around this topic and the epilogue left me a teary mess. It is the first and only interaction you as a player have with the character and I'm not ashamed to say I cried for a faceless, barely animated 3D object.

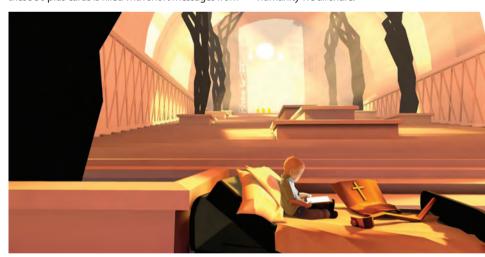
Sudden moments of heart-aching reality like these act as TDC's greatest strengths. One chapter



titled 'Sorry, it's not good news' is everything you expect it to be. But when the game suddenly allows you to go inside the mind of the doctor and his assistant who are assigned to tell the parents their child is going to die, you can't help but feel for these charac-

You don't have to make that step though and its one of the most note-worthy details about the entire experience. The game gives you a choice. You have the choice to enter the thoughts of the parents, the doctors, do both or do nothing and witness it purely from a bystander viewpoint. This unique player choice appears again when you are in a hospital room with the mother and Joel. The room and the hallway outside are filled with cards and each of these 50 plus cards is filled with short messages from real-life cancer survivors and patients. You can go through some of them, all of them or you can simply walk out the door at the end of the corridor. Your choice in both scenarios has no impact on the game but you may end up learning a few things about yourself from the way you handle these sections.

Ultimately this is what TDC boils down to. Irrespective of what genre of game you are playing, the experience is dictated by the players themselves and even though the game will end the same way for everybody - its lessons on loss, faith and love will all affect whoever is playing it in wholly different ways. Like many great artworks, 'That Dragon, Cancer' will leave an imprint in your mind that might profoundly change your entire outlook of the world and the humanity we all share.



Sundance festival embraces virtual reality

real-life homicide, a woman who wakes up after being frozen for 30 years and a close encounter with a whale-these are some of the virtual reality films creating a buzz at this year's Sundance Film Festival.

The lineup of no less than 30 immersive experiences-showcased in the festival's New Frontier program-reflects an increasing willingness by filmmakers to experiment with technology that offers a new form of story-telling.

"It's pretty amazing," said John Cooper, director of the Sundance festival. "We're still at a nascent stage-five minrun about five minutes on average, is "Defrost," which follows a woman who suffered a massive stroke and wakes up after being frozen for nearly 30 years. The viewer, equipped with a headset, experiences the film from the woman's perspective as she reunites with her much

older family. "Waves of Grace" follows Ebola survivor Decontee Davis as she helps others in Liberia affected by the disease, while "the Blu: Encounter" offers a close encounter with a whale. "Virtual reality immerses you into a really different experience you've never really had



View of the Egyptian Theatre during Sundance Film Festival, in Park City, Utah. — AFP

utes long, that kind of stuff-but you can really see how it's going to grow in people's imaginations. "I can see coming home and saying I just need 10 minutes of VR before anybody talks to me."

Among the standout shorts, which

before," said Jake Rowell, the director of "theBlu: Encounter," which was made in three months. "It takes you back to your eight-year-old self in a lot of ways. "Usually people leave with it being a memory, they experience it like going

on a hike, or skiing."

Covering eyes and ears One unusual virtual reality set-up at

Sundance-"In the Eyes of the Animal"allows viewers equipped with a globeshaped headset decorated with moss and plants to experience a forest landscape through the eyes of different animals, including a frog and a dragonfly. The visuals create the illusion of soaring high above the trees or hovering along the forest floor.

"By covering your eyes and your ears and simulating reality, you can take someone out of their body and put them in someone else's body, and see the world from a different sensory perspective," said Barnaby Steel, of the Londonbased design studio Marshmallow Laser Feast that created the experience. "So what does the world look like form a bat's perspective or a different insect?" he added. "We're interested in what is reality like beyond our senses."

But while everyone agrees that virtual reality technology is gaining traction as more and more people and companies explore the medium, developers say it will take some time before it is ready for consumers or becomes part of the movie experience. The hardware-which typically consists of goggles that can be bulky and uncomfortable to wear-will need to evolve and become more accessible, they say.

Another challenge will be to make it appealing to older audiences. "We're all in this new ground, this new medium, trying to figure out how it works," Rowell said. "But in the long run, I think people will embrace it ... and it will grow. "Now you have headsets but later on it will probably be just glasses." — AFP

Academy vows to double women, minority members by 2020

■he Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences on Friday promised sweeping reforms designed to help diversify its membership in the face of a major controversy over the second straight year of all-white Oscar acting nominations. The Academy's board said it was taking "historic action" to double the number of women and minority members by 2020 and launch a global effort to "recruit qualified new members who represent greater diversity."

"These new measures regarding governance and voting will have an immediate impact and begin the process of significantly changing our membership composition," said Academy president Cheryl Boone Isaacs. The changes were approved in a unanimous vote by the Academy's board of governors on Thursday, following days of criticism that for a second year in a row, all 20 actors nominated for Oscars were white.

Acclaimed director Spike Lee, who won an Oscar last year honoring his lifetime achievements, wrote an open letter to the Academy decrying the "lily white" nominations. Mega-star Will Smith-one of the black actors seen as having been passed over for a nomination this yearand his wife Jada Pinkett Smith followed Lee in announcing that they too would stay away from the ceremony on February 28.

On Friday, British actress Charlotte Rampling-nominated for best actress for "45 Years"-waded into the row by saying Lee had been "racist to whites" in his criticism. "You can never know for sure, but maybe black actors did not deserve to be in the final selection," Rampling told Europe 1 radio, speaking in French. The

Academy announced that beginning later this year-not affecting votes for the 2016 Oscars-each new member's voting status will last 10 years, and be renewed if they have been active in movies during that time. Members will get lifetime voting rights after three 10-year terms, or if they win or are nominated for an Academy Award. The same standards will apply retroactively to current members.

Those who do not qualify for active status will not be able to vote. To increase diversity on the board of governors immediately, the Academy said it would establish three new governor seats that will be nominated by the president for three-year terms and confirmed by the board. It will also involve new members on decisions about membership and governance, giving them a chance to become more active in decision-making and to help spot and nurture future leaders.

'Good step'

The announcement was quickly welcomed by Ava DuVernay, director of civil rights movie "Selma," which was nominated for best picture last year-but not for best director or actor. "One good step in a long, complicated journey for people of color + women artists," she wrote on

Tom O'Neil, founder of awards prediction site goldderby.com, told AFP it was a "dramatic first step" but urged caution on the numbers. The Academy currently has 6,261 voting members, all of whom work in the film industry. — AFP



John Krasinski, left, and Academy President Cheryl Boone Isaacs announce the Academy Awards nominations for best performance by an actor in a leading role at the 88th Academy Awards nomination ceremony in Beverly

LIFESTYLE Fashion

Trousers go baggy as men's fashion gets supersized



he world is about to go all baggy. As stock markets tumble and economists talk of more tightening of belts, fashion has gone supersized, with Paris catwalks overflowing Wednesday with outsized overcoats and baggy trousers.

If the first day of the menswear catwalks shows is anything to go by, men will be flapping around in too-long trousers and enormous ankle-length coats when the new autumn-winter

designs hit the shops in six months' time. Most of the models in Off-White's show looked as if they had borrowed their big brother's clothes or were auditioning for a remake of the video of British ska band Madness' 1980 hit "Baggy Trousers".

Badass sleep suits

American designer Virgil Abloh, fashion guru to the rapper Kanye West, went for long flowing greatcoats and bomber jackets with hands lost inside long sleeves, and a series of huge overcoats that could double as man-sized badass baby sleep suits.

And former Dior darling Raf Simons, who left for his own label in October, took the supersize trend to still greater extremes with humongous hoodies and jumpers large enough to shelter a small family and their pets.

Even the usually restrained Parisian label Lemaire was in on the new look, mixing its classic restrained collection with boxy coats that go below knee and long baggy pants that are likely to fray on the pavement behind you.

Newcomers AVOC tried to give their look

a snarling street wise twist. Their skinhead models played at being gang members, insulting the audience who were forced to stand — "Fils de pute!" (sons of whores) — in between shouting out the brand's name.

Hippy dippy

In the face of such brazen bad manners Valentino was all

perfect lines and grooming. But mid-show its design duo Maria Grazia Chiuri and Pierpaolo Piccioli suddenly went all hippy with ponchos and rancher sheepskin jackets before going south of the border with black tailored suits with white stitching that channelled both the Mexican Day of the Dead and Cockney pearly kings.

The joyous highlight of the day, however, was the Belgian

Walter Van Beirendonck's riotously inventiv

Walter Van Beirendonck's riotously inventive show "Woest", which means furious in his native Flemish. With felt scarves with cuddly toys at one end and Kalashnikov rifle or chainsaw shapes at the other, van Beirendonck was clearly inspired by the terror attacks and migrant crisis shaking Europe.

Papa Smurf

Looking like a cross between Papa Smurf and a pirate with his full grey beard, orange bobble hat and pearl earrings, the designer told AFP the scarves were "like dolls. We wanted to create kind of puppets. We feel today like we are puppets and other people are pulling the strings. It is a mixture of very sweet things and very aggressive things which is what the world is like now.

"What has happened in the last year has been really depressing," he added. "Everyone has the feeling the world is really fucked up and that things are out of control. The migrants, the attacks and the crime... It's tough."

Stop to terror

Using bold primary colors and some eye catching mixes of ethnic, Amerindian and leopard skin motifs, van Beirendonck also went big and baggy but opted for shorter

flared trousers, the better to show off his multi-colored high-heeled Oxford shoes. Emblazoned across the chest of one seethrough sweater was the message "Stop terrorizing our world." "Even the hardest things in life I try to transfer into the most colorful fabrics," he said. "I don't want to create doom." — AFP

























Love, loss and faith in a time of cancer



SUNDAY, JANUARY 24, 2016



Death just a pretty face for Brazilian tattoo fans

n their quest for beauty, Brazilian tattoo fans are turning to the most unlikely of pretty faces: The death skull. At Rio Tattoo Week 2016, billed as Latin America's biggest piercing and tattoo convention, the image of death stared from arms, legs, necks, and most other body parts, not to mention T-shirts and

Plenty of other designs featured at the three-day bash. Disney cartoon characters, Viking warriors, Japanese geishas, roses, vines, and entire gardens were on show at the Rio convention center. Even old-fashioned Popeye anchors. But inky death in various guises-grinning, grimacing, winking-was inescapable.

"It has become the fashion," said Priscila Virla, 32, co-owner of Lady Luck, a tattoo studio which caters especially to women and which had one of the 250 convention stands. "The skull is one of those things that has really caught on, especially here in Rio de Janeiro."

Some of the depictions of death carried in tattoo catalogues showed skulls horribly disfigured, screaming or dripping in blood. But despite initial appearances, this attachment to skull images has surprisingly wholesome roots. "For Brazilians the skull represents equality," said Binho Fernandes, whose Thug Nine clothing and accessories line is big on all things skull-related. "People tattoo skulls because the skull unites us all."

Nelio Cadar, whose Radac studio uses a highly stylized skull as its logo and who also sports a big skull tattoo on his right arm, echoed that thought. "We take the beautiful side of the symbol. It's less about death than equality," he said. "Whether you have a lot of money or no money, whether you are Catholic or some other religion-when we all die we all have a skull."

Mexican takeaway

The skull obsession originates from Mexico's cultish Day of the Dead celebrations, tattoo experts at the convention said. There,



A man getting a tattoo

the Aztec god of death was transformed by popular culture into a dark folk saint called Santa Muerte favored today by "criminals and the police," said Federico Ruiz, an artist who'd come to Rio from Mexico City to sell his works.

A picture shows the ceiling of the Toledo metro station on January 10, 2016 in Naples. — AFP

Artistically related to Santa Muerte is another Mexican skeleton woman, Catrina, now a major inspiration for tattoo aficionados internationally, although with an especially lively following in Brazil. "It's something Brazil took as its own," Cadar said. "We've made it cool."

A detailed skull tattoo covering a good portion of the arm costs about 1,200 reais (\$293), a hefty sum in recession-hit Brazil. But there is no shortage of clients. Appetite for tattoos is so great in Rio that vendors quizzed by AFP seemed to agree that they remain protected

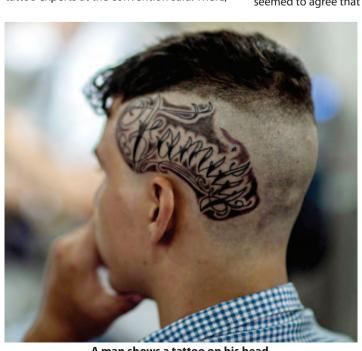
for now against the country's economic crisis. The potentially gloomy aspect of being emblazoned with a death symbol doesn't deter much either.

"Once you have a certain amount of tattoos you stop caring so much about what they mean," said Lorena Lima, 21, who bore a large Catrina tattoo-this one with fierce eyes and a stitched-up mouth-on her right arm. "You just have them because they're beautiful," she added, wincing as an artist worked on tattoo number 10, a woman with a serpent's tongue.

Anyway, skulls don't even have to be scary, pointed out Virla at the women-friendly studio. "See?" she said, pulling up a trouser leg to reveal a small skull with a playful red and white polka-dot hair bow. "It all depends on your perspective." — AFP



tattoo and piercing meeting in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. — AP photos



A man shows a tattoo on his head.

